

State Student Advisory Council on Education

Connecticut State Board of Education
June 6th, 2018



Summer Slide Committee

Goal: To prevent the summer slide by continuing learning over the summer through hands-on experiences and eliminating the negative connotation of summer school.

Identifying the Problem

Who:

- Students of all ages and all grade levels
 - Low-Income Students
 - Reading
 - $\frac{2}{3}$ of 9th grade reading achievement gap can be explained by unequal learning opportunities during summer months (Johns Hopkins University)
 - Summer Reading Loss is 1 of 3 obstacles to reading proficiency at the end of 3rd grade
 - Mathematics

Identifying the Problem

What:

- Summer Slide → a 3 month Achievement Gap that results in learning loss between middle and low-income students
 - Socioeconomic Status
 - School Year → learning gains are equal
 - Summer Vacation →
 - **High-income students**
 - Continue learning throughout summer
 - **Middle-income students**
 - Maintain reading and math level
 - **Low-income students**
 - Lose 3 months of reading comprehension (Duke University)
 - Lose a month of math skills (Duke University)

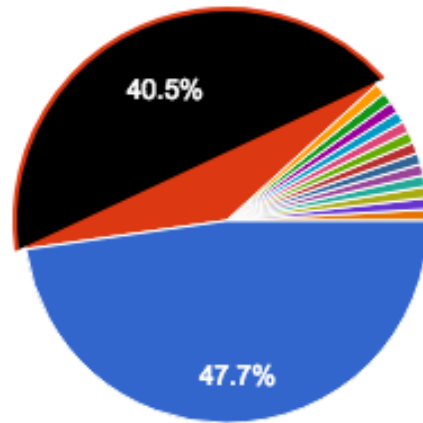
Why is the current system broken?

- **Low Income Students are at disadvantage**
 - Fewer opportunities
 - Financially incapable of affording opportunities
 - Boredom, Inactivity, Isolation
- **Summer School Stigma**
 - Summer is a time for enriching experience outside the classroom
 - Lack of interest and lack of hands-on experiences
 - Negative connotation to summer school → “Delinquent or Failure”
 - Seen in the media negatively

Educators' Perspectives

Do you think the current system of summer work needs to be changed?

111 responses

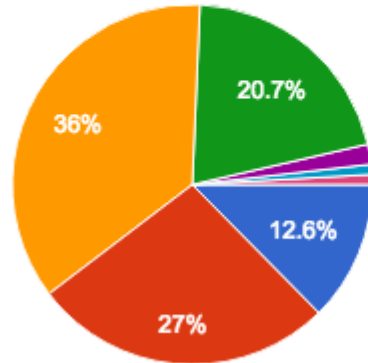


- Yes
- No
- Depends on the course where loss i...
- I think that students should not hav...
- more information is needed
- Any student with a final grade of D...
- I think that it depends on the school...
- I think that it depends on students/d...

Educators' Perspectives

How do you rank summer learning loss across the United States on a scale of 1 (little to no problem) to 5 (it is an epidemic)?

