

6th Annual Connecticut Data Conference

Improving School Climate to Support Academic Achievement

Sponsored by:
Connecticut Association of Schools,
Connecticut State Department of Education,
& EASTCONN



Day 1
April 27, 2011

Conference Program

Agenda



Registration	7:30am~8:30am	Visit Vendors/Data Walls
Welcome	8:30am~8:45am	Grand Ballroom Marion Martinez, Assoc. Commissioner, CSDE
Keynote	8:45am~9:45am	Grand Ballroom

Keynote: Culture, Climate and Student Connectedness

Presented by H. Jerome Freiberg
Founder & Director, CMCD Program

Break	9:45am~10:15am	Visit Vendors/Data Walls
AM Breakout	10:15am~11:30am	Conference Rooms
Lunch	11:45am – 12:30pm	Grand Ballroom
Lunch Address	12:30pm~1:30pm	Grand Ballroom

Effective Ways of Improving School Climate

Panel Moderator

Dr. Jo Ann Freiberg, Educational Consultant, CSDE

Panel Members

Ellie Cruz, Superintendent, Hebron

Matt Curtis, Director of Human Resources, Simsbury

Terese Fishman, Superintendent, Stafford

Julia Harris, Principal, Wilton

Julia Horne, Principal, Danbury

PM Breakout	1:45pm~3:00pm	Conference Rooms
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**Please drop off CEU and Evaluation Forms
at the Registration Desk.**

Day 1 April 27, 2011

Keynote Speaker

H. Jerome Freiberg

Founder and Director, CMCD Program



Dr. Freiberg is a John & Rebecca Moores Endowed University Professor and Professor of Education in the College of Education, at the University of Houston. He is founder and director of the Consistency Management & Cooperative Discipline (CMCD) Program with 140,000 students and teachers in the U.S. He is the Editor of the *Journal of Classroom Interaction*, an international journal with subscribers in more than 30 nations and has published over 120 scholarly works including *School Climate: Measuring, Improving and Sustaining Healthy Learning Environments*, *Universal Teaching Strategies* (3rd ed.), with Amy Driscoll, and *Freedom to Learn*, (4th ed.) with the psychologist Carl Rogers. *Freedom to Learn* was selected by the Russian Academy of Education and the Soros Foundation for translation and distribution throughout Russia, and has also been translated into Chinese, Japanese, Hungarian and Spanish.

Keynote: Culture, Climate and Student Connectedness

Dr. Freiberg received the College of Education Senior Research Excellence Award and the University of Houston Teaching Excellence Award. He was most recently presented as a Distinguish Fellow for the American Education Research Association where he has also served as a president of the Classroom Management and Affective Education Special Interest Groups. Dr. Freiberg has served as the senior evaluator for the Houston READ Commission 10 Year Evaluation for the Houston Mayor's Office. He recently keynoted conferences for the World Congress in Psychotherapy in Vienna, Austria, *Freedom to Learn for Behaviour and Learning* in London, England and *Universal Creativity* in Beijing, China. He is a Member of the Committee on Human Rights for Children and Youth, The World Council for Psychotherapy, Vienna, and on the National Center of Youth Policy for the Netherlands. He received in 2010, the Gulf Coast Community Services Association Head Start Award in recognition for sustained support for the 2,000 children and 24 CCCSA Head Start sites for its exceptional success through the Consistency Management & Cooperative Discipline Project. He has been the PI and Director of over twenty million dollars in external funding. Dr. Freiberg was a middle and high school teacher and a volunteer teacher at a maximum security prison in Rhode Island.

Morning Breakouts

10:15am - 11:30am

1. Three R's Are Not Enough: Teaching Cultural Competence in the Curriculum (CSDE)

Presented by William A. Howe, Ed.D., Education Consultant, CT State Department of Education

Room A

Culturally responsive education supports students in developing a lifelong appreciation for understanding and valuing cultural understanding in all settings of life. The incorporation of culturally responsive education as a critical component of all current curriculum, activities and services is a mainstream pedagogical practice that can serve to improve the academic lives of all students. This presentation will cover those cultural competence skills that help students succeed. Appropriate for all grade levels.

2. Assessing School Climate District-Wide: Challenges and Benefits of Gathering Data (Connecticut Technical High School System)

Presented by Patricia A. Ciccone, Superintendent, CT Technical High School System and Barbara St. Onge, Consultant for School Improvement & Professional Development

Room F

The CTHSS has been assessing the quality of the school climate yearly since 2008 - 2009 in 17 schools with 11,000 students and 1,400 faculty/staff. The district and each individual school have created SMART goals around school climate and are engaging in dedicated improvement efforts. This session will share the process, obstacles and benefits of assessing climate district-wide. Appropriate for grade levels: Central Office, High School, Middle School

3. It's All About the Relationships! (Colchester District)

Presented by Jackie Somberg, Principal, Amity Goss, Assistant Principal, and Kathy Wonderly, School Psychologist, Colchester Elementary School

Room E

This session will focus on the interrelationship between positive school climate and academic achievement. We will share one PK-2 school's story of improvement through the use of student-focused, three-tier thinking. With one of the ten lowest per pupil expenditures in the state, Colchester Elementary School educates over 700 students each year, recognizing that it's all about the relationships. Appropriate for Grade Levels: Pre-K and Elementary

4. Junior Jail to Spotlight School: How We Used Data to Change our School Culture (Norwalk District)

Presented by Bob McCain, Principal, Dr. Lori Kolbusz, Special Education/Reading Specialist, Sal Bryk, 7th Grade Team Leader and Language Arts Teacher, and Eva Bartush, 8th Grade Team Leader and Science Teacher, Nathan Hale Middle School

Woodbury Room

Is your school ready for change? Are you willing to face the reality and handle your most brutal truths? Can you handle the truth? We did and we will share our amazing journey with you on how we changed our school culture, turned around our struggling school, skyrocketed our test scores, and became a New England Spotlight School all through the use of data analysis. Appropriate for all Grade Levels.

