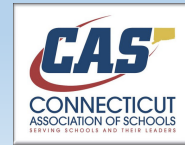


# Off the Record: Grade to Grade Transitions & Retention In A Time Of A Pandemic

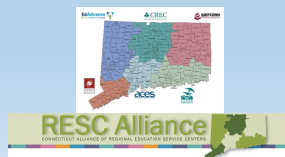
March 4, 2021



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## Today's Agenda

Transition and Retention Considerations  
Small Group Discussions and Debrief  
Wrap up / Next Steps/Survey of Needs



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## What do we already know about learning loss? The Summer Slide

- Traditionally math is more significantly impacted by a break in instruction
- For most students, learning loss is made up by traditional approaches to instruction upon return to instruction
- Students who lose the most during a break in instruction make the most gains once instruction is in place

Projecting the Potential Impact of COVID-19 School Closures on Academic Achievement- where do we go from here/strategies/conclusions

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.3102/0013189X20965918>

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## Grade to Grade Transition Considerations

- Transitions have always been about decision making
- Transition approaches emphasize the individual learner and learners across the grade level
- Transition approaches emphasize academic and SEL needs
- Transition approaches emphasize supporting families
- We use information to support our decisions
- We use a collaborative process to review the information and make decisions

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## Retention Considerations

- Retention research is not conclusive
- Retaining large numbers of students is not feasible for schools
- Evidence shows that retention decisions disproportionately impact Students of Color and English Language Learners
- State funded pre-k
  - Smart Start cannot admit children eligible for Kindergarten and for School Readiness programs it is limited to 10% of SR slots and the 10% can only be children who have attended SR previously
- Kindergarten entry guidance can be found in CT's **What Parents Should Know About KINDERGARTEN Entry, Enrollment, and Attendance**

In-grade Retention National Trends and Civil Rights Concerns

- <https://www.idra.org/resource-center/in-grade-retention-national-trends-and-civil-rights-concerns/>

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## Considerations for students with IEP's

- For preschool students who are kindergarten age eligible, if parents choose to retain, they are in effect withdrawing their child from school and therefor special education services
- At other grade levels, retention impacts end of service date
- Conversations with parents
  - Reinforce that the purpose of an IEP is to create a plan that supports their child's access to their education at any grade level and it will be designed to do that

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# Small group discussion

What are your anticipated challenges about the grade to grade transition and the use of retention this year?

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### Grade to Grade Transition and Retention Decision Making

Information to inform decision making	Processes to make decisions	Communication about decisions
Challenges	Challenges	Challenges
Ex: Not enough assessment information		
Changes that could be made	Changes that could be made	Changes that could be made
Ex: Dedicate staff time to determining new/revised assessment tools and processes		

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# Small group discussion

If you could create a system to effectively support grade to grade transition and respond to your anticipated challenges, what would it look like or include?

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### Grade to Grade Transition and Retention Decision Making

Information to inform decision making	Processes to make decisions	Communication about decisions
Challenges	Challenges	Challenges
Ex: Not enough assessment information		
Changes that could be made	Changes that could be made	Changes that could be made
Ex: Dedicate staff time to determining new/revised assessment tools and processes		

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## Resources

- <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/KindergartenBrochure.pdf>
- [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Early-Childhood/KindergartenBrochure\\_SPANISH.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Early-Childhood/KindergartenBrochure_SPANISH.pdf)

The COVID-19 slide: What summer learning loss can tell us about the potential impact of school closures on student academic achievement-NWEA

- [https://www.nwea.org/content/uploads/2020/05/Collaborative-Brief\\_Covid19-Slide-APR20.pdf](https://www.nwea.org/content/uploads/2020/05/Collaborative-Brief_Covid19-Slide-APR20.pdf)

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# THANK YOU!

Wrap Up  
Next Steps  
Survey of Needs



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