111 responses

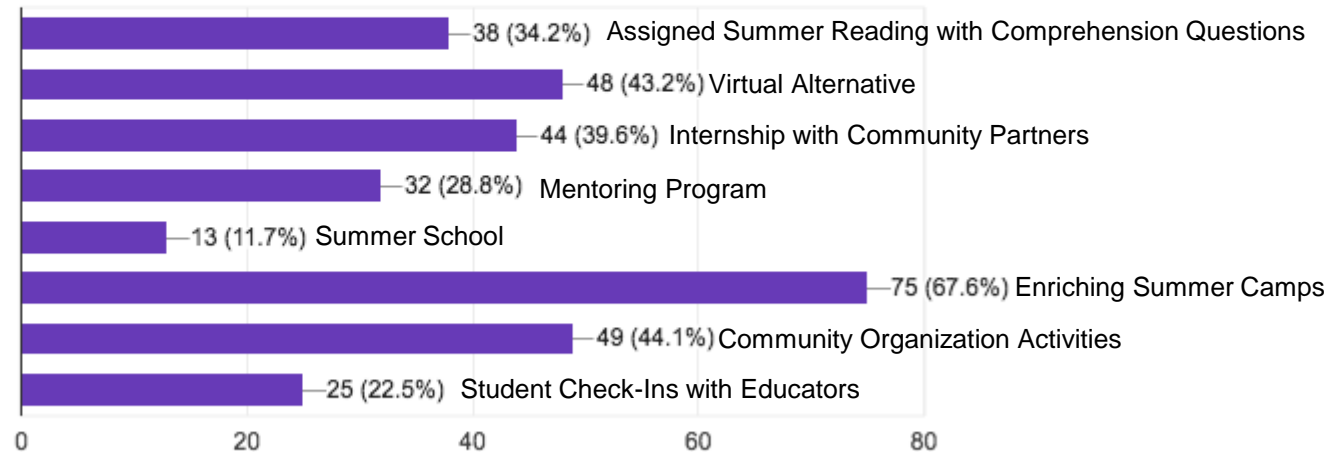


- 1- little to no problem
- 2- somewhat of a problem
- 3- moderate problem
- 4- significant problem
- 5- it is an epidemic
- Not familiar with it.
- Somewhat of a learning loss but I do not consider this to be a problem. I would have said "2"

Educators' Perspectives

What do you think the most effective ways of learning over the summer are?

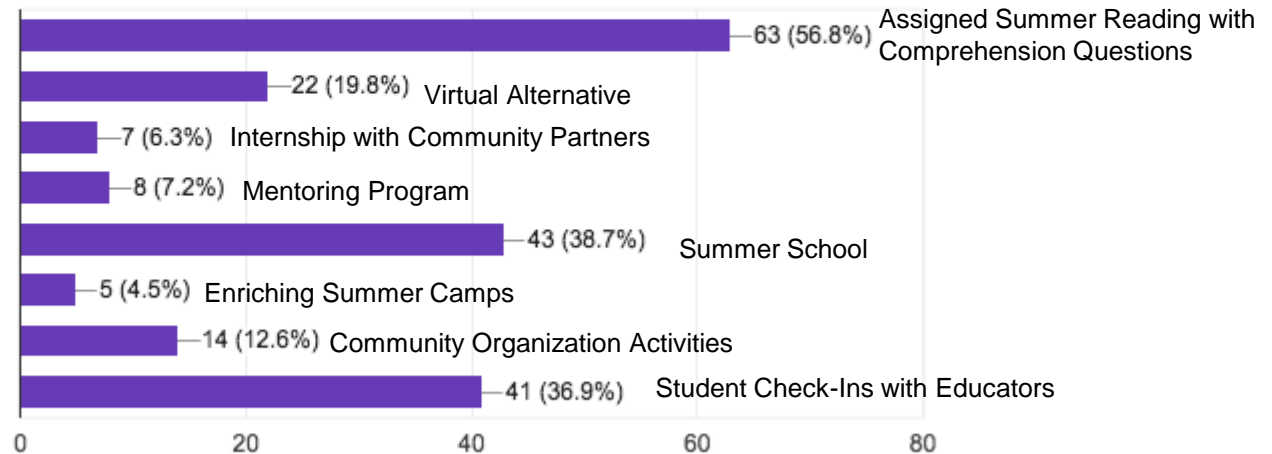
111 responses



Educators' Perspectives

What do you think the least effective ways of learning over the summer are?

111 responses



Two-Part Solution

How to Increase Interest

- Independent Study
- Hands-on Experience
- Getting Rid of the Classroom Setting
- Field Trips
- Incentivizing Students and Teachers

How to Increase Access

- Database (CAS Website)
- Communication with Guidance Departments
- Connecting with Public Universities in Connecticut
- YMCA Community Programs
- Boys and Girls Club
- Gear Up
- Summer Spark

Exemplary Programs

- Saint Martin De Porres Academy → New Haven, CT
 - Title I School
 - Students are kept in school till the beginning of July and back in school in early August
- Breakthrough Collaborative → 27 Programs around U.S.
 - College and High School Students mentor Elementary Low Income Students
 - Encourages a path to college
- BELL Program → Building Educated Leaders for Life
 - Implemented in districts around the U.S
 - Showed significant closure in summer slide

Future - 9 Month vs 12 Month Calendar

Is Summer in the best interest of Education?

