

# *5<sup>th</sup> Annual Connecticut Data Conference*

*Stories of Success - Closing the Achievement Gap*

*Day 1 - April 28, 2010*

*District/System Perspective*



*Holiday Inn, Waterbury*

*Keynote Speaker: Doug Reeves*  
*Founder, The Leadership & Learning Center*

Sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools, CT RESC Alliance/SERC  
and the Connecticut State Department of Education,

Register online at <http://registereastconn.org/ds>

Registration questions, please contact Jackie Stetson at the EASTCONN Conference Office at (860)455-1561.

# Day 1 - April 28 - Agenda

7:30 am - 8:30 am

Registration/Vendors

8:30 am - 9:00 am

Welcome

9:00 am - 10:15 am

Keynote: Doug Reeves

10:15 am - 10:45 am

Break/Vendors

10:45 am - 11:45 am

Morning Breakout Sessions

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Luncheon

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Superintendents' Panel

2:15 pm - 3:15 pm

Afternoon Breakout Sessions



# *Doug Reeves*

## *Founder, The Leadership & Learning Center*

Dr. Douglas B. Reeves is the founder of The Leadership and Learning Center. He has worked with education, business, nonprofit, and government organizations throughout the world. The author of more than 20 books and many articles on leadership and organizational effectiveness, he has twice been named to the Harvard University Distinguished Authors Series. His monthly column on change leadership appears in Educational Leadership. Dr. Reeves was named the Brock International Laureate for his contributions to education. He also received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the Parents Choice Award for his writing for children and parents.

Dr. Reeves can be reached at [DReeves@LeadandLearn.com](mailto:DReeves@LeadandLearn.com).

## *Keynote : Collaborative Leadership in Action: Best Practices from Connecticut And Around The World*

Dr. Douglas Reeves returns to Connecticut with his latest research on teaching, leadership, and learning for 2010. In keynote addresses around the world, Dr. Reeves frequently refers to the Connecticut Data Showcase as the “best practice in collaborative leadership” and a model of continuous improvement. In his presentation, Dr. Reeves will share information from his latest books, “Transforming Professional Learning Into Student Results” (2010, ASCD), The Renewal Coaching Workbook (Jossey-Bass, 2010), and Leading Change In Your School (2009, ASCD). In addition, he will address the compelling issues of stress, anxiety, and burnout among teachers and administrators and offer practical solutions to build efficacy and empowerment for educational professionals. Dr. Douglas Reeves is the founder of The Leadership and Learning Center. He has worked with education, business, nonprofit, and government organizations throughout the world. The author of more than 20 books and many articles on leadership and organizational effectiveness, he has twice been named to the Harvard University Distinguished Authors Series. Dr. Reeves was named the Brock International Laureate for his contributions to education. He also received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the Parents Choice Award for his writing for children and parents.

# Morning Breakout Sessions

## Day 1 - April 28<sup>th</sup>

### A. Developing Student Responsive Language Arts Curriculum, a Journey

In this session, Ansonia administrators and teacher leaders will share the successes, challenges and insights learned during the on-going process of developing a curriculum that meets the needs of diverse learners.

Participants will receive:

- The district's 3-year plan for collaborative development of Pre-K-12 language Arts curriculum
- Templates aligned to the CT Guide for Curriculum Development
- Sample Performance Tasks and Common Formative Assessments created using the Making Standards Work model

Presenters:

Fran Adjei, Pre-K-12 Language Arts Coordinator

Amy O'Brien, Assistant Principal, John C. Mead Elementary School

Michelle Fraher, Language Arts Instructional Coach

#### Audience

- ✓ Pre-K
- ✓ Elementary
- ✓ Middle
- ✓ High School
- ✓ Central Office

### B. Increasing the Effectiveness of the Data Team Process Through Technology

The presenters will share Norwich's "story", where the district took the original DDDM/DT process, along with accompanying paperwork and through the use of technology have made it a more effective and productive process.

Presenters:

Andrew Kortfelt, Technology Teacher

Darcy Strauss, Literacy Coach

Jim Strauss, Literacy Coach

#### Audience

- ✓ Elementary
- ✓ Middle

# Morning Breakout Sessions

## Day 1 - April 28<sup>th</sup>

### C. The Meriden Public Schools Plan for the Reorganization of the District's System of Academic Levels

The Reorganization Plan is a 5 year plan to detrack and reduce the number of academic levels in our secondary schools. In this presentation we will identify the impetuses for the drafting and adoption of the plan and describe the process used to develop the plan. We will also explain the measures underway to facilitate the implementation of the plan.

