



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Transition of SERC to a Quasi and the Role of CSDE

**Presented by: Gary Pescosolido
Connecticut State Department of Education
Chief of Fiscal/Administrative Services
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WELCOME

Welcome to the new Board of Directors of the State Education Resource Center

Appointing Authority	Appointee	Number of Appointments	Terms
Governor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mark D. Benigni, Ed.D. 2. Elizabeth Brown 3. Richard J. Porth, Jr. 4. Susan E. Weisselberg 	Four, with the consent of both houses of the General Assembly	Term of office of appointing authority or until a successor is appointed, whichever is longer
Commissioner of Education or Designee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stefan Pryor 	Self or Designee	Term of Appointment
SBE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. George A. Coleman 2. Diane Ullman, Ph.D. 	Two, with the consent of both houses of the General Assembly	Same as above
Senate president pro tempore	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stephen McKeever 	One	Same as above
Senate majority leader	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thomas R. Swan 	One	Same as above
Senate minority leader	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eileen L. Ziegler 	One	Same as above
House speaker	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agnes Quinones, Ph.D. 	One	Same as above
House majority leader	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jeffrey Leake 	One	Same as above
House minority leader	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jennifer Tooker 	One	Same as above

THE PLAYERS

- *Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)*
 - Commissioner's Office
 - Bureau of Special Education - overseen by the Office of Student Supports and Organizational Effectiveness
 - Bureau of Fiscal Services
 - Other divisions may also send work, but it is of a far smaller nature
- *Rensselaer Hartford Graduate Center (RHGC)*
 - Fiscal Office
- *State Education Resource Center (SERC)*
 - Executive Office
 - Program
 - Fiscal / Operations

History

Connecticut State Department of Education

- CSDE / SERC relationship was founded in statute.
- CSDE has been committed to support SERC's mission, growth, and success as SERC performs many functions that would otherwise be required of CSDE.
- Federal Special Education funds have provided the vast majority of funds that operate SERC.
- SERC has always been a very effective, efficient, and appropriate way for CSDE to accomplish required support activities.
- CSDE has continuously monitored the financial and program activities of SERC and RHGC through their fiscal and program offices.



History

Rensselaer

- Has been engaged in the fiduciary relationship with CSDE to operate SERC since its inception.
- Current contract between RHGC and CSDE began on July 1, 2010 and expires on June 30, 2015.
- RHGC has been prepared to end the relationship for some time.
- RHGC takes a percentage of each of the program budgets.
 - ❖ Currently 5.25% of all budgets in excess of \$100,000 and 2% for budgets under \$100,000
- RHGC is receiving additional funds to assist in the transition - \$245,000 has been set-aside from CSDE funds for FY14 to support the transition, in addition to RHGC's regular fees, this is identified in the current contract amendment.



CSDE'S ROLE IN THE TRANSITION

- Ensure there is no lapse in services and assist to mitigate problems as they arise
- Ensure any necessary support is provided for SERC to continue to operate and transition all aspects of the operation smoothly, such as:
 - Employees
 - Programs / Activities
 - Procedures and Processes
 - Fiduciary control from RHGC to SERC
- Monitor activities for continued compliance
- Handle contract mediation with Rensselaer
- Continue to fund all projects as appropriate
- Communicate with SERC leadership to ensure progress of the transition
- Provide additional operational support for the transition as necessary, i.e. CPA consulting
- Author a Memorandum of Agreement between CSDE and SERC that lays out the future relationship and funding commitment.

LEGISLATION

- **C.G.S. 10-76n** – **Special** Education Resource Center
 - ❑ Predates 1979
 - ❑ 2005 Amendment – Language change for **State** Education Resource Center
- **C.G.S. 10-4q** – State Education Resource Center to promote equity and excellence
 - ❑ 2013 Amendment P.A. 13-286 – An Act Requiring Greater Transparency and a Transition Plan for the Governance of the State Education Resource Center
 - ❖ The governance structure was laid out in the report required by this legislation in January of 2013.
 - ❖ This created an annual transparency reporting requirement for SERC and CSDE.
 - ❖ It also created the Connecticut School Reform Resource Center.
- **C.G.S. 4e-1** – Definitions – State Contracting
 - ❑ 2013 Amendment P.A. 13-286 - SERC is defined as a State Contracting Agency
- **Public Act No. 14-212** – An Act Concerning the State Education Resource Center
 - ❑ June 13, 2014 - Authorizes the new Quasi Public Agency

P.A. 14-212

The Key Points to the New P.A. 14-212 are:

- **STATE EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER AS A QUASI-PUBLIC AGENCY**
The act reconstitutes the center as a quasi-public .
- **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
The act establishes a 13-member board of directors, which is vested with the center's powers. The education commissioner, or his designee, is a board member.
- **CENTER PURPOSES**
The new center has the same overall purpose as the old one under prior law, which is to help the State Board of Education (SBE) provide programs and activities that promote educational equity and excellence.
- **SCHOOL REFORM RESOURCE CENTER**
The act transfers the responsibility to establish the school reform resource center to the reconstituted center.

P.A. 14-212 (continued)

- **PURCHASING, PROCUREMENT AND PERSONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS**

The act subjects the center to the rules, regulations, and restrictions on purchasing, procurement, personal service agreements, or asset control, generally applicable to state agencies.

- **BUSINESS PROCEDURES**

The act requires the center's board to follow the adoption and notification process provided in state law for quasi-public agencies adopting written procedures.

- **ANNUAL BUDGETS**

For FY 15, and each fiscal year thereafter, the center must submit a yearly budget, projected revenue statement, and financial audit to the SBE and Education Committee. The act does not state when the budget must be submitted; presumably it must be submitted before the start of the fiscal year.



