



STATE EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER

EQUITY | EXCELLENCE | EDUCATION



PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR THE

FEBRUARY 27, 2024

SERC BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

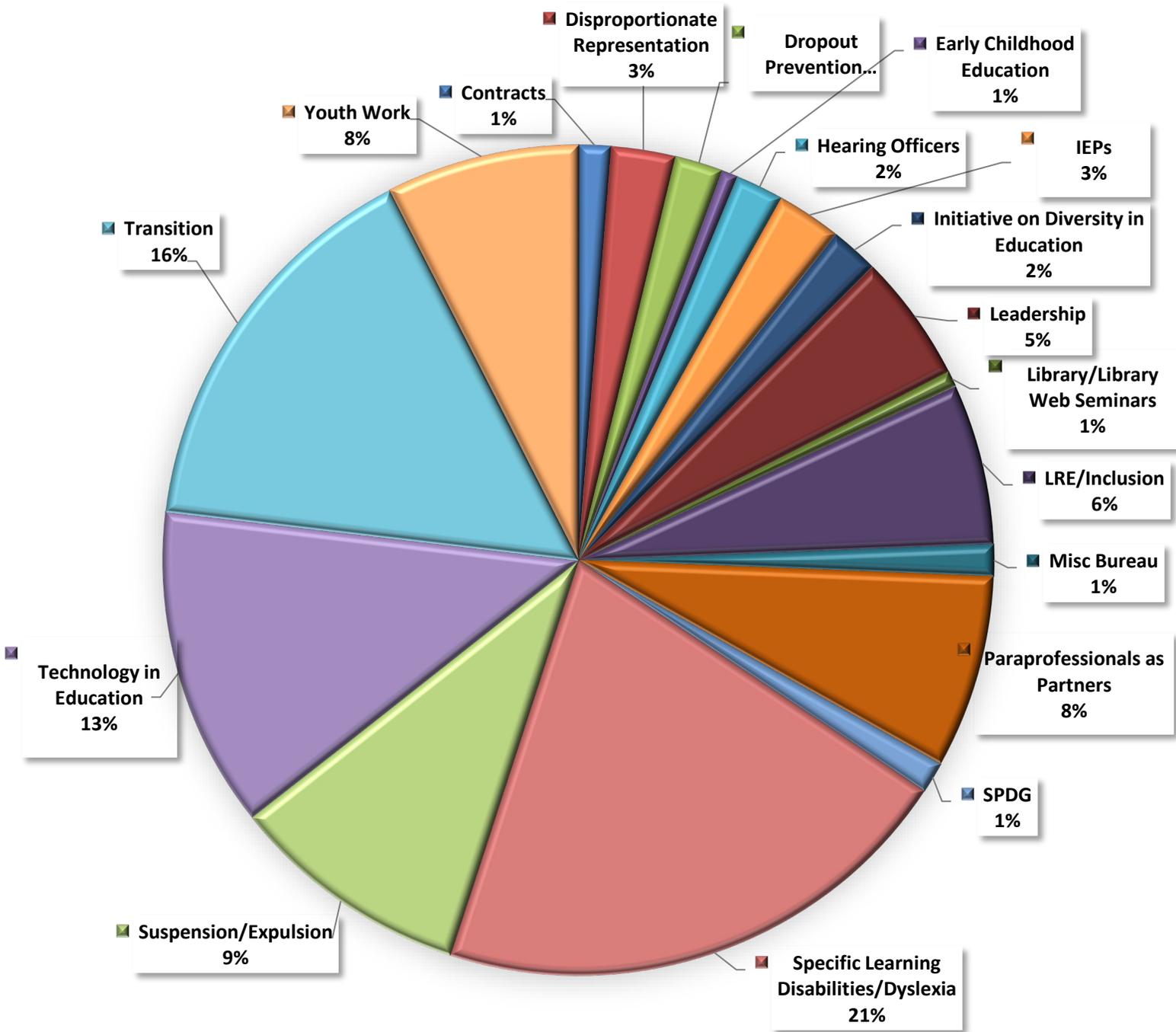
In collaboration with the CSDE Bureau of Special Education, SERC continues to design, coordinate, and implement all special education programming to support educators, leaders, youth, and families throughout the 2023-2024 year

