

**Connecticut General Assembly
Education Committee Annual Joint Meeting with
the Higher Education and Employment Advancement
& the Labor Committees
Testimony of Superintendent Designate Jeffrey Wihbey
January 23, 2018**

Good afternoon Representative Fleischmann, Senator Slossberg, Senator Boucher, Representative Porter, Senator Gomes, Senator Miner, Representative Haddad, Senator Bye, Senator Linares and other distinguished members of the General Assembly. My name is Jeffrey Wihbey and I am the Superintendent Designate of the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System, formerly known as the Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS). I am pleased to have this opportunity to testify before you today and after providing a series of brief comments about the current status of the system and outline plans for moving forward, I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

CTECS Mission and Vision

Though our name has changed, the CTECS mission continues to be to prepare students for both college readiness to succeed in higher education, as well as career readiness to earn a living wage. We take this dual mission forward with the highest regard. We are a school district but we are also a key vehicle for economic development within our state as well. We will work diligently partnering with the State Legislature, the Department of Labor, the Department of Economic Development, and the Department of Education on advancing this mission. We will also continue to engage Connecticut industry to align our curriculum and programs to best meet their needs. Furthermore, we will continue to develop new outreach strategies to engage students from diverse backgrounds into our system.

Superintendent Entry Plan

I have had the pleasure of serving as the interim Superintendent of CTECS over the last several months. Over the course of the next 3 months I will be visiting all CTECS schools as part of the incoming Superintendent Entry Plan. I invite all of you to join me on any visits to our schools in your districts if possible and will work with the Department of Education to individually invite the Legislative Delegations to any visits occurring within their districts.

Entry purpose:

The purpose of the entry plan is to support effective transition into the role of Superintendent. The plan is designed for the first 100 days as Superintendent and utilizes a reflective inquiry approach to form and possibly prove my hypothesis for district growth. The entry plan provides the structure to support the Superintendent's transition by listening and learning from students, teachers, staff, administrators, unions, families, industry leaders, political leaders, and Board members about their aspirations for the CTECS.

The initial plan would be followed by a strategic planning process undertaken by the Board of Education, stakeholders, and the Superintendent.

Entry work is designed to accomplish the following:

1. Begin building trusting relationships with stakeholders
2. Deeply understand all aspects of the CTECS
3. Collaboratively plan for the future

At the completion of the entry plan, the Superintendent's observations, data analysis, and stakeholder feedback will be shared with Commissioner Wentzell and the CTECS Board. The Superintendent will revisit the theory of action hypothesis at this point as well, to synchronize it with reflective inquiry process. After the first 100 days of the plan, the Board will convene a session of retreat work with the Superintendent to define the Strategic Goals for the CTECS. These goals will then lead to development of a three year strategic operating plan.

CTECS Superintendent Entry Plan

Visit Dates

School Name	Entry Plan School Visit
Abbott (Danbury)	Thursday, March 15, 2018
Bullard (Bridgeport)	Tuesday, January 30, 2018
Cheney (Manchester)	Thursday, February 1, 2018
Ellis (Danielson)	Tuesday, February 6, 2018
Goodwin (New Britain)	Thursday, February 15, 2018
Grasso (Groton)	Friday, February 16, 2018
Kaynor (Waterbury)	Monday, January 29, 2018
Norwich (Norwich)	Monday, February 26, 2018
O'Brien (Ansonia)	Friday, March 9, 2018
Platt (Milford)	Monday, March 12, 2018
Prince (Hartford)	Wednesday, February 14, 2018
Vinal (Middletown)	Monday, March 19, 2018
Whitney (Hamden)	Wednesday, February 28, 2018
Wilcox (Meriden)	Tuesday, March 6, 2018

Windham (Willimantic)	Monday, March 19, 2018
Wolcott (Torrington)	Tuesday, March 22, 2018
Wright (Stamford)	Tuesday, March 27, 2018

Program Efficiencies

We have run into difficult fiscal times here in Connecticut and fully understand that we must operate within this new economic reality. We have begun planning and will continue to create strategies with the help of OPM for system efficiencies based on our recent budget reductions. Our goal will be to build internal capacity in order to maintain program quality while creating a master schedule for staffing. It is very important though at this time that we have the budget to continue to refill key positions that allow us to meet regulations required of a school district and support the goal of creating a strong, independent and successful statewide technical education and career system. Providing essential services for learning is of utmost importance to our mission. We also must be able to maintain and develop leveraging roles which allow our programs to be carried out coherently to our students.

Again, I appreciate being given the opportunity to testify before you today. Now I am happy to answer any questions that you may have and I look forward to being able to partner with all of you moving forward.

Thanks,



Jeff

Jeffrey Wilhbey, Superintendent Designate
Connecticut Technical Education and Career System