P.A. 14-212 (continued)

- **NEW CENTER PLACED UNDER EXISTING QUASI-PUBLIC LAW**
The act reconstitutes the center as a quasi-public agency subject to the laws governing these agencies.
- **EDUCATION COMMISSIONER MAY ALLOCATE FUNDS TO NEW CENTER**
The act permits the education commissioner to allocate funds to allow the center, as reconstituted under the act.
- **TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS, POWERS, DUTIES, AND OBLIGATIONS TO NEW QUASI-PUBLIC AUTHORITY**
The act requires the new center to assume all responsibilities of the former center.
- **SPECIAL EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER**
The act requires the new center to maintain the Special Education Resource Center, rather than the State Board of Education allowing the center to maintain it.

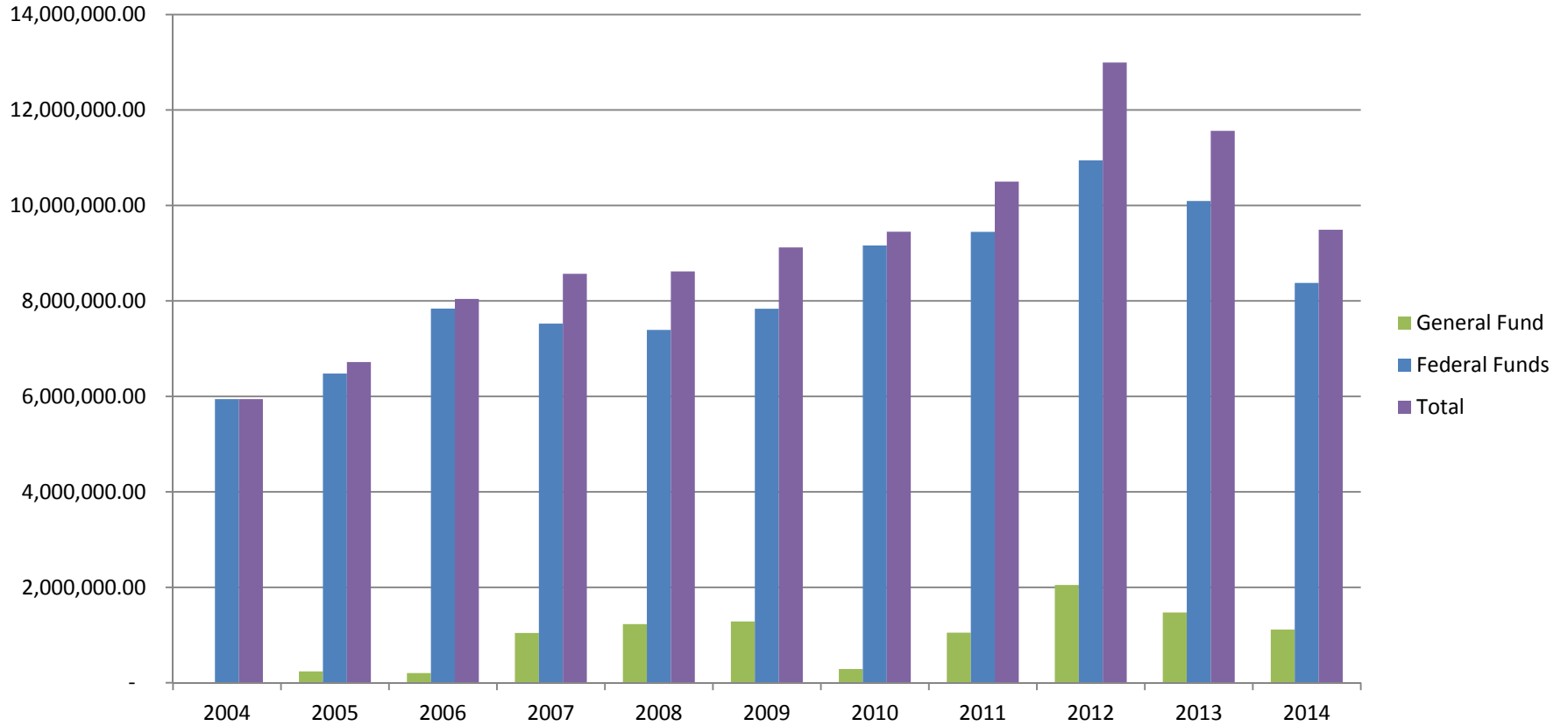


CSDE FUNDS SUPPORTING SERC FY04 TO FY14

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
2004	250.00	5,942,301.00	5,942,551.00
2005	239,013.00	6,479,588.00	6,718,601.00
2006	204,323.75	7,838,570.00	8,042,893.75
2007	1,042,698.50	7,526,183.84	8,568,882.34
2008	1,227,713.00	7,391,535.00	8,619,248.00
2009	1,284,550.00	7,837,406.00	9,121,956.00
2010	287,509.00	9,162,594.69	9,450,103.69
2011	1,050,638.10	9,447,612.50	10,498,250.60
2012	2,047,954.00	10,946,795.50	12,994,749.50
2013	1,472,234.82	10,092,412.00	11,564,646.82
2014	1,114,863.35	8,375,932.00	9,490,795.35



CSDE FUNDS SUPPORTING SERC FY04 TO FY14



SAMPLE SERC PROGRAMS FUNDED BY CSDE

Individuals/Disabilities IDEA

Special Education - Professional Development

Sheff Settlement

Early Childhood - Professional Development

Resource Equity Assessment

Individuals Disability Part B - Pre-School Grant

Parents Trust Fund Program

Title I Part B Reading First

Safe and Drug Free Schools

Team Nutrition Training Grant

Primary Mental Health

Magnet Schools

CLOSING

Closing Remarks

QUESTIONS?

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