



STATE EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER

EQUITY | EXCELLENCE | EDUCATION

SERC Program Report

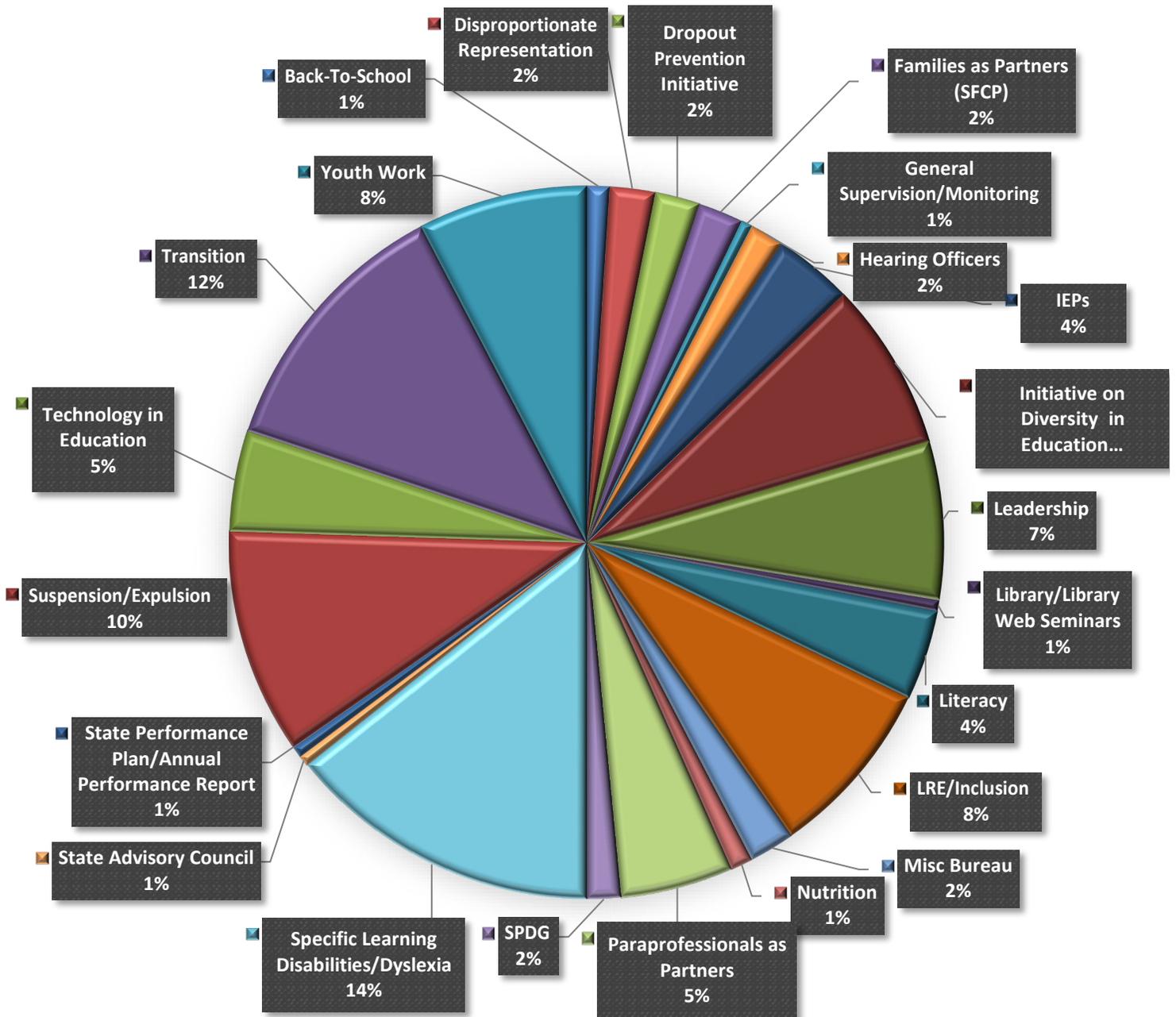
**SERC Board of Directors
April 22, 2025**

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 2024-2025 year

- 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.
- The 2024-2025 listing of all Special Education trainings and technical assistance activities to support the work of the Bureau of Special Education continue to be 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://nic.trumba.com/>
- The special education assessments inventory in the SERC library is updated for educators to peruse and borrow, to support their work with special education students. More information can be found here <https://ctserc.org/library>. We continue to host sessions to display and demonstrate our Assistive Technology resources and equipment to support educators, families, and students.
- SERC continues to engage and partner with the local community organizations and partners to support their educational and family engagement efforts collaboratively.

