



STATE EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER

EQUITY | EXCELLENCE | EDUCATION



***PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT***

***FOR THE***

***APRIL 30, 2024***

***SERC BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING***

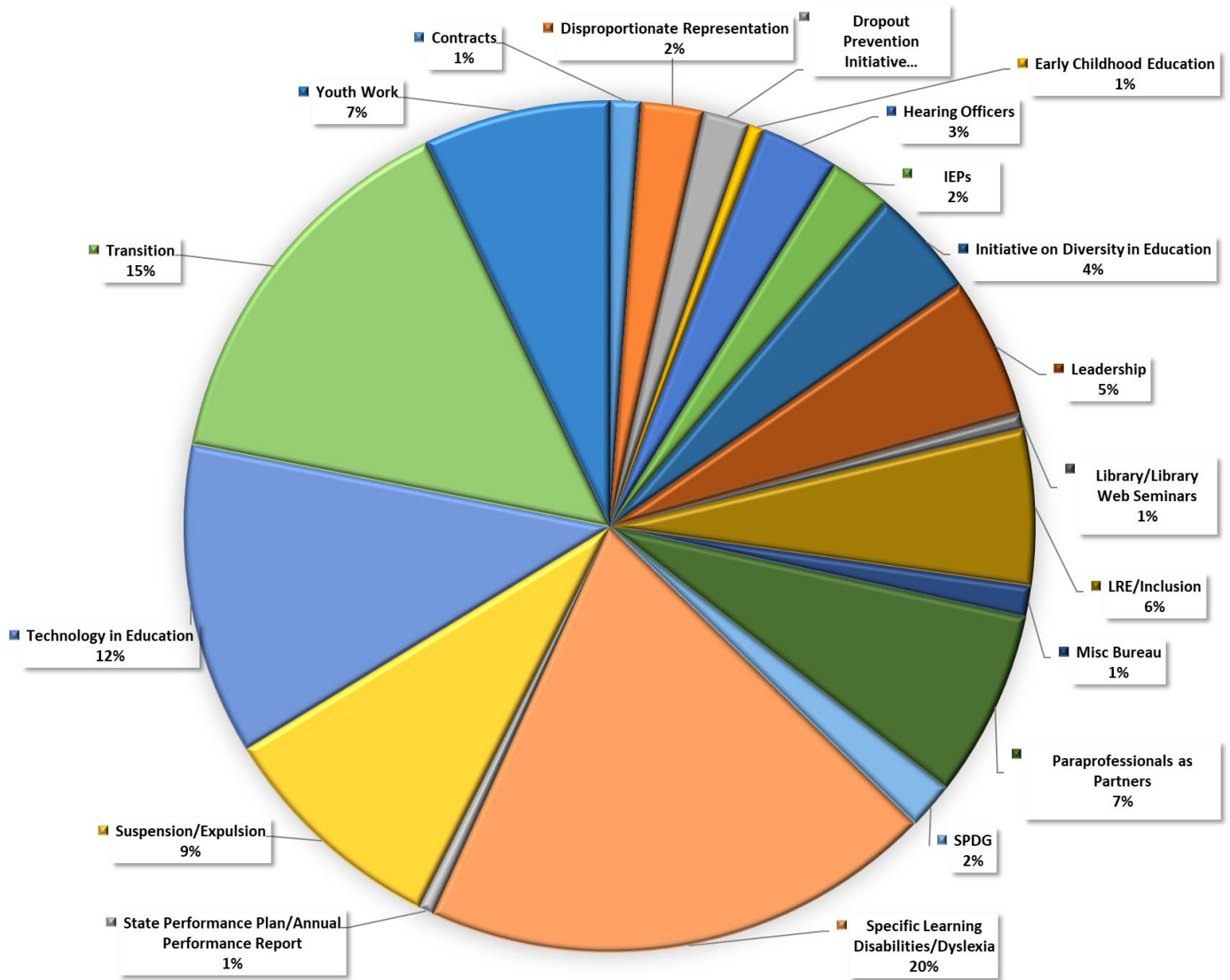
## **In collaboration with the CSDE Bureau of Special Education, SERC continues to design, coordinate, and implement all special education programming to support educators, leaders, youth, and families throughout the 2023-2024 year**

- 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 the 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 remains 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 educators to 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 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 April 30, 2024

