

# Connecticut State Department of Education

## Student Success Plans



The Student Success Plan (SSP) is an individualized student driven plan that will be developed to address every student's needs and interests to help every student stay connected in school and to achieve postsecondary educational and career goals. The SSP will begin in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and continue through high school to provide the student support and assistance in setting goals for social, emotional, physical and academic growth, meeting rigorous high school expectations, and exploring postsecondary education and career interests. The Student Success Plan and supporting structures such as student portfolios and academic/personal

records should be electronic and portable following the student from school to school and district to district.

### **Student Success Plan implementation should foster, support, monitor and document:**

- Regular mentor/advisor, student and family interaction
- Progress in meeting rigorous expectations
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills
- Engagement, academic, career, and social/emotional/physical skills with connection to school/community
- Goal setting and related activities for:
  - academic growth
  - career exploration and planning
  - personal, social/emotional and physical growth
- Compilation of student best work samples and other SSP related documents in a portfolio system that includes Capstone Experiences
- Opportunities for workplace development and demonstration
- Written student reflection on personal strengths and areas that need improvement
- Communication between school and parent/guardian, and among school personnel
- Identification of students who need proactive support and intervention
- Active, responsible student participation in the plan development and continued evolution.

### **Core Components of Effective Student Success Plans**

*(Aligned with Connecticut Secondary School Reform Plan and Connecticut Comprehensive School Counseling Program Guide)*

An effective Student Success Plan is built around three core components: Academic Development, Career Development, and Social, Emotional and Physical Development. The SSP matrix details Common Model Criteria, Specific Model Criteria, and Other Recommended Elements. The Common Model Criteria found on the design matrix are criteria that are critical elements common to all core components. For instance, workplace skills should be integrated throughout all three core components to ensure that the SSP allows for the skill acquisition and demonstration in a student's academic, career and personal life. Listed below are the Specific Model Criteria for each of the core components which are also considered to be essential to a comprehensive SSP. The Other Recommended Elements are vehicles or programs which add utility or enhancement to a student's academic, career, and social, emotional, and physical development.

#### **I. Academic Development**

Student interest and aspiration are the basis for the development of the student's academic program. A planned academic program will lead to the acquisition of the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to be an effective learner in school and across the life span. The Student Success Plan is designed to ensure

that students complete their secondary education with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills, with an emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) skills necessary to compete in the global economy.

***Specific Model Criteria:***

- Selection of rigorous courses linked to interest, skills and career pathways
- Selection of courses for the attainment of education and/or career goals
- Progress toward successful completion of Portfolio/Capstone Project
- Ongoing support and assessment of progress with mentor/advisor
- Provision of timely intervention

***Other Recommended Elements***

- Learning experiences outside the classroom

**II. Career Development**

The student will investigate their own interests and abilities as they relate to the world of work in the dynamic global economy. The customized plan will include varied and flexible educational opportunities, personal connections, and elective coursework, and targeted supports tied to each student's education and/or career goals. The Student Success Plan, which guides students through secondary education on to postsecondary education and/or work, will allow students to make better career choices with the academic foundation to achieve their career and personal goals.

***Specific Model Criteria:***

- Interest and ability inventories
- Career exploration activities and elective courses
- Postsecondary education and career pathway development

***Other Recommended Elements:***

- Work-based learning experiences

**III. Social, Emotional and Physical Development**

The Student Success Plan supports positive social, emotional and physical development, allowing students to more fully engage in the school environment and take the risks necessary for optimal academic performance. Student success within may be exemplified through establishing and maintaining positive interpersonal relationships, managing feelings and emotions, engaging in behaviors supportive of positive physical health, demonstrating an appreciation for the needs of others, and embracing opportunities for academic, career, and postsecondary success.

***Specific Model Criteria:***

- Effective decision-making skills
- Empathic interactions and community service
- Utilizing supportive resources
- Healthy and safe life skills/choices
- Broadened awareness of self within a global context

***Other Recommended Elements:***

- Identification of school and community resources