Special Education Programming Supporting the Bureau of Special Education

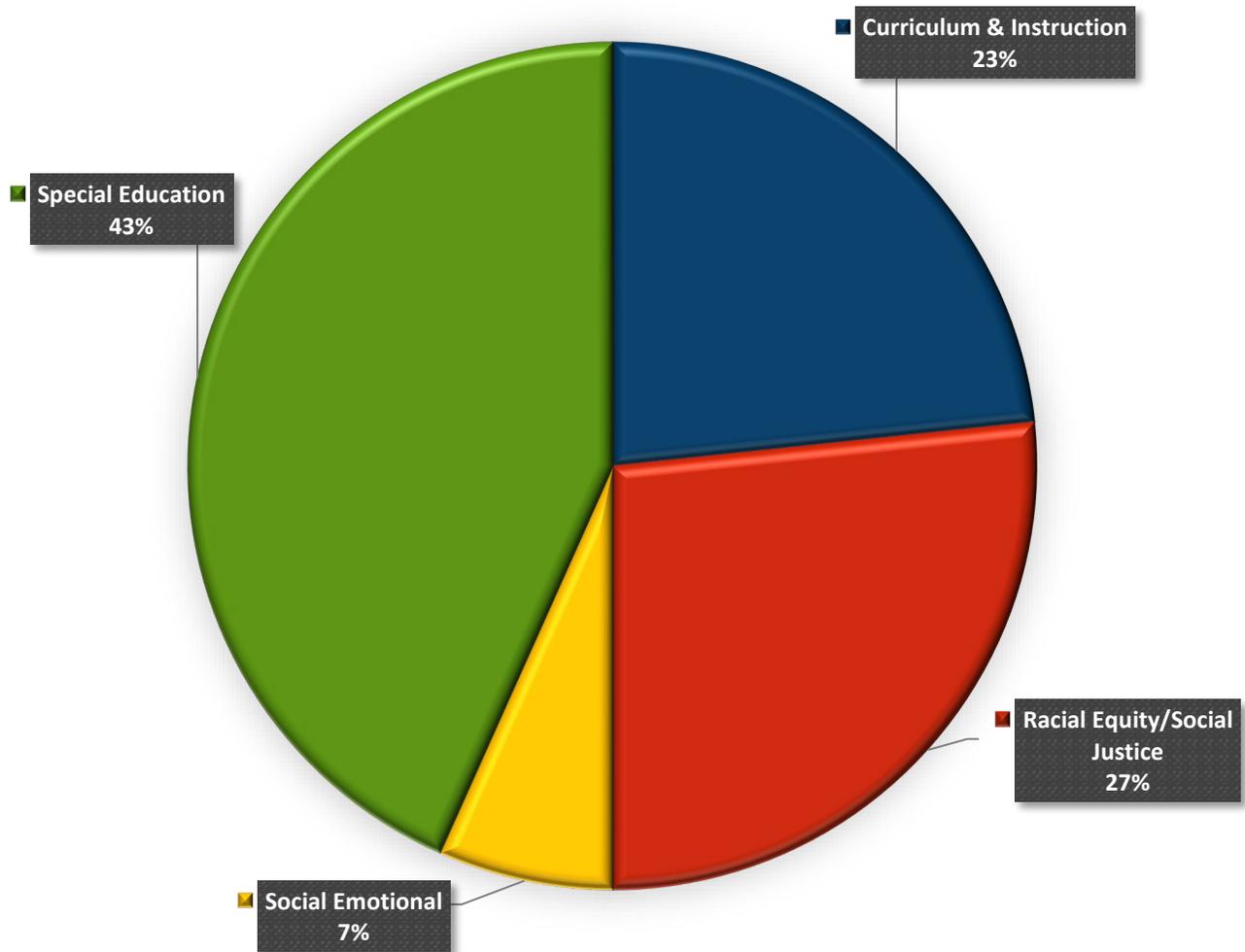
Snapshot of IDEA Activities by Project July 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025