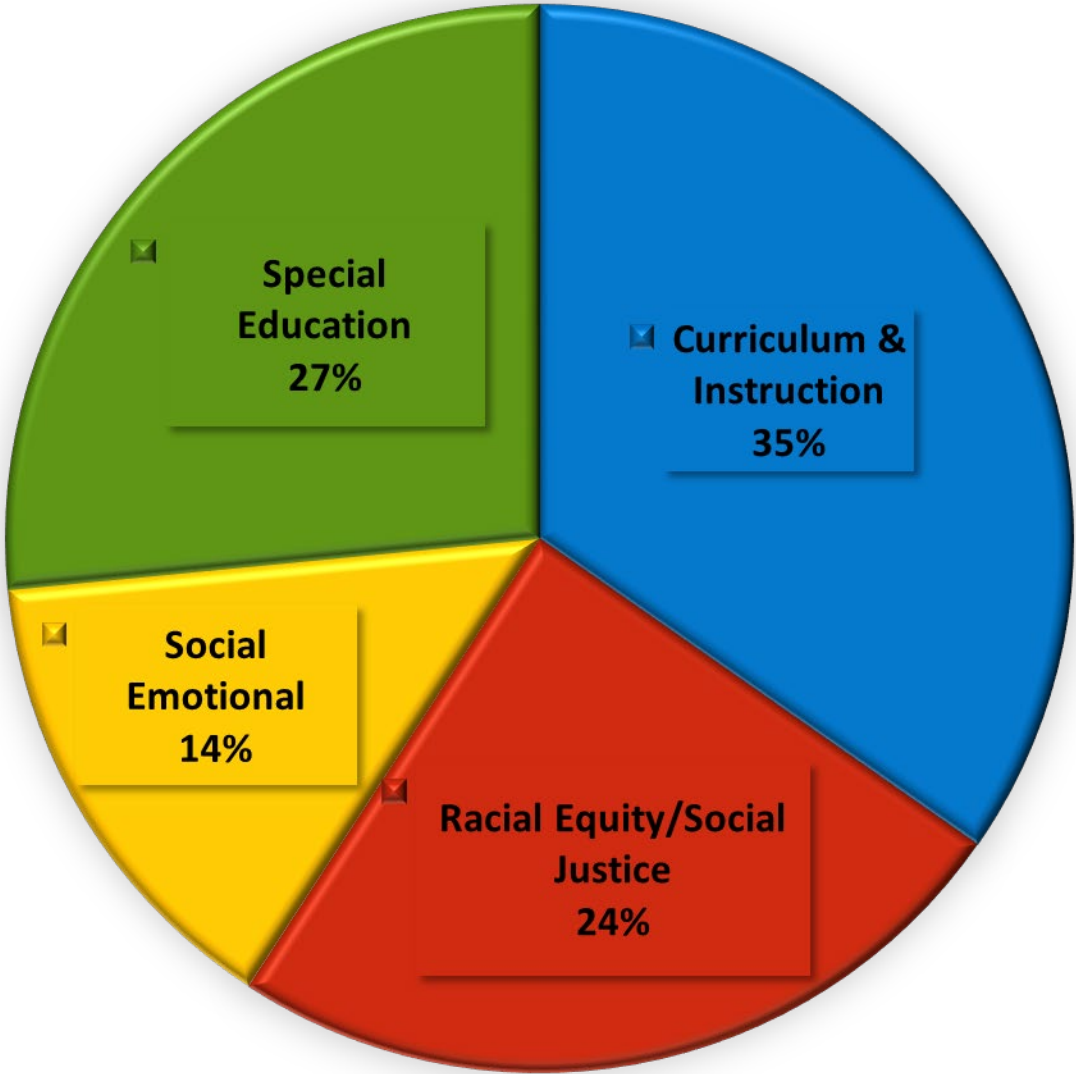


**IDEA Activities by Project  
July 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b># of Activities</b>
<b>Contracts</b>	2
<b>Disproportionate Representation</b>	4
<b>Dropout Prevention Initiative</b>	3
<b>Early Childhood</b>	1
<b>Hearing Officers</b>	5
<b>Initiative on Diversity in Education</b>	7
<b>IEPs</b>	4
<b>Leadership</b>	9
<b>Library/Library Web Seminars</b>	1
<b>LRE/Inclusion</b>	10
<b>Misc Bureau</b>	2
<b>Paraprofessionals as Partners</b>	12
<b>SPDG</b>	3
<b>Specific Learning Disabilities/Dyslexia</b>	33
<b>State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report</b>	1
<b>Suspension/Expulsion</b>	15
<b>Technology in Education</b>	20
<b>Transition</b>	25
<b>Youth Work</b>	12
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>169</b>

**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 April 30, 2024**



## In-District Contracts by Topics and Category July 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024

<b>Curriculum &amp; Instruction</b>	
Common Core State Standards	1
Data Collection & Analysis	1
Data-Driven Decision Making	1
English Learners	2
Equity in Decision Making	1
General Education	2
PBIS Implementation	5
SRBI Implementation	1
Universal Design for Learning (UDL)	3
<b><i>Curriculum &amp; Instruction Total</i></b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Racial Equity/Social Justice</b>	
Racial Equity	12
<b><i>Racial Equity Total</i></b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Social-Emotional</b>	
Challenging Behaviors	6
Restorative Practices	1
<b><i>Social Emotional Total</i></b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Special Education</b>	
Co-Teaching	5
Assistive Technology	1
IEP Rubric	3
Inclusive Service Delivery	1
Paraprofessionals	1
Secondary Transition	2
<b><i>Special Education Total</i></b>	<b>13</b>
<b><i>Grand Total</i></b>	<b>49</b>



## **Connecticut's African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies** **SERC Program Report – March-April 2024**

**Coaching and Training** – Coaching touchpoints demonstrate the need for support with the logistics of offering courses for the 2024-2025 school year. The March Quarterly was held on March 21 and March 22, 2024, focusing on Semester 2 Units 4 and 5 to support Cohort 3 teachers with the development of content knowledge and fidelity of implementation.

