

STUDENT SUPPORT SERIES

Professional Learning for Youth Mental and Behavioral Health

The Connecticut State Department of Education, in collaboration with our partners at the Department of Children and Families, is excited to offer a free, monthly, professional learning series for schools on youth mental and behavioral health.

Participants will gain practical tools and strategies, explore new resources, and engage in meaningful discussions on how best to support the success and well-being of all students.

Winter and spring topics will be revealed later this year!

Please contact Kate Bohannon at kate.bohannon@ct.gov with questions.

Pending approval, programs will be eligible for Continuing Education Credit hours by NASW/CT and will meet the continuing education criteria for licensure renewal for social work, professional counselors, and licensed psychologists. Live virtual attendance is required to earn 1.5 continuing education credits per session.

Supporting Students Together




CONNECTICUT
Education
Children and Families

Register for this session

Every Day Counts: Improving Attendance Through Connection and Care

September 25, 2025, 9:00–10:30 a.m.

During the 2024–2025 school year, 83,405 Connecticut students were chronically absent, representing 17.2% of all students. While attendance is trending upwards, chronic absence remains a significant challenge. In this session, moderated by CSDE’s Kari Sullivan-Custer, Dr. Elliott Attisha and Dr. Emma Herdean, senior fellows at Attendance Works, will review the underlying causes of why students miss school, while providing attendees with evidence-based interventions, tools and resources that can improve attendance and help create healthy and supportive learning environments.

Register for this session

Insights Into Our Youth Mental Health Landscape

October 16, 2025, 9:00–10:30 a.m.

Join us as we review the most recent results from the Connecticut Youth Risk Behavior Survey, share mobile crisis and Urgent Crisis Center (UCC) utilization, and discuss other relevant data points to better understand the trends in Connecticut youth mental and behavioral health. Participants will have the opportunity to connect with colleagues to reflect on what they are experiencing in their own school, share strategies, and explore available resources.

Register for this session

Strengthening School Climate to Support Student Well-Being

November 20, 2025, 9:00–10:30 a.m.

Amanda Pickett, Education Consultant for School Culture and Climate at the Connecticut State Department of Education, will lead this professional learning session on the key elements of school climate and their connection to comprehensive school mental health. Amanda will highlight the importance of using data to guide decisions, applying practices systemically, and building in continuous improvement. Participants will gain practical tools and resources to strengthen supportive, positive environments for students and staff and will leave with actionable strategies to enhance school climate and mental health systems.