Benefits of a 12 Month Calendar

- Same 180 Days of Academic Instruction
- A larger amount of smaller breaks → One for each season and holiday
- 3 to 4 weeks off at a time = better skills retention
- Eliminates summer programs families cannot afford → lowers summer slide impact!
- Teacher and Student stress lessened

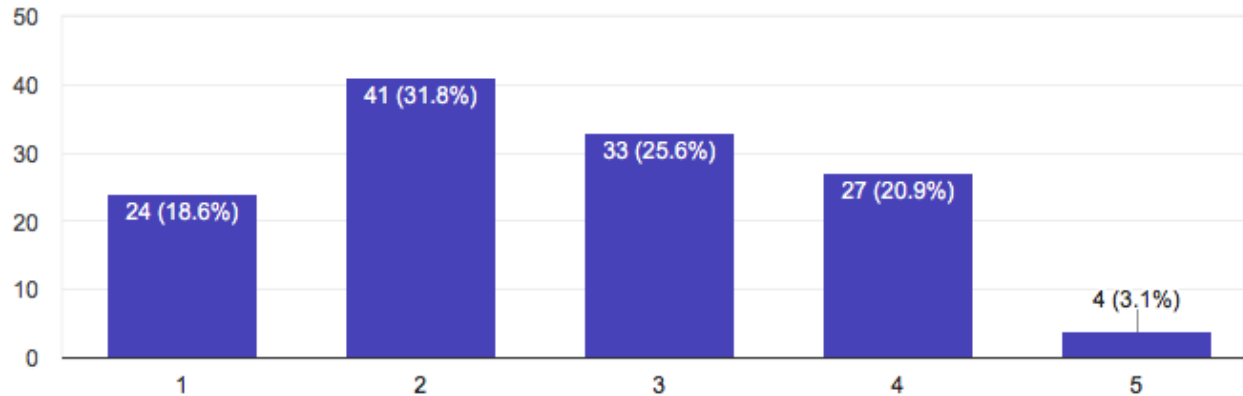
Careers in Education Committee

Goal: To increase student interest in pursuing a career in education by changing the public perception of teaching.

Survey of CT High School Students

On a scale of 1-5, how favorably do you view a career in education? (5 is most favorably)

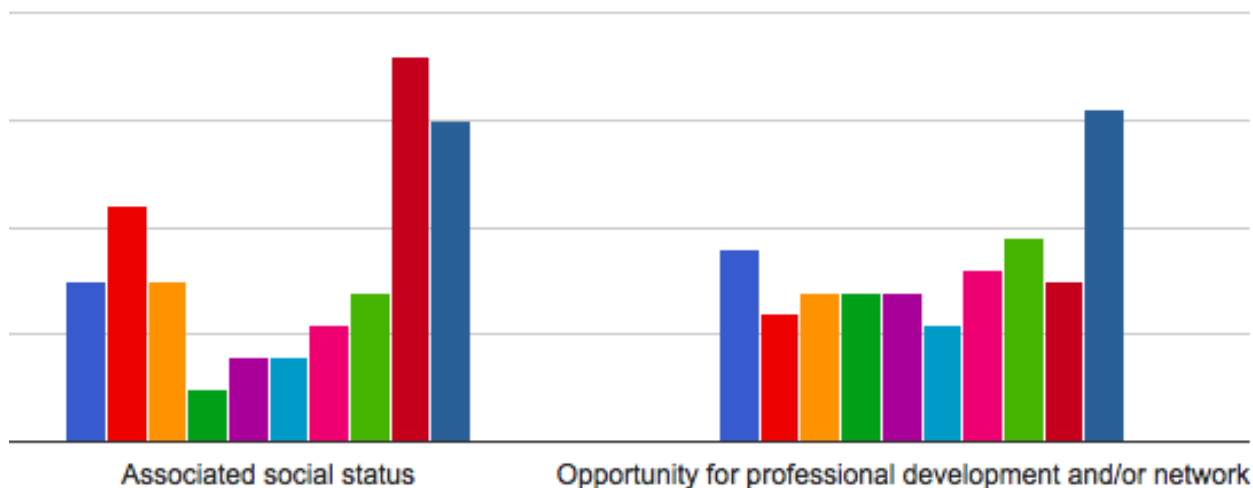
129 responses



Aspects of Teaching That Appeal to Students

- Ability to shape the lives of young people and the next generation
- Strong demand for new teachers
- Job security
- Every year = new students, new personalities, and new ideas
- High Level of Autonomy
 - While required classes have mandated curricula that teachers are expected to follow, it is the teacher who decide what will happen in the classroom each day.
 - Teachers teach their curriculum in very different ways.
 - **Not many jobs provide an individual with so much room to be creative and autonomous each day.**
- To be the ONE CARING ADULT in a child's life

We asked CT students to denote, on a scale from 1 - 10, the importance of these two factors when selecting a career.