Presenters:

Robert Angeli, Associate Superintendent for Instruction  
Joanne Conte, Secondary ILA Supervisor  
Donna Mik, Principal, O.H. Platt High School

**Audience**

- ✓ **Middle**
- ✓ **High School**
- ✓ **Central Office**

### D. Aligning the District Strategic Operating Plan with the District Dashboard and Performance Measures for Central Office

This session Hartford Central Office will focus on:

- The creation of a comprehensive Strategic Operating Plan (SOP)
- Aligning the SOP to the District Dashboard (BOE policy)
- Monitoring the SOP (BOE, Cabinet)
- Aligning the SOP and central office performance

Presenters:

Penny MacCormack - Chief Academic Officer  
Victor DeLaPaz - Special Assistant to the Superintendent

**Audience**

- ✓ **Pre-K**
- ✓ **Central Office**

# Morning Breakout Sessions

## Day 1 - April 28<sup>th</sup>

### E. Truancy Clinic

Truancy clinic is a collaborative approach to address the high incidents of absenteeism in the Waterbury Public Schools. The clinic partners with families, teachers, principals and the court to address the reasons why students do not attend school.

**Presenters:**

Anne Marie Cullinan, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Attorney Thomas Brunnock, Probate Court Judge

**Audience**

- ✓ Pre-K
- ✓ Elementary
- ✓ Middle
- ✓ High School
- ✓ Central Office

### F. Decision-Making for Results – The Role of Leadership in Building Sustainability and Accountability

District level members of Middletown's District Data Team will describe how Middletown has transformed its infrastructure into a Professional Learning Community based on Data Teams by building and supporting leadership at all levels – district, school, and classroom. Presenters will share leadership-building support and training strategies as well as data team and instructional protocols that have resulted in a district-wide focus on improving instructional practice and student achievement. The Middletown team will reflect on successes, failures, and ongoing challenges as they complete year three of their journey.

**Presenters:**

Ms. Barbara Senge, Associate Superintendent for Teaching and Learning  
Ms. Laurie Slade, Supervisor of Special Education and Pupil Services  
Ms. Mindy Otis, Supervisor of Special Education and Pupil Services  
Mr. Jared Morin, Student Data Manager

**Audience**

- ✓ Administrators & Teacher Leaders at All Levels

# Morning Breakout Sessions

Day 1 - April 28<sup>th</sup>

## G. Data Rich-Information Rich

In this session participants will learn how to effectively analyze data for district and school improvement planning. They will then use the information to make instructional, curricular, and programmatic decisions to improve teaching and learning. Participants are encouraged to bring summative and formative assessment results from their district.

### Presenters:

Mara Dumond, Educational Specialist for Data, Assessment and Research

Mary Hourdequin, Executive Coach, CSDE Demonstration School

### Audience

- ✓ Central Office
- ✓ Principals & Instructional Leaders

# Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Day 1 - April 28<sup>th</sup>

## H. College Readiness For All Students Through Middle School Transformation

The mission of Stamford Public Schools (SPS) is to prepare each and every student for higher education and success in the 21st century. Former structures and instructional grouping practices have limited the ability of some students to access high-level curriculum and opportunities for advancement. Our middle schools must challenge, engage, and support each and every child by: providing a curriculum that is rigorous and standards-based for all students; establishing organizational structures that are flexible and identify, recognize, and advance the strengths of all students; and providing administrators and teachers research-based instructional strategies to meet the needs of all students. In this session, we will share early data on our implementation, including results indicators on implementation, positive changes in adult behavior and student outcomes.

Presenters:

Dr. Winnie Hamilton, Deputy Superintendent, Stamford Public Schools  
Amy Karwan, Executive Director for Performance Management & Accountability,  
Stamford Public Schools

**Audience**

✓ **Elementary**  
✓ **Middle**  
✓ **Central Office**

## I. Using Data from the CT Preschool Assessment Framework to Inform Instruction & Program Improvement: Classroom, Community & Regional Approaches (EASTCONN)

Preschool programs use the CT Preschool Assessment Framework to track progress over time on Performance Standards in the Cognitive, Personal-social, Physical and Creative domains using a web-based tool. This session will demonstrate how the tool and the assessment results are used to plan for individual children, prioritize standards and to inform instructional approaches for the entire class and how the results are used to inform program improvement and professional development in a community and in the region.

