

**CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Hartford**

RESC Special Education Funding Working Group  
Organizational Meeting

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

**I. Call to Order**

Co-chairperson Kathy Demsey called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

**II. Introductions**

Present: Kathy Demsey, Co-chair, Commissioner of Education Designee  
Paula Colen, Executive Director, EASTCONN  
Mary Glassman, Manager of Office for Regional Efficiencies, CREC  
Dr. Michael Regan, Director of Special Education, CES  
Rob Parenti, Director of Business Operations and Special Services, Ed Connect  
Meg Walsh, Director of Pupil Personnel, Southington Public Schools  
Leah Grenier, OPM Designee  
Eileen Howley, Executive Director, LEARN  
Deborah Richards, Director of Student Services, CREC  
Laura Stefon, Legislative Liaison, SDE

There are additional appointments yet to be made.

**III. Legislative History**

The working group was created through legislation that was enacted as a result of the MORE Special Education Group recommendations. A copy of Section 274 of Public Act 15-5 was disseminated.

**IV. Charge of the Committee**

The charge of the group is to 1) study RESC special education expenditures, 2) determine if there are ways for RESCs to access additional funding to assist districts, and 3) to determine if there are recommendations for ways to more efficiently and effectively use current funding.

**V. Scope of the Work**

A report to the General Assembly is due July 1, 2016. The findings and recommendations need to be made within the requirements for students to be educated in their home district whenever possible. A survey of special education services currently being conducted by RESCs to LEAs was discussed, and it was noted that it's important to include their perspective in the study and recommendations. The group discussed the availability of

expenditure information at the State Department of Education and how budgets and fiscal information are developed and reported at the RESC level. It was mentioned that each RESC has many divisions that provide different types of special education services. The group discussed the importance of sticking to the parameters indicated by the legislation, and also keep in mind the availability of staff to provide services in our recommendations.

For the next meeting, the group was asked to come prepared to discuss which data elements will be useful in guiding the group's work.

**VI. Schedule of meetings**

The next meeting will be held on: February 17, 2016

9:00 – 10:30 AM

CREC

111 Charter Oak Avenue

Hartford, CT 06016

Conference Room - 202

The group will meet every three weeks. Deb will send out a meeting Wizard to determine future availability of members for meetings.

**VII. Other Topics**

None noted.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.