5. Legal Implications

Presented by Tom Mooney, Esq., Shipman & Goodwin, LLP

Room D

A positive school climate is possible when expectations are clear and students are held accountable. Appropriate intervention, therefore, is necessary when students engage in misbehavior, such as bullying, fighting, or insubordination. This session will describe proper investigation techniques and appropriate student discipline, including due process, hearsay, confidentiality of student records, in-school suspension and other issues.

Afternoon Breakouts

1:45pm-3:00pm

6. The Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance

Presented by Abby Anderson, Executive Director, and Lara Herscovitch, Senior Policy Analyst, Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance

Room A

The Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance is a statewide policy and advocacy organization focused on keeping children and youth out of the juvenile and criminal justice systems, and advocating that the systems be safe, fair and effective for those involved. Learn about the juvenile justice system in Connecticut and how it has changed and improved over the past decade of major reform. Focus will include where we are now, including research on the prevalence of Disproportionate Minority Contact in juvenile justice, as well as discussion of the intersection of juvenile justice and education (exclusionary discipline, school-based arrests). Appropriate for some Elementary and all other Grade Levels.

7. Bullying At School: What Students Know And Can Do About It (CAS)

Presented by Dave Maloney, Assistant Executive Director, CT Association of Schools and High School Members of CAS Advisory Boards

Room F

The centerpiece of an improved school climate must involve student voices. Come to this session and listen to high school student leaders passionately share what can be done to curb mean behavior, develop positive, meaningful relationships, and make schools safer for all. Appropriate for grade levels: Central Office, High School, Middle School.

8. Constructing A Social Emotional Curriculum Framework: Essential skills for a Positive School Climate (New Canaan District)

Presented by Nora Daly, Student Prevention and Intervention Services Facilitator, Tara Beall-Gomes, School Counselor, and Tammy Nettleton, School Counselor, New Canaan Public Schools

Room E

This session will focus on the process the New Canaan Public Schools' Social, Academic and Personal Learning (SAPL) Curriculum Writing Committee participated in to create a district framework with enduring understandings, essential questions and student learning expectations. The development of this curriculum framework is an essential step in defining the student knowledge, understandings and skills that contribute to a positive school climate. SAPL's creation was based on the district's philosophy that quality data and meaningful analysis presumes that assessments are grounded in a research based, universal framework linked to student social, personal learning skills and school climate domains. Assessment planning as the next step in our process will also be presented. Appropriate for all Grade Levels.

9. Welcoming Atmosphere Walkthrough Protocol (Norwalk District)

Presented by Carol Marinaccio, Director of Elementary Education, and Karen Helyer, Instructional Specialist Early Childhood, Norwalk Public Schools

Woodbury Room

The Welcoming Walkthrough Protocol is a process used by schools to support their efforts in becoming a welcoming and supportive atmosphere for visitors, parents, students and stakeholders that visit schools. This protocol divides the walk through into four areas. The areas are the physical environment, school-wide practices and policies, welcoming school staff and written materials. The session will be an overview of the four components and a presentation of the data collected in the past two years. Appropriate for all Grade Levels.

10. Students and Staff Using Data for School Success (North Stonington District)

Presented by Veronica O. Wilkinson, Principal, Melanie Kasperek, School Psychologist and Deanna Scanapieco, Fifth Grade Teacher, North Stonington Elementary School

Room D

Faculty of North Stonington Elementary School will detail the implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention Support through the use of data analysis, direct instruction of appropriate behavior and continual student recognition which has led to improved school climate. The session will discuss use of data by students and staff to improve behavior, lesson plan development, and simple forms of recognition that can lead to successful change. Appropriate for Grade Levels: Pre-K - 6th Grade.

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Conference Room	AM Breakout 10:15am–11:30am	PM Breakout 1:45pm–3:00pm
Room A	1. Three R's Are Not Enough: Teaching Cultural Competence in the Curriculum (CSDE)	6. The Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance
Room F	2. Assessing School Climate District-Wide: Challenges and Benefits of Gathering Data (CT Tech. HS System)	7. Bullying At School: What Students Know And Can Do About It (CAS)
Room E	3. It's All About the Relationships! (Colchester District)	8. Constructing A Social Emotional Curriculum Framework: Essential Skills for a Positive School Climate (New Canaan District)
Woodbury Room	4. Junior Jail to Spotlight School: How We Used Data to Change our School Culture (Norwalk District)	9. Welcoming Atmosphere Walkthrough Protocol (Norwalk District)
Room D	5. Legal Implications (Tom Mooney)	10. Students and Staff Using Data for School Success (North Stonington District)



*Data walls
are on display
in Rooms B & C*



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