From left to right (1 -10), the bars represent the number of students who responded a number from 1 to 10. **Leftmost: 1. Rightmost: 10.**

Students' Negative Perspectives on Teaching

- Not a high-paying job
- Bad experiences in High School
- Minimal opportunities for career advancement (classroom teacher for entire life)
- Teachers speak poorly of their own profession to their students
 - “I don’t get paid enough for this”
- Negative perspectives/misconceptions → lower respect for teachers → less desire to teach

Countering the Perspective

- There **is** potential for professional development.
 - Can move on to be Principals, Superintendents, and higher education
- Do not have to stay a classroom teacher his/her whole career
- Continue research and have the ability to publish papers...etc.
- Special opportunities and awards
- Countless experiences and stories from students

Steps to creating a viral video

- 1) Viral title (tells what video will be about and uses phrases such as: “You’ve got to see..”)
- 2) Short and to the point (:30-1:30 minutes)
- 3) Tap into emotions (make the viewer *feel* something)
- 4) Release video on a Monday or a Tuesday
 - a) *First days back to school and work and gives video a week to gain momentum*

Best video would show a teacher actively engaging students in his/her classroom

Ex: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0jgcyfC2r8>

Future Steps

- **Use social media to reach students**
 - Create a viral video that easily accessible via Facebook, Instagram or Twitter
- **Rebrand the perception of teaching**
 - Bring in a Public Relations Firm to help with this
- **Make opportunities available in high schools for students interested in teaching**
 - Ex: Cadet Teaching, Future Educators Club

CT Breakfast Program

Goal: To help make breakfast more obtainable for students across Connecticut.

The School Breakfast Program: a General Overview

What it is:

The School Breakfast program is a system set up to help provide breakfast for students who don't have the chance to eat in the morning.

The Problem:

Connecticut is one of the lowest ranking states in terms of participation in the school breakfast program initiative.

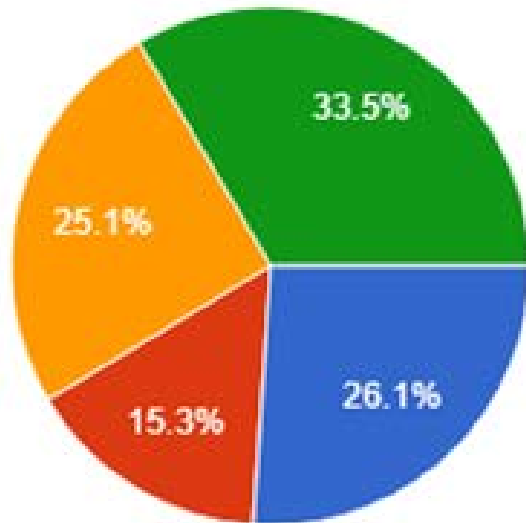
Our Goal: To help make breakfast more obtainable to students across Connecticut.

Hunger affects 1 in 5 children in
Connecticut. In 2015, CT ranked
47th with 80.6% schools
participation. Nationally 91.3% of
public schools participate.

Survey Data

How often do you eat breakfast during the school week?

