

Commissioner's Update

March 1, 2010

Dear Connecticut Educator:

I have two items for you in this update.

Secondary school reform Web series kicks off today

The first of five online seminars addressing the process to reform Connecticut's secondary schools was held today.

Today's session provided an opportunity to learn more about this exciting new initiative and the four components that compose this effort: the capstone experience, the student success plan (SSP), student support/school environment and model curriculum.

The State Department of Education, State Education Resource Center and school district representatives will develop a more in-depth look at each component. All four programs will be available on the Web by late March or early April for viewing anytime. The first session was broadcast live and will also be available on the Web.

Review the [secondary school reform flier](#) for more information.

Workshop scheduled on high school exams

A workshop will be held on March 16 in Hartford to enlist support for the Board Examinations Project, an initiative aimed at reforming American public high schools.

The workshop is being given by the National Center for Education and the Economy (NCEE). Dr. Marc Tucker, NCEE's executive director, has formed a consortium with eight states, including five in New England, to begin the work of piloting board examinations in 10-15 high schools in each state by 2011.

Please complete the [application](#) and return it to our offices as soon as possible. We are asking each superintendent to bring a team of three-five people, including one high school and one middle school principal, plus other district leaders, such as the board chair, union president, or others directly involved with Race to the Top.

The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hartford Marriott Downtown. Lunch will be provided. Sign up today by e-mailing Tom Murphy at thomas.murphy@ct.gov or call 860-713-6526.

Please find a [description of the project](#), noting its role in Connecticut's Race to the Top application, and the [Update on Secondary School Reform document](#) that have been in circulation since the project was announced last July.

Sincerely,

Mark K. McQuillan
Commissioner of Education