



Welcome back to school!

Two bureaus merge during summer reorganization

Much has changed at the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) during the summer. Due to the current financial situation, the Governor signed an agreement with SEBAC (the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition) to offer a retirement incentive program that more than 10 percent of CSDE staff members accepted. To adjust to this change in staff and to focus our work, our Department has reorganized this summer. Our Bureau was one of several directly affected by the reorganization with the following changes:

- The Bureau of Curriculum and Instruction and the Bureau of Early Childhood Education have merged into the **Bureau of Teaching and Learning** with Harriet Feldlaufer as the new Bureau Chief.
- Five early childhood consultants, Deborah Adams, Andrea Brinnel, Michelle Levy, Yemi Onibokun and Gerri Rowell have joined our staff.
- Mary Anne Butler, Patricia Foley and Scott Shuler have taken on new roles in the Bureau of Accountability and School Improvement.

The staff members from the Bureau of Curriculum and Instruction who retired this year include Barbara Westwater, Chief; Dan Gregg, Social Studies; Mary Ann Hansen, World Languages; Greg Kane, Agricultural Science and Technical Education; Jeanne Purcell, Gifted and Talented, PSAT



and Advanced Placement; Art Skerker, Educational Technology and Library Media Studies; and Barbara O'Brien, support staff. In addition, Jennifer Borck, secondary literacy consultant, has left state service.

At this time, the Office of Policy and Management has not authorized CSDE to replace retired staff members. In a few cases, staff supported by federal funds may be replaced. As a Bureau, we will need to focus our work on fulfilling Department priorities. In so doing, we will need to shift our attention to the following areas:

- Managing state, federal and other funds;

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Summer sees retirements, reorganization at CSDE

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- Providing a framework for learning through the establishment of PK-12 standards; and
- Supporting high quality teaching.

Continued quality support will be provided in the core content areas by Elizabeth Buttner, Amy Radikas, Charlene Tate Nichols and Joanne White. James Dargati, Reinaldo Matos and Marlene Padernacht will continue to provide assistance for Title grants, ESEA and management of related ARRA funding. Karen Kaplan will focus on Title IID and educational technology.

HOW TO REACH US BY E-MAIL



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All of us are assisted by a wonderful group of support staff including Doreen Culver, Carla Ghostlaw, Laurene Hebert, Bhagya Komarla,

Marion Lamprecht, Alissa Marotta and our office manager, Eileen Williams.

This school year will be one of transition for us. We will keep you updated through the e-alert system as the work of our “new” Bureau unfolds. Questions regarding any of this information can be forwarded to Harriet Feldlaufer, Jack Hasegawa or Marlene Lovanio – the Bureau of Teaching and Learning management team.

We wish you all productive and engaging school year!

Harriet, Jack and Marlene

CURRICULUM STANDARDS UPDATES

Common Core Standards

Connecticut has joined the Common Core State Standards Initiative, a joint effort by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), in partnership with Achieve, ACT and the College Board, to develop a common core of state standards in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. Two phases of the project include the development of college and career-ready standards and grade-level standards for K-12 in ELA and mathematics. The college and career-ready standards are expected to be released in September 2009. The grade-by-grade standards are expected to be completed in December 2009. The CSDE is developing a plan for the review, feedback, evaluation and adoption of these standards. For more information and the most recent drafts, visit <http://www.corestandards.org/>.

‘Algebra One for All’ Curriculum

This year, the CSDE awarded a grant to the Connecticut Academy for Education in partnership with the Association of Teachers of Mathematics in Connecticut (ATOMIC), the Connecticut Council of Leaders of Mathematics (CCLM), the Mathematics Basic Skills Council of Connecticut (MBSCC), the Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges of Connecticut (MatyCONN), and the Project to Increase Mastery of Mathematics and Science (PIMMS) to develop the “CT Algebra One for All” curriculum, assessments, professional development and marketing strategy. These were delivered to the CSDE in August. Later this fall, a request for proposals will be issued to solicit a partnership to oversee a statewide pilot that will include professional development and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the curriculum.

Social Studies Framework

The Connecticut Social Studies Curriculum Framework is slated to go to the State Board of Education for approval in October. Visit <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2618&q=320898> in mid-September to view the latest draft or further updates.

Business & Finance Frameworks

Business and Finance Technology Education Frameworks are being revised. The accounting frameworks are now in draft form, and we will be working on business management (which includes business management, business law, economics, entrepreneurship, international business and personal finance) and the computer information systems frameworks. Please contact Lee C. Marcoux at lee.marcoux@ct.gov or 860-713-6768 if interested in joining our frameworks committee.

CURRICULUM RESOURCES*

SAS Curriculum Pathways

SAS Curriculum Pathways is an online curriculum product offered at no cost to U.S. educators. It provides interactive, standards-based resources in English, science, math, social studies and Spanish for Grades 8-14. You can sign up for a free account for SAS Curriculum Pathways by clicking on the registration link <http://www.sas.com/govedu/edu/curriculum/register.html>. For district-level accounts, please contact Lee Ellen Harmer at LeeEllen.Harmer@sas.com.

Curriculum Snapshots in Orange

Orange Public Schools has developed Curriculum Snapshots for Grades K-6. These "Snapshots" provide parents with an overview of the skills, knowledge and concepts taught by year's end for each grade level and provide insight into the district's philosophy of teaching and learning. Visit <http://www.oess.org/page.php?pid=294> for more information.

Census Resources for Teachers

The US Census Bureau has resources to promote awareness of the 2010 census. Visit http://www.census.gov/schools/for_teachers/index.html for more information.

**Disclaimer: The Bureau of Teaching and Learning is providing this information for the convenience of the recipients. The CSDE does not endorse any product listed (or specific curricula) nor does it guarantee the accuracy and completeness of any outside information.*

To share innovative curriculum resources from your district, contact Marlene Lovanio at marlene.lovanio@ct.gov.

GRANT NEWS

Competitive School Readiness Grant Awards Issued

The Competitive School Readiness (CSR) Grant awards for 2010 have been issued to 42 selected applicants from eligible towns. The CSR grantees provide early childhood programming to 3- and 4-year-olds in a variety of locations, including community early childhood programs, public schools, Head Start centers and faith-based programs. School readiness programs must be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), or documented as in process of being accredited, or approved by Head Start.

Math-Science Partnership Request for Proposals Released

A request for proposals for Instructional Coaching Academies or Instructional Resource Collaboratives will be released on September 1, 2009. A bidder's conference is to be held September 16 at the Middletown CSDE offices. Proposals are due November 12. Further information can be found at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2683&Q=320346> after September 1.

EVENTS

Early Childhood Behavioral Consultation

Preschool programs are currently being recruited for participation in the Early Childhood Behavioral Consultation, a program jointly funded by the CSDE and Department of Children and Families and administered by Advanced Behavioral Health Inc. This initiative supports five to six community preschool programs per year to address the social, emotional and mental health needs of students, and to support children with special needs through the creation of a program Behavioral Health Team. The Behavioral Health Team addresses program, classroom and individual child needs, and supports teachers and families in meeting the needs of children. For more information, contact Michelle L. Levy at 860-713-6756 or by e-mail at michelle.levy@ct.gov.

Math + SRBI = Student Learning Conference

A new fall conference sponsored by the Connecticut State Department of Education, the State Education Resource Center (SERC), in collaboration with the RESC Alliance, will be held at the Farmington Marriot on October 8, 2009. The conference will focus on implementing strategic research-based interventions (SRBI) for mathematics. For more information, contact Charlene Tate Nichols at charlene.tate.nichols@ct.gov.