

# 7 WAYS

## CSDE is Leading Social-Emotional Learning



- 1 Procured the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) System:** The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) will make the DESSA System available to districts at no cost. The DESSA comprehensive system overall is a strength-based assessment of behaviors related to social-emotional well-being that help in identifying interventions and supports, including documenting progress over time and outcomes. Additionally, there is a supplemental assessment to target specific areas of need for individual students based on results of the primary assessment. Recruitment for upcoming cohorts of districts will begin in the spring of 2021.
- 2 Conducted a Statewide SEL Landscape Scan:** The CSDE surveyed districts to provide a snapshot of the great work that is already taking place in districts and identify emerging concerns and trends related to SEL for K–12 students across the state. The scan will be the first step in providing a systematic collection of data for the CSDE to provide a system of supports with partners to supplement districts' existing efforts and share best practices and successes.
- 3 Developed the Components of Social, Emotional, and Intellectual Habits:** Kindergarten through Grade 3: The CSDE developed the [Habits](#) to provide a model for districts to integrate social-emotional content into lessons so that students will learn, practice, and model essential personal life habits that will contribute to their academic and personal success. The Department is developing the Components of Social, Emotional, and Intellectual Habits: Grades 4 through 12 that will be available later this school year.
- 4 Providing Flexibilities for Educator Evaluations:** The CSDE is providing flexibilities within the educator evaluation and support system for the 2020-21 school year. [Flexibilities for Implementing the Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017 for the 2020-2021 School Year](#) reflect the critical importance of SEL and the well-being of students and educators during this unprecedented academic year. Additional resources and guidance for the 2020-21 school year can be found at: [Educator Evaluation Implementation Recommendations and Resources](#).
- 5 Designed the CT Learning Hub:** The CSDE designed the [CT Learning Hub](#) as a platform to offer educators, students, families, and communities various educational resources to accelerate learning and advance equity. The [Social-Emotional Learning Hub](#) provides on-demand resources to inform, educate, and develop compassionate learning spaces that provide for social-emotional well-being.
- 6 Hosting Webinars and Resources for School Staff and Families:** The CSDE continues to host an array of [Resources for Educators and Families during COVID-19](#) to assist students, parents/caregivers, educators, and student support personnel in addressing social-emotional difficulties that have arisen during the pandemic. Webinars focus on students' as well as families' social-emotional well-being, but also engage attendees in discussions on remote learning, special education, and early childhood.
- 7 Collaborating with State Agencies, Statewide Partners, and Communities:** The CSDE continues the strong collaborations with child-serving state agencies and partners, behavioral health providers, community-based organizations, and families to leverage resources and develop innovative solutions and professional development to support students' social-emotional well-being.