IDEA Activities by Project July 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025	
Project Name	# of Activities
Back-To-School	2
Disproportionate Representation	4
Dropout Prevention Initiative	4
Families as Partners (SFCP)	4
General Supervision/Monitoring	1
Hearing Officers	3
IEPs	7
Initiative on Diversity in Education	15
Literacy	8
Leadership	14
Library/Library Web Seminars	1
LRE/Inclusion	16
Misc. Bureau	4
Nutrition	2
Paraprofessionals as Partners	10
SPDG	3
Specific Learning Disabilities/Dyslexia	28
State Advisory Council	1
State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report	1
Suspension/Expulsion	20
Technology in Education	9
Transition	24
Youth Work	15
Grand Total	196

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, 2024, to March 31, 2025.**



In-District Contracts by Topics and Category July 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025

Racial Equity/Social Justice	
Racial Equity	6
Culturally Relevant Practice	2
Racial Equity/Social Justice Total	8
Special Education	
Co-Teaching	2
Paraprofessionals	2
Parent Involvement	2
Secondary Transition	5
Strategies-LRE Decision Making	2
Special Education Total	13
Curriculum & Instruction	
Data-Driven Decision Making	3
English Learners	1
English Language Arts	1
PBIS Implementation	1
Universal Design for Learning (UDL)	1
Curriculum & Instruction Total	7
Social-Emotional	
Challenging Behaviors	2
Social Emotional Total	2
Grand Total	30

**Fully Executed LEA Contracts by District and Other
Agencies/Organizations/Schools
July 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025**

District	Agencies/Organizations/Schools
RSD 15	Andover, Hebron and Marlborough (AHM), Youth and Family Services
RSD 16	After School Arts Program (ASAP),
RSD 18	Connecticut Technical Education and Career Systems (CTECS)
Newington	Manson Youth Institution (University of New Haven/Tow Youth Institute), West Haven, CT
Stamford	Gilead Community Services
Stafford	Ridgefield Library
Wethersfield	Esperanza Charter School (PA)
Coventry	Department of Corrections
Milford	
Danbury	
New Haven	
Mansfield	
Unified School District 1	
East Hartford	
Windham	

New Programming Updates

CSDE Community Forum

SERC facilitated a Connecticut State Department of Education Community Forum in January 2025 entitled, “A Discussion About Education: The Past, the Present, the Future.”

Held at Windsor High School, the lively collaborative event was hosted by Connecticut Senate Chair of Education Sen. Douglas McCrory and Commissioner of Education Charlene M. Russell-Tucker and moderated by SERC Executive Director Dr. Ingrid M. Canady.

The forum’s expected goals were:

- To engage community members in conversations and reflections about the evolution and history of education in the United States.
- To hear from the hosts regarding the current landscape and priorities for Connecticut students.
- To engage community members in conversations about their insights regarding the future of Connecticut’s education.