Presenters:

Elizabeth A. Aschenbrenner, Director of Early Childhood Initiatives

**Audience**

✓ **Pre-K**  
✓ **Central Office**



# Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Day 1 - April 28<sup>th</sup>

## J. The Role and Function of the District Data Team

This session will focus on how the New Haven District Data Team was established and the role it plays in a Priority School District. Monitoring mechanisms that have been put in place will be shared. Rubrics for monitoring District, School, and Academic Data Teams will be shared and discussed.

Presenters:

Garth Harries, Assistant Superintendent of Performance and Portfolio Management

Imma Cannelli, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Donna Aiello, Supervisor of Staff and Organizational Development

**Audience**

✓ **Central Office**

## K. Professional Learning Communities, Waterbury's Journey to Increase Student Achievement

In this session, members of the Waterbury Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Committee will discuss the following:

- The professional development that has supported the implementation of PLC at the district and at the school level
- The role of Data Teams at the school level has evolved through this process to have a stronger focus on student learning
- The strengthening of the Common Formative Assessment Process at the school level by focusing on curriculum, utilizing district benchmark assessments, and more thoroughly analyzing student work
- The influence of Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) on classrooms to improve engagement in teaching and learning
- Plans for continuation of the PLC project

Presenters:

Susie Dasilva, Principal Wilson Elementary

Pam Barker-Jones, Mathematics Supervisor

Jackie Gilmore, House Principal North End Middle School

**Audience**

✓ **Pre-K**

✓ **Elementary**

✓ **Middle**

✓ **High School**

✓ **Central Office**

# Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Day 1 - April 28<sup>th</sup>

## L. Meriden's District Assessments

This presentation will include a brief theoretical overview with longitudinal results (increasing district scores and closing the sub-group gap). The purpose of these assessments is to guide instruction and differentiated review by identifying cognitive errors and student misconceptions or "why" each student is "low". Samples of time sensitive reports and how some teachers actually use these data will be presented. The final part of the presentation will be a discussion on the development of a computer adapted version of these assessments and the availability to other LEA's across Connecticut and the U.S.

Presenters:

Alvin F. Larson, Ph.D., Research and Evaluation Specialist  
Neil Weathers, Supervisor of Mathematics

**Audience**

- ✓ **Elementary**
- ✓ **Middle**
- ✓ **High School**

## M. Helping to Improve All Schools: CAS Executive Coaching Program

The Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) is in it's third year of offering an Executive Coaching Program. CAS currently has executive coaches working with the principals and leadership teams in 60 schools in 22 districts. In this session, Mike Buckley and Susan Kennedy will provide an overview of the program, highlighting the features that make it unique:

- The CAS administrative hands-on approach to recruitment
- Training, supervision and evaluation of the coaches' performance once they are placed
- On-going professional development offered to coaches and frequently to the principals as well, to meet their contextualized needs

Presenters:

Mike Buckley, Associate Executive Director, CAS  
Susan Kennedy, Assistant Executive Director, CAS  
Fran Rabinowitz, Superintendent, Hamden Public Schools  
Kate England, Principal, Nathan Hale Elementary School, Manchester

**Audience**

- ✓ **Superintendents**
- ✓ **Assistant Superintendents**
- ✓ **Principals**

# Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Day 1 - April 28<sup>th</sup>

## N. The Lighthouse Project: BOE Accountability for Student Achievement

This session will be an overview of a program designed to establish the role of the Board of Education in promoting and supporting student achievement. The program is presented in the form of a series of modules having to do with building a sense of urgency, understanding data, leadership, change, culture, professional development and setting priorities. Presenters have been participants in the program in the role of presenters or trainees. The Lighthouse Project originated with the Iowa State Association of Boards of Education and, in Connecticut, is a partnership between the CSDE and CABE.

### Presenters:

Diane Conway, Ansonia  
Warren Logee, CSDE  
Nick Caruso, CABE

### Audience

- ✓ Elementary
- ✓ Central Office