- The 2023-2024 listing of all Special Education trainings and technical assistance activities to support the work of the Bureau of Special Education have been posted to the SERC Professional Development calendar and the CSDE Events calendar regularly for educators/families to register for: <https://ctserc.org/events> and <https://nctrumba.com/> SERC in collaboration with CSDE Bureau of Special Education developed “Calendars at a Glance” for the <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/The-Bureau-Bulletin/2023/Calendars-At-a-Glance-for-Top-Initiatives-at-your-fingertips> to support Training and Technical Assistance sessions around the various annual performance report indicators (APR). Both our virtual and in-person sessions are well underway. The Bureau of Special Education and SERC are finalizing the planning process around 2024-2025 Program Development aligned with the Performance indicators on behalf of students, families and educators.
- SERC continues to be a critical partner with CSDE to support the Attendance/Engagement/Chronic Absenteeism and School Discipline Collaborative work for the 2023- 2024 school year. SERC continues to support the LEAP 101 (Learner Engagement and Attendance Program) trainings (LEAP approach to relational home visits) that are held monthly in collaboration with CREC. We continue to collaborate with other external agencies on behalf of the BSE to support its programming work for students with disabilities such as the SERC/RESC Alliance/NEAT Center to develop the Easier with AT website for educators and families. <https://easierwithat.org/>
- SERC continues to be responsive to support the CSDE with any specific requests for project coordination/facilitation/contract development or technical assistance to support their efforts on behalf of educators, students, and families.
- To date, we have updated the special education assessments inventory across all domain areas in our new SERC library for educatorsto peruse and borrow to support their work with special education students: <https://ctserc.org/library> We continue to host sessions in the library to display and demonstrate our Assistive Technology resources and equipment to support educators, families and students.
- SERC is actively engaging and partnering with the Waterbury Public Schools and local community partners to to collaboratively support their educational and family engagement efforts

