

NEWS

Connecticut Department of Education

Mark K. McQuillan, Commissioner

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Student Data is Focus of Statewide Education Conference

On May 13 and 14, 2008, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) will be hosting the third annual Data Showcase. The Data Showcase Conference highlights the work that the CSDE is supporting through the Connecticut Accountability for Learning Initiative (CALI) to accelerate the learning of all students. This conference provides an opportunity for schools and districts to share best practices, successes and struggles as they work toward the common goal of improving student achievement. It is being held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day and will also have an evening session on May 13 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The conference features Dr. Jane Bluestein on May 13, 2008, and Dr. Brian McNulty on May 14, 2008. Both days will focus on the use of data to drive school and district improvement, however there will be different themes around this topic on each day. On May 13th, Dr. Bluestein will be the keynote to kick off the day's theme of establishing a school climate that is conducive to the positive use of data. On May 14th, Dr. McNulty will keynote and the theme will be leadership for change with respect to school and district improvement. The Data Showcase will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell. Over 1000 educators from across the state are registered to attend.

Instructional strategies, interventions and student data will be displayed on science fair boards that will serve as the centerpiece for discussion. The data are displayed on tri-fold science fair boards. The first panel includes student achievement data, the middle panel includes data on the adult actions that impacted the student outcomes and the last panel includes inferences, conclusions and/or next steps based on the data analysis.

There will be a variety of breakout sessions, facilitated discussions on the use of data in schools and districts and technical assistance opportunities available for conference participants. These sessions will focus on topics that include parent involvement, school climate, response to intervention, and using data to guide decisions. To include teachers and paraprofessionals who are unable to leave their building during the school day, there will be a special evening session with Dr. Bluestein. The evening session will be on May 13 from 4:00–6:00p.m.