



Superintendent Report
Region 1 Schools
March 2021

Board Appreciation Month - The month of March is the time that we take each year to honor all school Board of Education members. It is especially important that we remember to do this in 2021! You all have devoted countless hours to help us manage our schools this year, including the support for the creation of a safe and practical reopening plan; reviewing and approving MOAs; reading all of the COVID correspondence from the Central Office, CABA and other State agencies; attending special meetings; and answering questions or taking care of concerns voiced by your stakeholders. In addition to the time involved in managing all of these tasks, you help support all Region 1 administrators by sharing in the analysis, worry and the stress involved in the public health decisions we make with regard to opening or closing school when there are positive cases of COVID-19. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of people who have known and served our communities for so many years. Your knowledge of and commitment to our educational programs and people have supported us during this challenging time and contribute to the positive energy that exists throughout the Region. On behalf of all of the Region 1 administrators, teachers and support staff, I thank you for all of your hard work as well as for the care and compassion that you have always shown to our educational communities, but especially for that which you have expressed this year. We never forget that this is a volunteer effort on your behalf and we are grateful for all that you do!

COVID-19 Update - Region One - Cases in February were lower than those in previous months, with three of the schools in the Region reporting no school-related cases for the entire month. We hope that this trend will continue, but we will remain vigilant about following the [Region 1 Health and Safety Guidelines](#) and we will watch for and communicate any notices if/when new, more contagious variants enter the Region.

Summary of Positive COVID-19 Cases in Region One
August 25-February 28, 2021

School District	Month	Total Number of Cases to Date
Canaan - Lee H. Kellogg	August - January	10 cases - 4 students, 2 staff members, 4 community members
	February	No cases
Cornwall - Cornwall Consolidated School	August - January	5 cases - 2 staff members, 1 student, 2 community members
	February	No cases
Kent - Kent Center School	August - January	18 cases - 5 students, 1 staff member, 12 community members
	February	No cases
North Canaan - North Canaan Elementary School	August - January	30 cases - 12 students, 1 staff member, 17 community members
	February	3 community members

Region 1 - Housatonic Valley Regional High School	August - January	22 cases - 13 students, 1 staff member, 8 community members
	February	1 student, 1 community member
Salisbury - Salisbury Central School	August - January	19 cases - 7 students, 2 staff members, 10 community members
	February	1 student, 3 community members
Sharon - Sharon Center School	August - January	19 cases - 1 student, 5 staff members, 13 community members
	February	1 staff member, 5 community members

COVID-19 Vaccination Update - You have all received communication that I have shared with the staff about the opening of private clinics for educators by the Torrington Area Health District (TAHD). A cohort of 50 teachers will be vaccinated on Friday, March 5th and we are in the process of working with TAHD to plan future clinics. Late last week we received notification that the supply of vaccine doses may increase significantly during the week of March 8th and will hopefully continue into the spring and summer months. If that is the case, TAHD will partner with Harford Health in Torrington to offer additional clinics for educational staff. Should TAHD have access to the number of additional doses that may be possible, we should be able to ensure that all Region 1 educational staff, who have signed up to be vaccinated, will receive a first dose of a vaccine by the end of March.

The coordination of these clinics has required several hours of meetings with the CT State Department of Education, the Department of Health (State and local) and the Litchfield County Superintendents Association.

New Standards for School Psychologists - Last month I wrote about the new standards for school counselors and our plan for their implementation. In February, we received the [Guidelines for the Practice of School Psychology](#). The Guidelines were last revised/published in 2004. This document is the result of a collaborative process involving a dedicated group of outside stakeholders and the CSDE. The Guidelines delineate the many ways school psychologists can support the educational process and contain not only a mission and philosophy, but also important information related to scope of practice, professional standards, ethics, professional development, supervision and evaluation, best practices and more. This important resource is designed to be used as a day-to-day resource by those who practice school psychology, as well as individuals who supervise them.

These new guidelines make it clear that school psychologists will be responsible for providing services to all students and that those services include social emotional assessment and support as well as testing for potential learning disabilities. This is a departure from previous years and we will be working with Pupil Services and the school counselors to blend the services of these two groups per the recommendations included in the new guidelines and standards for each group.

Region 1 Non-Certified Negotiations - These negotiations have been concluded for a one-year term and the contract has been ratified. Many thanks to Sam Herrick, the Region 1 Negotiations Committee, Josh Herbst (the AFSCME representative) and the Region 1 non-certified staff team for their participation in collegial and efficient discussions regarding the contract for 2021-2022.

Assistant Superintendent Search - The search committee has reviewed the internal candidates and will communicate the next steps in this process after the next meeting that is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March 10. I will work with the Committee to support the next steps per the outcome of that meeting.

Strategic Planning - Scott, Jill and I learned a lot in the Strategic planning workshops held by the Connecticut Center for School Change last month. We are in the process of applying what we have learned to the current Region 1 strategic planning process and will be working with administrators and staff to make modifications. We will share the outcome of this work in April.

Legislative Update - The Education Committee will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. via Zoom. The public hearing can be viewed via [YouTube Live](#). In addition, the public hearing may be recorded and broadcast live on [CT-N.com](#).

Bill Number	Priority	Title & Synopsis
HB 6534		An Act Concerning Emergency Action Plans For Interscholastic And Intramural Athletic Events.
HB 6535		An Act Concerning Issues Relating To School Security.
SB 945		An Act Implementing The Recommendations Of The Department Of Education.
SB 946		An Act Concerning The Minimum Budget Requirement.
SB 947		An Act Establishing A Working Group To Review The Effects Of The Education Cost Sharing Grant Formula On Small And Rural Towns.
SB 948		An Act Addressing Education Funding And Racial Equity In Connecticut.
SB 949		An Act Concerning The Establishment Of A Money-follows-the-child Approach To Funding Public Education.
SB 886		An Act Implementing The Governor's Budget Recommendations Concerning Education.

Due to the amount of time I have had to spend working on the coordination of vaccination clinics, I have not had time to do anything but quickly review these bills. It appears that the two that merit some attention and a closer read are SB946 and SB886. These bills address changes to Minimum Budget Requirement (SB946) and Educational Cost Share funding for 2022 and 2023. The other bills may call for actions that have no impact or that minimally impact current school operations in the Region.

Mid-Year Evaluations - I have met with all but one member of the Region 1 administration team to discuss progress at the mid-year relative to the goals that were set at the start of the school year. All have been able to show evidence of the work they have done relative to those goals and can explain the positive impact on the school community as a result.

Region 1 School Visits - I have visited all of the schools in the Region at least one time. The teachers and students are following all of the health and safety guidelines. Students and staff are enthusiastically engaged with one another and it is clear that everyone is happy to be in school. We cannot thank our administrators, teachers and support staff enough for creating the positive environments for learning that seemed an impossibility a year ago.