



# NEWS

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DR. DIANNA R. WENTZELL, COMMISSIONER

For Immediate Release:

March 29, 2017

Contact: Abbe Smith 860.713.6525

## **Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC) Recommends Use of State Tests for Educator Goal-Setting, Professional Development**

(HARTFORD, CT) – The Connecticut Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC) on Wednesday voted to preserve the role of state mastery tests in the educator evaluation and support system to inform goal-setting and professional development planning, but not as a measure used to calculate a final evaluation rating.

The recommendation by PEAC, the panel of education partners tasked with developing an educator evaluation system that works toward the goal of ensuring every child has access to a high quality education, now goes to the State Board of Education for consideration.

“Our goal is to ensure teachers have the tools and support they need to continuously improve their practice and deliver high-quality teaching and learning in the classroom,” said Commissioner of Education Dianna R. Wentzell. “Today’s recommendation by PEAC affirms the consensus among Connecticut education stakeholders that state mastery tests provide a valid and reliable estimate of student achievement and that they can play an important role in goal-setting for educators.”

Commissioner Wentzell continued, “Our current system of educator support and evaluation is the result of highly collaborative efforts among education stakeholders across the state and has resulted in deeper professional discussions among teachers and principals about instructional practice. I thank the members of PEAC for their continuing hard work in this effort and their commitment to improving outcomes for Connecticut children.”

Connecticut’s educator evaluation system involves the use of multiple measures, including district-identified standardized tests as well as classroom observation, in the calculation of an evaluation. That system remains the same, except that state mastery tests, such as the Smarter Balanced assessment, can no longer be directly linked to the calculation if the State Board of Education chooses to accept the PEAC recommendation.

The recommendation allows the use of state mastery tests for educator goal setting, professional development, discussion at the final evaluation conference, informing collaborative goals,

communication around planning, curriculum development, program evaluation, evaluating the effectiveness of materials and resources, and school and district improvement planning.

**CONTACT:** Abbe Smith, Director of Communications  
Connecticut State Department of Education  
Phone: 860-713-6525  
Mobile: 860-381-7096  
Email: [Abbe.Smith@ct.gov](mailto:Abbe.Smith@ct.gov)