



## Meeting the Challenge: CT Core Standards for Educators of English Learners and Students with Disabilities

*A professional learning opportunity for school teams dedicated to the success of ALL students*



In partnership with the Connecticut State Department of Education, Public Consulting Group (PCG) will present a professional development series for **school teams** who create inclusive environments and share instruction of English Learners (ELs) and students with disabilities. The goal of the series is to empower educators, through professional learning, to **implement CT Core Standards** aligned curriculum, instructional practices, and assessments **to meet the needs of a wide variety of learners.**

PCG's national experts in Special Education and English as a Second Language have designed a series of three professional learning modules for school teams.

### Register as a school team!

Each school team will include five members:

- One (1) Principal or other School Leader
- One (1) Special Educator serving students with disabilities
- One (1) TESOL Educator serving English Learners
- Two (2) General Education Educators

The team approach will give educators the much-needed opportunity for dialogue, shared learning, and collaboration on building and maintaining inclusive learning environments that meet the challenge and the promise of the CT Core Standards for every student.

### **Module 1 - Full School Team Workshop Sessions starting in September!**

School teams will explore the positive results of establishing a culture of **"Academic Optimism,"** found to be a significant factor in raising achievement of all student groups. Schools with Academic Optimism pursue academic excellence, collectively believe in their capacity to achieve, and have deep trust in students and parents.

- ✓ The morning session will provide participants with an introduction to the power of a growth mindset and discuss implications of adopting a culture of academic optimism in their schools and the collaboration required to achieve that goal.
- ✓ The afternoon session will provide teams with a common understanding of **Universal Design for Learning (UDL)** – the foundation and springboard for two subsequent modules that expand participants' ability to support all learners through an innovative approach to instructional planning and teaching.

### **Modules 2 & 3 - Specific Focus Workshops Sessions held in October and November**

For the next two sessions, teams will break into small groups to focus on the assets and needs of English Learners and students with disabilities. Sessions are designed to provide educators with engaging learning experiences that embrace practical knowledge and application of newly acquired knowledge and skills.

- ✓ Special and general educators will build capacity to "water up the curriculum" (Ellis, 2002) so that students with disabilities are successful with the CT Core Standards.
- ✓ Educators of English Learners and general educators will focus on important areas of need for ELs within the context of the Connecticut Core Standards in ELA and mathematics. Sessions will provide a foundation in "Understanding Language: Key Principles for ELL Instruction" (2013), and provide opportunities to work with partners to conceptualize the six principles and how they manifest in the classroom and develop plans for immediate use with students.

[http://ctcorestandards.org/?page\\_id=10207](http://ctcorestandards.org/?page_id=10207)

Once you register your team, you will receive instructions from PCG on how to sign up for specific sessions.