

TO: Appropriations Committee Education Subcommittee  
FROM: Dr. Alice Pritchard, CTECS Interim Executive Director  
DATE: February 28, 2025  
SUBJECT: CTECS Appropriations Responses

The purpose of this report is to provide responses to the Appropriations Committee per the questions outlined below:

- 1. Can CTECS provide information relating to the academic performance of students, particularly as it compares to statewide averages? Could CTECS provide academic performance by school?***

The attached reports analyze student performance using Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) data, comparing outcomes to statewide averages. As our system aims to improve and support all students, the comparison highlights areas for growth.

***\*Please see attached files titled NGSS and SAT.\****

- 2. Could CTECS provide updated estimates of special education costs in FY 25? This includes detailed PS and OE information – the number of special education employees working in CTECS schools, the amount spent on transportation and hospitalization, the amount of money spent on individual CREC-provided services, etc.***

Currently we have a total of 134 Special Education Staff funded under the general fund budget. Personal Services salaries total approximately \$12M for FY2025.

***\*Please see attached excel file titled Special Education Salary projection FY2025. \****

In addition to the 134 Special Education staff funded through the state budget, we have 12 FT Special Education staff that are funded under the federal IDEA grant. Salaries and Fringe for the 12 FT staff totals approximately \$2.1M for FY2025.

As of February 26, 2025 we have spent \$2,580 on transportation and \$37,532 for hospitalization using the general fund operating expense budget. To date, CTECS has paid \$608,373.84 (outstanding balance \$1,324,767.32) for provided services. We project our final costs for FY2025 CREC provided services to be approximately \$5.7M.

***\*Please see attached excel file titled SPED GF PROJECTIONS as of 2.26.25\****

3. *Could CTECS provide the total number of people who provide special education services to CTECS schools and break it down by number of permanent employees and number of contracted workers? What would these numbers look like ideally?*

The total number of people who provide special education services to CTECS schools that are permanent employees of CTECS is 182. This total consists of (129) Special Education Instructors, (25) School Psychologists, (20) Social Workers and (8) Speech & Language Pathologists.

The total number of CREC Contracted Workers who provide specialized services within our CTECS schools is 58. This total consists of (32) Paraeducators, (25) Behavioral Services, BCBA, (20) Registered Behavior Technician Services or BT, and (3) Nurses.

Ideally, we need short-term and long-term plans for paraeducators as we are currently short approximately 40 in addition to the 32 hired by CREC to provide services at our schools. CTECS schools are at the beginning of the admissions process for the 2025 school year and are discovering the service needs of the incoming ninth-grade class; thus, CTECS will need more time to make districtwide staffing recommendations.

*\*Please see attached excel file Special Education Services Support Staff \**

4. *Could CTECS provide a history of the costs associated with the CREC contract since 2017, and what services specifically have been provided each year?*

CREC CONTRACT AMOUNT	CONTRACT #	START DATE	END DATE	SERVICES PROVIDED	ACTUAL EXPENSES
\$3,000,000.00	17SDE0043AA	7/1/2017	6/30/2020	Provide Special Education and related services to the CTECS students with disabilities	\$872,757.06
\$6,000,000.00	20SDE0097AA	7/1/2020	6/30/2023	Provide Special Education and related services to the CTECS students with disabilities	\$5,359,239.74
\$6,500,000.00	23TEC0010	7/1/2023	6/30/2024	Provide Special Education and related services to the CTECS students with disabilities	\$6,464,736.22
\$12,500,000.00	24TEC0057	8/19/2024	8/30/2025	Provide Special Education and related services to the CTECS students with disabilities	\$1,953,350.86
Total CREC Expenses - FY2017 – current					\$14,650,083.88

*\*Please see attached excel file CREC Contract from 2017 to Current \**

**5. *Could CTECS discuss any efforts it has made, or is aware of, to expand trade classes into traditional schools?***

CTECS currently operates a Career Academy at HC Wilcox Technical High School in Meriden. CTECS offers trade programming after school in four trades: collision, culinary, carpentry, hairdressing and barbering. A student who takes any of these trades receives high school credit. CTECS funds all positions and provides all supplies for students.

At Norwich Tech, through the Justice Education Center, we offer many programs to young students before they choose a high school, high school students in the area that would like to try a trade, and a post- graduation program in welding. Here are some programs we run:

- Summers 2023, 2024- Inspire Girls' summer camp- a one week day camp for girls where they learn leadership skills, teamwork, and self-advocacy. We follow a curriculum that inspires and encourages girls to be proud of themselves while working toward becoming strong young women. We offer two, 1 week camps each summer.
- Summer 2023-2024- Techno Camp- A one week camp offered to 7th and 8th grade students interested in going to a technical high school. Campers try a variety of trades throughout the week.
- School years 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25- Career Pathways- After school program from 3pm-5:30pm for Norwich Tech students (looking for a different trade) and surrounding high school Juniors and Seniors who would like to try a trade. The course is 100 hours long and students in other school receive 3 elective credits toward their high school diploma. At the end of the course, we try to match students up with employers. Last year we were able to have 7 students receive job offers at the end of the program.
- School year 2024-25- Project Longevity Welding- This is an evening welding program from 5:30pm – 9pm for post graduates who need a second chance opportunity. Students receive theory and hands-on application in the basics of welding. This is a brand-new program and to date has met expectations.

