



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools
Superintendents of Unified School Districts
Directors of Public Charter Schools
Directors of Approved Private Special Education Programs
Executive Directors of Regional Educational Service Centers

FROM: Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education *CRJ*

DATE: May 18, 2023

SUBJECT: Educator Evaluation and Support Plan (EESP) Submission;
Extending the *Flexibilities for Implementing the
CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017* into the
2023-2024 School Year

Background

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-151d, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) reconvened the [Educator Evaluation and Support 2022 Council \(EES Council\)](#), codified in C.G.S. 10-151b as the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC), to begin the process to ‘reimagine’ Connecticut’s educator evaluation and support system.

The EES Council has been meeting since April 2021, first to update the [Flexibilities for Implementing the CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017 for the 2021-2022 School Year](#), and then to conduct an in-depth review of research-based best practices to inform the development of a transformative educator evaluation and support system that:

- is consistent with emerging research and best practices in the field of education;
- includes a renewed focus on professional learning to develop systems of continuous improvement for educator practice and student outcomes; and
- addresses the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, teachers, administrators, families, and school communities.

The EES Council has developed a draft framework that reflects these priorities.

Next Steps

The CSDE is in the process of seeking adoption of the new, proposed CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2023 (CT Guidelines 2023) by the State Board of Education:

- The CSDE presented a draft of the proposed CT Guidelines 2023, as recommended by the EES Council, to the State Board of Education (SBE) Legislation and Policy Development Committee on May 3, 2023.
- Draft materials will be available on the [EES Council Webpage](#) in May, pending approval from the SBE Legislation and Policy Development Committee.
- The CSDE, with the approval of the Legislation and Policy Development Committee, is planning to recommend that the SBE adopt the proposed CT Guidelines 2023, as recommended by the EES Council, during its June 14, 2023 meeting.

- Implementation of the new CT Guidelines 2023 will be implemented beginning in the 2024-25 school year.

Educator Evaluation and Support Plans (EESP) for the 2023-24 School Year

On March 1, 2023, the SBE adopted the EES Council's recommendation for [Extending the *Flexibilities for Implementing the Connecticut Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017* for the 2023-24 School Year \(*Flexibilities*\)](#).

With the SBE's adoption of extending the *Flexibilities* into 2023-24, LEAs will have consistency in the implementation of educator evaluation and support while providing time for Professional Development and Evaluation Committees (PDECs) to plan for the successful implementation of the revised CT Guidelines 2023 during the 2023-24 school year, pending adoption by the SBE.

Given the timeline for seeking adoption of the new, proposed CT Guidelines 2023, and considering the time needed for districts to plan for the successful implementation of the revised CT Guidelines 2023, LEAs have the option for the 2023-24 school year to implement the *Flexibilities* or to implement the LEAs most recent CSDE-approved EESP.

Adopting the *Flexibilities* for 2023-24

Local education agencies (LEAs) that choose to adopt these *Flexibilities* must do so through the mutual-agreement process of the PDEC and the local board of education. It is intended that districts adopt the *Flexibilities* in their entirety for the 2023-23 school year. LEAs should follow their most recently approved CSDE educator evaluation and support plan (EESP) for all other areas of the [CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017](#) not described in the *Flexibilities*.

If an LEA adopted the *Flexibilities* for 2022-23 school year, the PDEC must determine, through mutual agreement with the local board of education, whether to re-adopt the *Flexibilities* for the 2023-24 school year or confirm continuing with their most recent CSDE-approved EESP.