Guest speakers included:

- Luis Perales, Director of Strategic Development, Mexicatoyl Academy of Excellence, AZ
- Jesus Tijerina, Education Consultant, Authenticated, LLC., Greely, CO
- Dr. Raquel Ortiz, Artist in Residence- Cleveland Public Library, Hartford, CT
- Students from Mexicatoyl Academy of Excellence Nogales Arizona and Nogales, Mexico

The CSDE has approved the replication of the training series for the 2024-2025 school year. Tentative dates for the quarterly trainings are:

- Summer Institute: July 15-July 19, 2024
- September Quarterly: September 19-20, 2024
- December Quarterly: December 5-6, 2024
- February Quarterly: February 6-7, 2025
- March Quarterly: March 27-28, 2025

### **Student Activities:**

We launched opportunities for students to engage together around curriculum topics:

#### **Student Summit I**

- On March 1, 2024, SERC held its first Student Summit entitled “Unveiling Students’ Power and Legacy” at the Artists Collective in Hartford. Past, current, and future students of the African American/Black and Puerto Rican Course of Studies from high schools across the state (see below) came together for a day of authentic learning and networking.
- Through the historical lens of resistance and resilience, students engaged in sessions infused with art, music, poetry, spoken word, and dance. Each participant received a copy of Dr. Broyld’s new book entitled “Borderland Blacks: Two Cities in the Niagara Region during the Final Decades of Slavery.”
- Speakers and performers included:
  - Dr. dann j. Broyld, Associate Professor of African American History, UMASS, Lowell
  - Luis Perales, Director of Strategic Development, Mexicatoyl Academy of Excellence, AZ
  - Khaiim Kelly, Inaugural Troubador and Griot of Hartford
  - Ginette Christie, Dance Instructor/Choreographer, Artfrmdahart
  - Alvin Carter, Jr., African Drummer, Lifetime Solutions
  - Students performances: Spoken Word, Poetry and Dance



## **Student Summit II-**

- On April 2, 2024, SERC held its second Student Summit, “Breaking the Boxes and Revealing our Boundaries,” at Southern Connecticut State University. Past, current, and future students of the African American/Black and Puerto Rican Course of Studies from high schools across the state (see below) came together for a day of authentic learning and networking.
- Speakers and performers included:
  - Christopher Rivas- Author of “Brown Enough: True Stories about Love, Violence, the Student Loan Crises and his Podcast: Brown Enough, Actor, Author and Podcaster- Los Angeles CA
  - Luis Perales, Director of Strategic Development, Mexicatoyl Academy of Excellence, AZ
  - Jesus Tiejerrina, Education Consultant and former High school teacher, Authenticated, LLC, Greely, CO
  - Poet: Mariposa(Maria Fernandez) Poet, Lecturer, Lehman College
  - Movimiento Cultural- Bomba Dancing- New Haven, CT

## **Legacy Projects**

- As our Executive Director, Dr. Ingrid Canady, has proclaimed, “We are making history.” Legacy Projects will engage students in developing a Graphic Novel or an anthology of Hidden Voices in CT.

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

## Other Programming Updates

- **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.
- The spring issue of the SERC newsletter is now available here: [ctserc.org/newsletter](https://ctserc.org/newsletter)

- **The Learning Podcast**

- SERC's new Podcast series titled *The Learning Podcast* can be found by visiting: [podcast.serc.co](https://podcast.serc.co)
- The first episode is 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.
- The second episode has recently launched and is called *A Walk in My Shoes*, and is a collaboration with Milford Public Schools. It was developed through the Special Education Youth Advisory Council and creates a space for students to share insights and increase their capacity to make informed decisions regarding their education.

The latest episode of  
SERC's  
"The Learning Podcast"  
is now streaming.  
<https://podcast.serc.co/>

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A Walk In My Shoes

This episode features the first in a new series entitled, "A Walk in My Shoes," where students share their experiences and insights on education.

Apple Podcasts    RSS  
Listen on Spotify    YouTube

- **Dismantling Systemic Racism Conference – May 6, 2024 - Please Join Us!**

# **DISMANTLING SYSTEMIC RACISM**

**2024 Conference on Race,  
Education and Success**



**Monday, May 6, 2024**  
**Connecticut Convention Center,**  
**Hartford, CT**

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN:**

**<https://conference.serc.co/>**



- SERC and the SERC Foundation are pleased to present the 8th annual “Dismantling Systemic Racism Conference on Race, Education and Success” on Monday, May 6, 2024 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford.
- The full-day conference supports educators, families, and community leaders who seek to confront racist structures and practices to better serve Connecticut’s students and their families.
- Registration count is over 500 with a week to go!
- More than 20 morning and afternoon breakout sessions will provide opportunities for attendees to choose topics of personal and professional interest.

- New Sponsorship opportunities are available to help support the event. Post University is our first sponsor, and also agreed to advertise the conference on their digital billboard:



Full Information and a registration link may be found at <https://conference.serc.co/>.