

# Commissioner's Update

April 28, 2008

Dear Connecticut Educator:

I have four items for you in this update.

## Spring Kindergarten Exit Inventory Scheduled

The Bureau of Student Assessment will be administering the Spring Kindergarten Exit Inventory in mid-May. This year's administration will be conducted with a sample of schools across the state instead of a census. Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) staff members will be working with the district contact and kindergarten teachers in each of the selected schools to fulfill the requirements of the legislation. The names of the selected schools will be sent to each district during the week of April 28. Some districts will not have any schools participating in the administration this year. Additional information about the inventory can be found at <http://www.csde.state.ct.us/public/cedar/assessment/kindergarten/spring.htm>.

In addition, a Data Bulletin on the kindergarten class of 2006–07 is available at [http://www.csde.state.ct.us/public/cedar/databulletins/db\\_kindergarten\\_11\\_07.pdf](http://www.csde.state.ct.us/public/cedar/databulletins/db_kindergarten_11_07.pdf). This bulletin provides important information about kindergarten students in Connecticut. It has been written for a variety of stakeholders to highlight current policies and practices in early childhood education. Questions about the spring administration or the Data Bulletin can be directed to Karen Adesso at [karen.addesso@ct.gov](mailto:karen.addesso@ct.gov) or 860-713-6827.

## Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Targets to Increase

To ensure that all students are proficient in math and reading by the 2013–14 school year, the federal No Child Left Behind legislation requires regular increases in the percentages at or above proficient needed to make AYP in those subjects. This year, the AYP proficiency targets in Connecticut will increase and will be reflected in the AYP determinations based on the 2008 Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT). The new targets are as follows:

	Percentage at or Above Proficient Targets	
	Math	Reading
CMT	82	79
CAPT	80	81

Preliminary AYP results are tentatively scheduled for release within the first two weeks of July.

## Connecticut Career and Technical Education Statewide Assessment

The testing window for the Connecticut Career and Technical Education statewide assessment for all high schools will begin on April 28 and conclude on May 2. All students identified as *concentrators* must be tested during the school-scheduled, three-day period within the testing window. Principals of each high school will have access to electronic, individual student concentrator score reports five to 10 school days after the completed answer forms are received by the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute. Included in the student reports will be scores by individual performance competency and aggregate data on academic foundation competencies. For further information, contact Stephen W. Hoag at 860-713-6764 or [stephen.hoag@ct.gov](mailto:stephen.hoag@ct.gov).

## World Language Opportunities

- *Italian*. Connecticut-Italy Partnership. Incentive grants of up to \$25,000 will be available toward the salary of a full-time teacher (prorated) to start or expand Italian language instruction in Grades PK–8. The deadline for applying is May 31. For more information, contact Mary Ann Hansen, Ph.D., at 860-713-6753 or [mary\\_ann.hansen@ct.gov](mailto:mary_ann.hansen@ct.gov).
- *Chinese*. School and district leaders, and world language supervisors, are invited to join the Chinese Bridge Delegation to China (June 23–July 1, 2008). The deadline for joining is April 30. For more information, click the following link: <http://www.collegeboard.com/chinesebridge>.
- Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) grant applications are available at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/funding.html>. The deadline for applying is April 30.
- The World Languages K–8 Institute: Methods, Materials and Curriculum will be held July 14–28 at Maloney Magnet School in Waterbury. Contact Jessica Haxhi at [jhaxhi@waterbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:jhaxhi@waterbury.k12.ct.us) for further information. There is no fee for participants as the institute is funded by a FLAP grant to the State Department of Education.

Sincerely,

Mark K. McQuillan  
Commissioner of Education