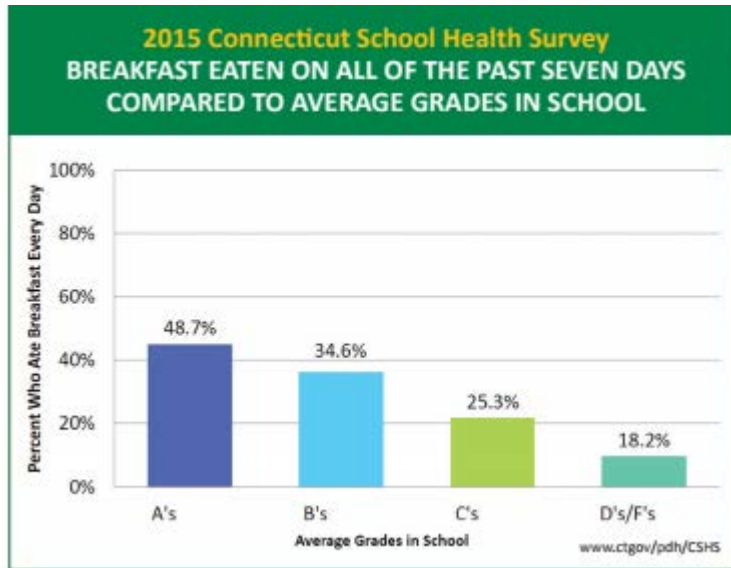
1,711 responses



- Everyday.
- Sometimes (3-4 times per week).
- Occasionally (1-2 times per week).
- Never.

“Breakfast is the Most Important
Meal of the Day.”

School Breakfast and Academics



“Students who eat school breakfast on average attend 1.5 more days per year, score 17.5% higher on standardized math tests, and have a 20% higher high school graduation rate.”

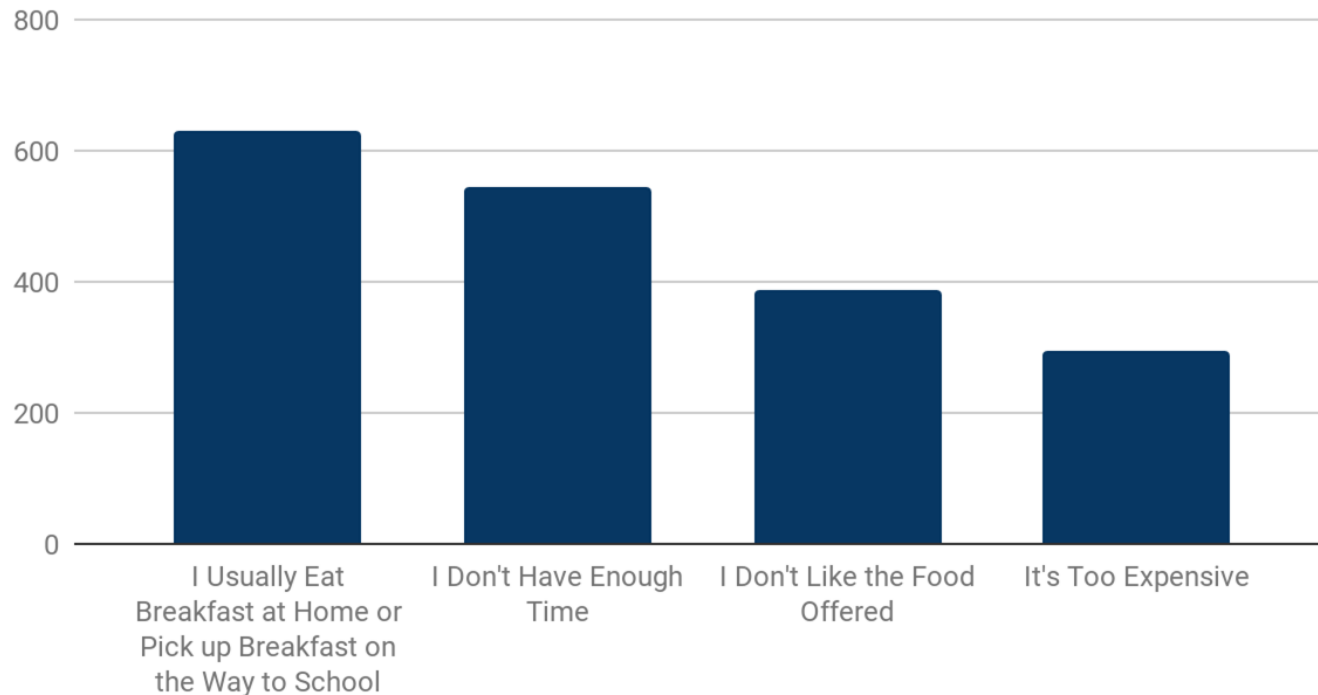
Breakfast and the Achievement Gap

- Healthy students are better on all levels of academic achievement:
 - Academic performance,
 - Education behavior
 - Cognitive skills and attitudes.

What can we do to encourage participation?

Survey Data

If You Don't Eat Breakfast at School, Why Not?



