



# RED TAPE REVIEW AND REMOVAL TASK FORCE

**Freeman Burr**  
Superintendent, Shelton Public Schools

**Ronald Goldstein**  
Chairman, Colchester Board of Education

**Tasia Kimball**  
Teacher, Amity Regional School District

**Donald Macrino**  
Principal, Waterford High School

**David Scata**  
Director of Special Education and  
Pupil Services, East Haddam

**Sharron Solomon McCarthy**  
Teacher, New Haven Public Schools

**Michael Tetreau**  
First Selectman, Fairfield

**Danuta Thibodeau**  
Executive Director, Education Connection

**Charles Zettergren**  
Director of Finance and Operations,  
Rocky Hill Public Schools

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## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RED TAPE REVIEW AND REMOVAL TASK FORCE

*Adopted January 30, 2013*

In February 2012, Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced the formation of the Red Tape Review and Removal Task Force to study ways that the State of Connecticut could remove bureaucratic barriers to academic excellence.

To conclude its work for the year, the Task Force adopts and endorses the following interim steps and recommendations.

### 1. MITIGATING RED TAPE IN NEW INITIATIVES

#### **Task Force Recommendation 1**

New initiatives that are proposed by the State of Connecticut and the Connecticut General Assembly must be analyzed for the impact of administrative burden on school districts and municipalities. This analysis should include participation from representative organizations to discuss the impact of administrative burden. The feedback and input received from such representative organizations will be considered before formulating and/or adopting any policy and before legislation will be implemented at the school and district level.

#### **Rationale for Recommendation 1**

Legislation and regulations are often proposed, approved and imposed on school districts without sufficiently accounting for the additional administrative burden that such proposals would create. The process for the consideration of new education initiatives should fully incorporate estimates of additional burden. Costs must be viewed beyond just dollars and funding. The use of staff time to complete imposed requirements is also a cost, and often comes at the expense of teaching and learning.



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### 2. FLEXIBILITY FOR HIGH-PERFORMING DISTRICTS

#### **Task Force Recommendation 2**

School districts that exhibit overall success in student achievement should be rewarded with greater flexibility on certain state requirements and mandates. A differentiated system of state oversight for school districts, based upon measures of student achievement, will help the State recognize the disparate needs of schools and school districts.

District and school student achievement data and performance indicators should be the framework to determine the level of autonomy or flexibility districts or schools should receive. A committee comprised of participants from the State Department of Education and other representative organizations should be established to develop the achievement criteria and level of autonomy.

#### **Rationale for Recommendation 2**

A “one size fits all” approach to state oversight of school districts does not enable the State to focus efforts and resources where they are needed most — in our lowest-performing schools and districts. While certain regulations may be enforced statewide, certain forms of state oversight are unnecessary in high-performing districts. These districts can be given greater autonomy.

### 3. DATA REDUCTION AND DATA GOVERNANCE

#### **Task Force Recommendation 3**

The State Department of Education should continue efforts to reduce administrative burden on school districts by streamlining systems and forms for collecting and using educational data.

In addition, a coordinated data governance structure and process should be created to allow for a statewide approach to collecting and managing educational data to inform policy and practice. The goal of this data governance process would be to improve data quality and improve communication between the State Department of Education and school districts. The data governance structure would include representation from the State Department of Education, the Red Tape Task Force, and school districts.

#### **Rationale for Recommendation 3**

The Task Force worked in partnership with the State Department of Education to identify data collection forms that could be streamlined or replaced. Several forms will be completely eliminated in 2013-14. Additionally, several budget forms will eventually be replaced by the uniform chart of accounts. The Task Force has also identified forms to be studied for further streamlining and elimination.



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### 4. AREAS OF FUTURE RESEARCH

#### **Task Force Recommendation 4**

During the course of the Task Force's work, additional tasks and areas of research requiring longer periods of study emerged. The Task Force recommends additional research into reducing red tape in key areas including, but not limited to, the following:

- *Teacher and School Leader Talent Issues*, which might also include an examination of barriers to reciprocity
- *Unnecessary Classroom and School Level Administrative Burdens*
- *Methods to Streamline Individual Legislative Mandates*, with a focus on accomplishing the same educational goals with reduced administrative burden. Areas of review might include Special Education and/or School Climate.
- *Research into Best Practices of Other States*
- *Statewide Survey on Red Tape*