Special Education Programming supporting the Bureau of Special Education

Snapshot of IDEA Activities by Project

July 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024

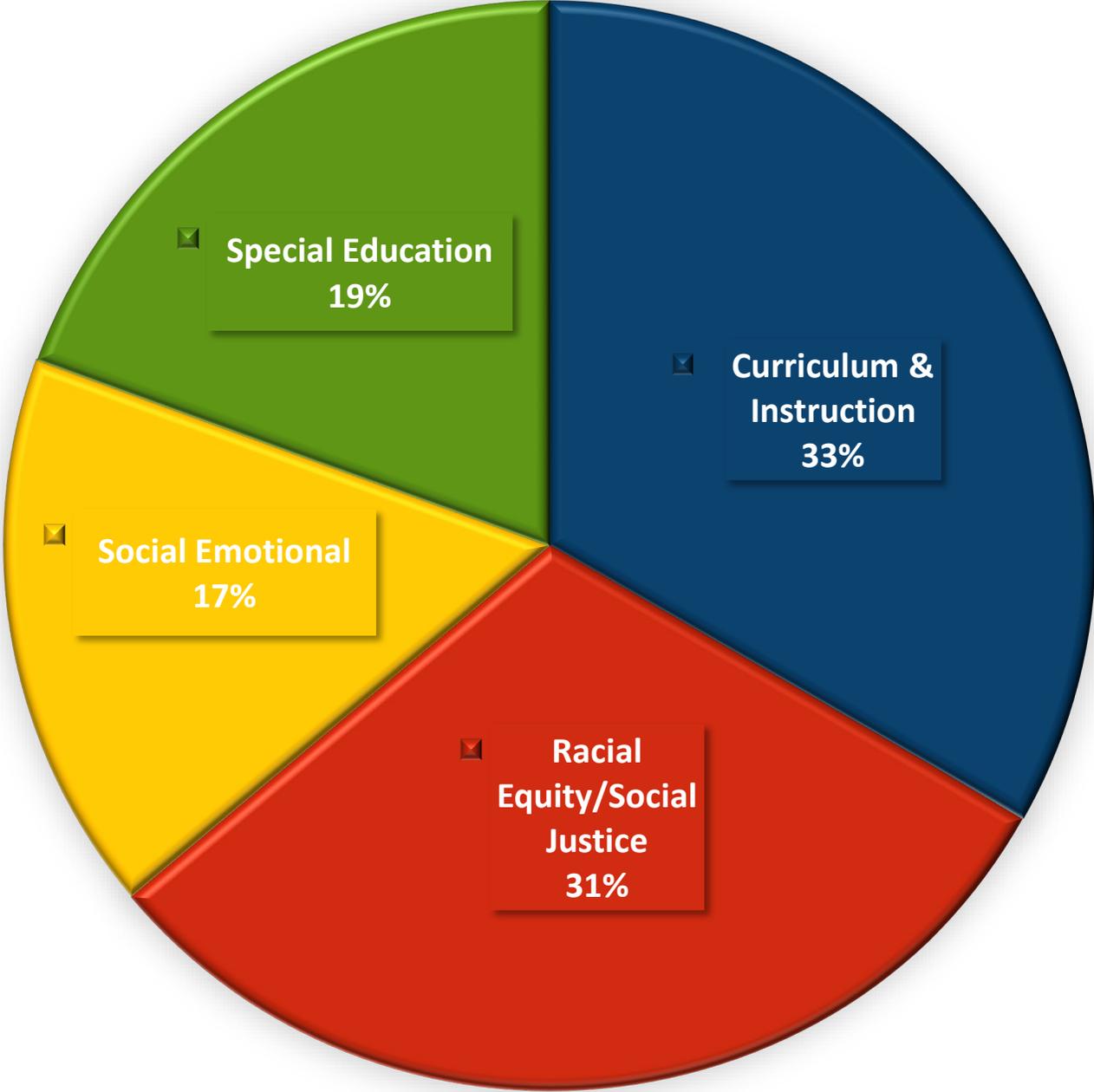


**IDEA Activities by Project
July 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024**

Project Name	# of Activities
Contracts	2
Disproportionate Representation	4
Dropout Prevention Initiative	3
Early Childhood	1
Hearing Officers	3
Initiative on Diversity in Education	3
IEPs	4
Leadership	8
Library/Library Web Seminars	1
LRE/Inclusion	10
Misc Bureau	2
Paraprofessionals as Partners	12
SPDG	2
Specific Learning Disabilities/Dyslexia	33
Suspension/Expulsion	15
Technology in Education	20
Transition	25
Youth Work	12
Grand Total	160

SERC receives many requests from districts for customized contracts to address their specific professional learning needs relative to school/district priorities, specifically around racial equity, special education, and curriculum and instruction topics.

**Below is a snapshot of in-district contracts by topic.
July 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024.**



In-District Contracts by Topics and Category July 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024

Curriculum & Instruction	
Common Core State Standards	1
Data Collection & Analysis	1
Data-Driven Decision Making	1
English Learners	1
Equity in Decision Making	1
General Education	1
PBIS Implementation	3
SRBI Implementation	1
Universal Design for Learning (UDL)	2
<i>Curriculum & Instruction Total</i>	12
Racial Equity/Social Justice	
Racial Equity	11
<i>Racial Equity Total</i>	11
Social-Emotional	
Challenging Behaviors	6
<i>Social Emotional Total</i>	6
Special Education	
Co-Teaching	3
Assistive Technology	1
IEP Rubric	1
Paraprofessionals	1
Secondary Transition	1
<i>Special Education Total</i>	7
<i>Grand Total</i>	36