Alternative Breakfast Methods

- Grab and Go Breakfast
- Breakfast After the Bell
- Breakfast Kiosks
- Second Chance Breakfast

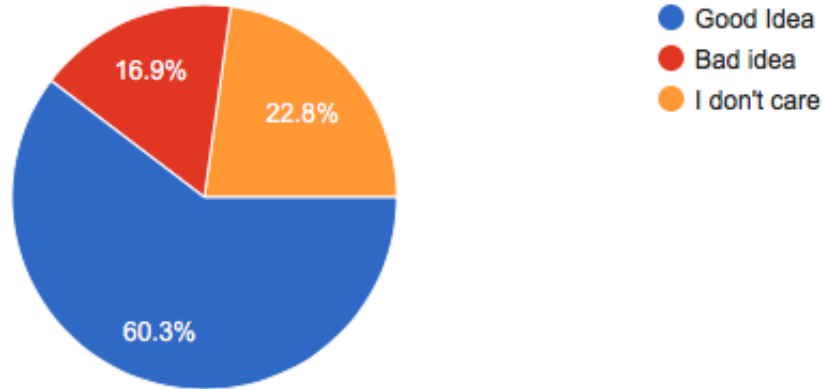
“New York state saw an increase of over 37,000 students—with more than 20,000 additional students participating in New York City in the 201617 school year, compared to the prior school year. This is due to the New York City Department of Education’s multi-year roll out of a districtwide breakfast after the bell program.”¹

¹ FRAC School Breakfast Report Card 2016-2017

Survey Data

What do you think about the idea of a breakfast kiosk located in the hallways?

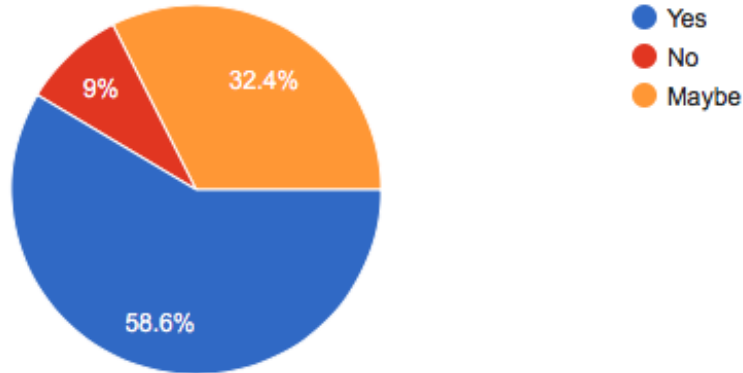
1,702 responses



Survey Data Cont.

For those who do and do not eat breakfast at school, do you think that you, and other students, would participate more if breakfast was offered after the bell as well as before?

1,711 responses



Legislation Creates Greater Opportunities for Participation

- District of Columbia
- Colorado
- New Mexico
- Texas
- West Virginia
 - The highest ranked breakfast program in the nation.
- Nevada
- Illinois

Legislative Success in Nevada

- 2015 → Nevada passed SB 503
 - Schools that serve 70% or more of students that are eligible for free or reduced lunch must serve breakfast after school has started.
 - Their national ranking jumped from 41st to 25th.¹
 - Participation among low income children jumped 26.5%.²

Other Options

School Breakfast Program Expansion

- More schools participating in the SBP→Greater chance for student participation

Community Eligibility

- Schools whose population consists of 40% or more students that qualify for free and reduced prices can serve ALL students at a free rate.

Funding

Profitability

- The School Breakfast Program is profitable.
 - **Greater participation** and consistent participation means the program receives **more money** in reimbursement rates from the state and federal level.