**6. *Could CTECS discuss any efforts it has made, or programs it offers, to provide trade certification to adults who graduate from traditional high schools and then decide to pursue the trades as adults?***

CTECS is committed to supporting individuals who graduate from traditional high schools and later decide to pursue careers in the trades. To this end, CTECS offers part-time evening Adult Apprenticeship coursework, delivered through three flexible options: traditional on-ground classes, Hybrid (online/in-person), and Asynchronous (online at your own pace). This makes it even more convenient for students seeking education in a high-demand trade.

Apprenticeship coursework is provided in a variety of sought-after trades, including HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical, Sheet Metal, Barbering, and Hairdressing. In addition to apprenticeship coursework, CTECS also offers Extension Programming such as Precision Machining and Welding/Metal Fabrication, which is offered in the evening alongside the CTECS apprenticeship courses. These courses align to all Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection (CT-DCP) license scopes, from unlimited to limited, and are fully approved by the State Department of Labor for Related-Instruction programming.

CTECS strategically locates its Adult Apprenticeship programs across the state of Connecticut to ensure accessibility for residents in all regions. Currently, part-time evening programs are offered at the following seven locations:

- Abbott Technical High School in Danbury
- Bullard-Havens Technical High School in Bridgeport
- Eli Whitney Technical High School in Hamden
- Bristol Technical Education Center in Bristol
- Norwich Technical High School in Norwich
- Prince Technical High School in Hartford
- Kaynor Technical High School in Waterbury

In addition to part-time evening programs, CTECS also provides full-time day programming for adults at Bristol Technical Education Center. Bristol TEC offers seven courses, including:

- Automotive (2-year program)
- HVAC (2-year program)
- Robotics/Automation (1-year program)
- Health Technology (1-year program)
- Culinary (1-year program)
- Welding (1-year program)
- Precision Machining (1-year program)

CTECS further supports adult learners through exceptional training programs in airframe mechanics and aircraft maintenance at our two Bristol Technical Education Center extension campuses. The 2-year aviation maintenance curriculum provides hands-on training aligned with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards. Students completing the General, Airframe, and Power Plant curricula are prepared to take the FAA examinations. Successful candidates earn certification as Airframe and Powerplant Mechanics.

Aviation Maintenance programming is currently available at two satellite CTECS locations:

- CT Aero at Brainard Airport
- Stratford School for Aviation at Sikorsky Memorial Airport

Through these comprehensive offerings, CTECS plays a crucial role in advancing career opportunities for adults in Connecticut by providing high-quality technical education and training in both traditional trades and emerging fields.

**7. *Could CTECS provide a demographic breakdown of its teachers, and what efforts it has made to recruit more minority teachers?***

Below is the demographic breakdown of teachers based on information gathered from CORE-CT for the Affirmative Action Plan as of 2/1/2025:

				WHITE		BLACK		HISPANIC		AAIANHNPI		2 OR MORE RACES	
Title	TOTAL	TM	TF	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Department Head	275	167	108	152	87	8	14	6	6	1	1	0	0
Instructor	857	379	478	341	406	10	21	25	38	2	11	1	2
Pupil Services Specialist	98	26	72	14	51	5	5	6	13	0	1	1	2
	1230	572	658	507	544	23	40	37	57	3	13	2	4
	100.00%	46.50%	53.50%	41.22%	44.23%	1.87%	3.25%	3.01%	4.63%	0.24%	1.06%	0.16%	0.33%
AAIANHNPI (Asian, American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, Native Pacific Islander)													

CTECS prepared the attached 2024 Increasing Educator Diversity Plan Template which Outlines activities the system will undertake to address recruitment, hiring and selection and retention. This plan was developed by team including school personnel, unions, and central office.

Goals include:

- CTECS will increase the pool of applicants received from certified diverse candidates from an average of 4.8 % to 8% of the total applications received by the end of SY 24-25.
- CTECS will increase the number of diverse certified staff hired by 10% by the end of SY 2025-2026 from 157 diverse educators to 173 certified educators.
- Based on hiring demographic collected on EdSight- African-American, Hispanic, Asian, Native American & Pacific Islander, and Two on More Races.
- CTECS will increase the number of diverse certified staff hired by 10% by the end of SY 2025-2026 from 157 diverse educators to 173 certified educators. Based on hiring demographic collected on EdSight- African-American, Hispanic, Asian, Native American & Pacific Islander, and Two on More Races.

CTECS will focus in earnest on these goals and activities in the coming months and identify this effort as part of the CT Opportunity Plan work being led by the Governor's office.

*\*Please see attached file titled CTECS 2024 IED Plan. \**

**8. Could CTECS provide its actual employee headcount and its authorized headcount for FY 25?**

CTECS current headcount:

- Total FT actual headcount: 1609
- Total FT authorized headcount: 1539

9. *What is the status of each school's renovation schedule? What needs does each school have in the next five years?*

*\*Please see attached file titled CTECS Schools Renovation Schedule. \**

*\*Please see attached file titled CTECS Five Year Capital Projects. \**

10. *CTECS serves approximately 3,000 adult students. Could CTECS provide a breakdown of what programs they are enrolled in?*

Updated data shows that CTECS serves approximately 1436 adult students rather than the 3000 noted in the Appropriations testimony. These students take 3500 courses. Below is the breakdown of the number of courses taken, listed by school.

<i><b>School Name</b></i>	<i><b># Of courses taken by adult students</b></i>
Abbott Technical High School	230
A.I. Prince Technical High School	1475
Bullard Havens Technical High School	329
Bristol Technical High School Nigh School	297
Eli Whitney Technical High School	820
W.F. Kaynor Technical High School	42
Norwich Technical High School	307
<b>Total</b>	<b>3500</b>