

September 15, 2008

Dear Connecticut Educator:

I have five items for you in this update.

Marion H. Martinez Appointed Associate Commissioner

I am pleased to announce that on September 3, 2008, the State Board of Education appointed Marion H. Martinez, Ed.D., as associate commissioner of the Division of Teaching, Learning and Instructional Leadership. This division encompasses three bureaus: Curriculum and Instruction; School and District Improvement; and Educator Standards and Certification. Dr. Martinez currently serves as superintendent of schools for the East Hartford Public Schools, and brings to the Department 36 years of experience in education as a teacher and administrator. Her areas of expertise include curriculum development, strategic planning, data-based decision making, early reading, accountability, and school and district improvement initiatives. Martinez is expected to begin her new job this fall.

National Board Teacher Certification Stipends Offered

The State Department of Education, through a grant from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, offers stipends of \$1,250 toward the \$2,500 National Board Certification fee. This prestigious voluntary certification is the most rigorous professional development standard in education and the highest symbol of professional teaching excellence. Currently, 140 Connecticut teachers have achieved National Board Certification. Some districts also provide incentives that might assist teachers with the fee, or provide recognition upon earning this certification.

The certification process is very demanding and Connecticut certified teachers must demonstrate their expertise through a series of portfolio assessments, which include videotapes of classroom techniques, examples of assessed student work, written self-evaluations that reflect on teaching strategies to improve student performance, and computer-based assessments on subject content and teaching pedagogy. As the school year begins, teachers should be encouraged to consider the challenge of National Board Certification.

For more information about National Board Teacher Certification (NBTC), please go to <http://www.nbpts.org> or http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?_id=2678&q=320794. Questions concerning NBTC should be directed to Lee C. Marcoux at 860-713-6768 or lee.marcoux@ct.gov.

Youth Suicide Prevention Conference Scheduled

A full-day conference that will examine some of the emerging trends and practices in preventing youth suicide will be held on Monday, September 29, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell. Ken Norton, a national expert in the Strategic Prevention Framework for Statewide Suicide Prevention and Intervention will serve as the keynote speaker. Additionally, local experts will be available to provide workshops targeted to benefit school resource officers, youths in crisis and school-based mental health practitioners. This conference is being presented through funding provided by Safe and Drug-Free Schools and in collaboration with the state Departments of Children and Families, Mental Health and Addiction Services and Public Health.

This conference is free of charge, will provide essential resources, and will result in .5 CEUs for each participant. Registration information is available at <http://www.eastconn.org>. Go to "Workshops," then "Suicide Prevention in Connecticut."

Assistance Offered With 2009-12 Technology Plan Template

All districts applying for federal or state technology funds are required to have an approved technology plan on file with the State Department of Education. Current district plans will expire on June 30, 2009. Using the template provided at the following link, http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/word_docs/rfp/ed616_cttechplantemplate_09_12.doc, districts should begin working on their new plans this fall prior to submitting Form 470 to the Universal Services Administration Company.

The template is designed to help school districts use technology effectively by developing comprehensive educational technology plans that address district strategic initiatives, curriculum development and implementation, professional development, infrastructure, hardware, technical support, software, community involvement, fiscal planning, data management, monitoring and evaluation as each relates to the teaching and learning process.

The following question and answer sessions about the template have been scheduled:

- September 18, CREC, Coltsville (34 Sequassen St., Hartford) at 9 a.m. and at EASTCONN, 376 Hartford Turnpike, Hampton, at 1 p.m.;
- September 23, Education Connection, 355 Goshen Road, Litchfield, at 9 a.m.; and
- September 25, ACES, 205 Skiff St., Hamden, at 9 a.m. and at CES, 40 Lindeman Drive, Trumbull, at 1 p.m.

Questions should be directed to Arthur Skerker at 860-713-6553 or arthur.skerker@ct.gov.

Internet Applications Activated For September Data Collections

The following Internet applications have been activated for September data collections. Please note that filing instructions have been e-mailed to all school business managers for the following:

- Minimum Budget Requirement Compliance (ED012)
- Out-of-Town Magnet School Transportation Grant Application (ED021)
- Health Services for Children in Nonprofit Private Schools Grant Application (ED017)

For each application noted above, all data must be entered and certified no later than Tuesday, September 30, 2008. You may contact Mark Stange in the Bureau of Grants Management at mark.stange@ct.gov if you have any general questions regarding these data collections.

Sincerely,

Mark K. McQuillan
Commissioner of Education