Reimbursement Rates

- FRAC Benchmark goal: 70 F&RP students participating in the SBP for every 100 F&RP student participating in the NSLP.
 - CT needs **31,551¹** more F&RP students to participate to achieve this goal.
 - With standard reimbursement rates this offers CT an additional **\$8,845,330²**

SSACE Projects

- Challenge to Educational Citizenship Recognition
- CT SEES Toolkit
- Open Letter to CT Schools
- Letter Templates: Students → Legislators
- Statewide Town Hall on School Safety



Challenge to Educational Citizenship Recognition

Examples:

- Friends of Rachel Club
 - Positive, Respectful School Environment
- Harvest Pack Project
 - Packaged > 55,000 meals → families in Haiti
- 7th Grade Day of Compassion
 - Inspire gratitude and kindness (17 RAKs)
- Sage Park Leaders
 - Kindness Ninjas

Honored 13 Outstanding Initiatives

CT SEES Initiative and Toolkit

*“Connecticut students see the world,
see its problems, and see the need
for change.”*

FOR STUDENT LEADERS

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS URGED TO JOIN STATEWIDE SAFE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

The State Student Advisory Council on Education is pleased to invite schools to participate in "CT SEES," a student-led awareness program to make the state's schools safer and more inclusive. During the month of April, school and student leaders are encouraged to organize a "CT SEES" week in their own district. The week will include a series of activities which emphasize kindness, encourage positive school climate and promote school safety. Participants can share the success of their "CT Sees" events through a Twitter challenge and the top schools will be invited to attend a round table discussion at the CAS headquarters in May! Please join this vital **awareness campaign!**



CT STATE STUDENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON EDUCATION
ANNOUNCES

CT SEES

APRIL 2018

SAFE SECURE SCHOOLS



Connecticut students see the world, see its problems, and see the need for change. Focusing on kindness and inclusivity is the core of violence prevention and improving school climate. We encourage school and student leaders to choose a week in April to hold

CT Sees Week!!

#GOALS

Encourage Positive School Climate
Violence Prevention Awareness
Importance of Kindness

COMING SOON!!! TWITTER CHALLENGE for HIGH SCHOOLS!

Schools with the most **POSTS, LIKES**, best **PICS** will be invited to a **CAS Recognition Forum on School Safety**.

We want to see your creativity shine! Share your ideas!!
Tweet at **@CAS_ct #CTSees #Theme #YourSchool #SSACE**



more info
<http://casci.ac/3309>

Open Letter to all Connecticut Schools

- Following tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School

“In recent weeks, students across these United States have been clear in their resolve and mission: **No More...**

... we implore the State of Connecticut High Schools to pursue a national initiative and interstate cooperation in the following areas: ***Engage*** with the voices of concerned citizens, especially students, ***Ensure*** absolute school safety for every district, ***Enforce*** existing gun laws, ***Expand*** the implementation of background checks, ***Examine*** the role and prevalence of mental health in violence, and ***Encourage*** a renewed culture of unity through the indomitable American spirit.”

Letter Templates

*Promote
> civic engagement*

Dear Community Member,

The State Student Advisory Council of Education strongly supports civic engagement. We encourage you to contact your legislators about issues you care about; after all, they are YOUR representatives. The template below can be used as a guideline for letters to legislators.

All our best,

Students of the State Student Advisory Council on Education

(month) (day), (year)

To the Honorable [name]:

[Address, Line 1]

[Address, Line 2]

Dear (Senator/Representative/Governor/Lieutenant Governor) (Last name),

My name is (name) and I live in (place of residence), in your district. I am (say something about yourself—a mother, student, teacher, taxpayer, etc.) and I write to you concerning (insert subject you are going to discuss).

(State some background information about your issue and then say why you support or oppose the bill or other issue here. **Choose up to three** of the strongest points that support your position and state them **clearly.**)

(Include a **personal anecdote**. Tell this state official **why the issue is important to you** and how it affects you, your family, and/or community.)

(Tell this state official how you want him or her to vote on this issue and **ask for a response**. Be sure to include your name and address on both your letter and envelope.)

Sincerely,

SIGN YOUR NAME

Print your name, Street address

City, State, Zip code

Statewide Town Hall on School Safety

STATE
STUDENT
ADVISORY
COUNCIL
INVITES
YOU:

STATEWIDE
TOWN HALL
ON
SCHOOL SAFETY

Connecticut students see the world, see its problems, and see the need for change. On Friday, June 8th, high school student leaders, distinguished educators, community leaders, and legislators will come together for a meaningful and innovative dialogue about how we can make Connecticut schools safer.
JOIN US!!!



FRIDAY, JUNE 8TH, 2018
1:00PM-3:00PM

OLD JUDICIARY ROOM, STATE CAPITOL
210 CAPITOL AVENUE, HARTFORD, CT



Sponsored By



RSVP

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SSACE

STATE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EDUCATION



Thank you for your support!