**Fully Executed LEA Contracts by District and
Other Agencies/Organizations/Schools
July 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024**

District	Agencies/Organizations/Schools
RSD #15	Rosehill Christian School
East Haddam	CREC: LEAP101
Wethersfield	CT Department of Correction
Danbury	Intensive Education Academy
New Britain	Positive Directions Counseling
Stamford	NAMI
Stonington	Gilead Community Services
Norwalk	Rosehill Christian School
Waterford	Yale Child Study Center
Newington	CTECS: E.C. Goodwin Tech HS
New Haven	Kaynor Technical High School
Stafford	
Norwalk	
Hartford	
RSD #18	
Plainfield	
Mansfield	
Enfield	
East Hampton	
Rocky Hill	

Connecticut's African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies **SERC SBOE Report – February 2023**

Coaching and Training – Coaching touchpoints demonstrate need for support with logistics of offering course for the 2024-2025 school year. Advanced Topics for Cohort 1 and 2 are being finalized. February Quarterly was held on February 8 and 9 focusing on Semester 2 Unit 2 and 3 to support Cohort 3 teachers with development of content knowledge and fidelity of implementation. Guest speakers included:

- Nelson Denis, Author, War Against All Puerto Ricans
- Malik Champlain and Christina Simms, SERC Consultants, Teaching Hard History
- Carlos Torre, Professor, SCSU, Tainos from Puerto Rico
- Dr. Mayra Santos-Febres, Director Afro-Diasporic and Racial Studies Program, University of Puerto Rico, Afro-Latino Experience
- Luis Perales, Director of Strategic Development, Mexicayotl Academy of Excellence, Latino Indegenity

Final sessions for this year's training series are scheduled for March 21 and 22. The CSDE has approved replication of training series for the 2024-2025 school year. Watch for save-the-date information in early March.

Student Activities – We are very excited to launch opportunities for students of course to engage together around curriculum topics. Student Summit I is scheduled for February 13 at the West Hartford Conference Center, Student Summit II is scheduled for April 2nd at SCSU, and Annual Showcase is scheduled for June 4th virtually followed by in-person reception at SERC in Waterbury

Continue to visit SERC's curriculum website regularly for updates and further information (<https://ctserc.org/pa1912>).

Other Programming Updates

- **Family Engagement**
 - SERC was one of 3 organizations notified of the intent to award a 5 year grant from Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) under the Statewide Family Engagement Center grant, to provide family engagement training and support to schools, families and other stakeholders within Connecticut. The funding would be to continue initiatives as a partner agency of the CT Family School Partnership.
- **DMHAS School-Based Center for Prevention, Education and Advocacy (“The Center”)**
 - With the support from DMHAS, SERC continues to coordinate substance use prevention services and programs with all Connecticut school districts as well as communities, Resource Link Partners, and other organizations in Connecticut.
 - For more information: visit the School-Based Center for Prevention, Education and Advocacy's homepage at ctserc.org/prevention

- **The Learning Podcast**

- SERC launched a new Podcast series titled *The Learning Podcast* which can be found by visiting podcast.serc.co
- The first episode called *Learning with Multilingual Students* - where in episode 1 we hear from immigrant-origin students in Connecticut about their experiences and perspective. The episode features newly-arrived immigrant students at a New Haven high school sharing about their educational experiences in Connecticut and their future goals. Bilingual school leaders provide context about successes and challenges.
- Plans are underway for additional episodes to launch soon.

- **SERC Quarterly Newsletter**

- With support from Graustein and The Narrative Project, SERC launched the inaugural issue of its quarterly newsletter in early November highlighting resources, events, activities, and opportunities.
- Look for the next issue to launch this month.

To view the newsletter visit ctserc.org/newsletter