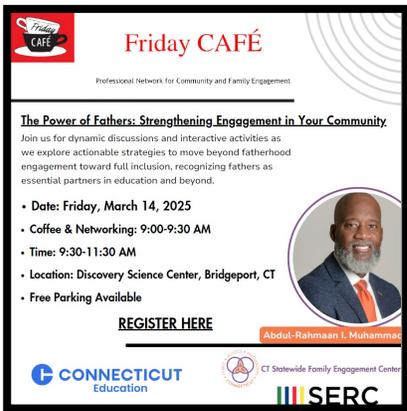
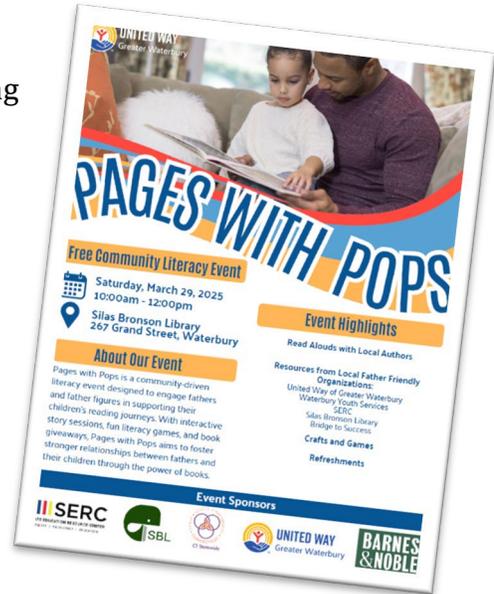
Bridgeport Public Schools Listening Sessions

The State Education Resource Center (SERC), as designated by Connecticut Education Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker is hosting Listening Sessions for Bridgeport educators, administrators, students, and other community members. The purpose of the Listening Sessions is to ensure all perspectives are represented as the Commissioner - authorized by the State Board of Education – works to develop targeted interventions to support Bridgeport Public Schools (BPS) in addressing the stability of district operations, improving student performance, and meeting other critical needs identified by the State Board of Education. To date, 40 listening sessions have been held, including audiences of students, teachers, school administrators, and community members.

Family & Community Engagement through Connecticut

Family School Partnerships

Led by primary grantee the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), SERC is one of the agencies comprising the Connecticut Family School Partnerships (CFSP), created out of a federal grant to design a Statewide Family Engagement Center for Connecticut. The CFSP promotes shared leadership between schools and families, partnerships to promote equal voice, and a comprehensive web-based hub for family engagement resources and information. SERC's efforts under the CFSP have focused on professional learning for schools and community agencies and direct service and training for families, specifically:



- Supporting activities identified in the grant that are specific to SERC's strengths and outreach to culturally responsive, relevant, and conscious approaches to family engagement; and
- Building the capacity of families, schools, and communities to construct a robust system of family engagement support and training to ensure that students benefit academically, socially, and emotionally, stay in school, and graduate on time.

2025 SERC AWARDS NIGHT

The State Education Resource Center (SERC) hosted its inaugural Awards Night on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at The New Britain Museum of American Art. Both the 2025 George A. Coleman Awards and the 2025 Parental Involvement Recognition Awards were presented to a select group of individuals making positive changes in the education of Connecticut children.

The evening's honorees, all nominated by their peers, were welcomed by SERC Executive Director Dr. Ingrid M. Canady, SERC Associate Director Marjorie Davis and Connecticut Department of Education Commissioner Charlene M. Russell-Tucker.

2025 George A. Coleman Award recipients were Martha C. Brackeen-Harris (Bloomfield) and Erick Rodriguez (Bridgeport). 2025 Parental Involvement Recognition Award recipients were Jim Fleischer (Stamford), Elizabeth Gramling (Stratford), Dr. Ahlam Jalil (Milford) and Marissa Lachance (Bristol), with an Honorary award presented by SERC to Sylvia Rivera (New York City).



2025 **SERC**
STATE EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER
EQUITY | EXCELLENCE | EDUCATION

AWARDS Night

Presenting the 2025 George A. Coleman Awards & Parental Involvement Recognition Awards

New Britain Museum of American Art
Thursday, March 20, 2025 | 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Co-sponsored by  CT Statewide Family Engagement Center



Dismantling Systemic Racism Conference
May 9, 2025 Please Join Us!



SAVE THE DATE!
Ninth Annual
“Dismantling Systemic Racism”
Conference



ctserc.org

- SERC and the SERC Foundation are pleased to present the 9th annual “Dismantling Systemic Racism Conference on Race, Education and Success” on Friday, May 9, 2025, at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford.
- For more details and information, please visit <https://conference.serc.co/>

Connecticut's African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies

(SBOE/SERC Board Update March 2025)

Cohort 4 Training Series	<p>The third session of the 2024-2025 training series was held on March 11th, focusing on Semester 2 Unit 4. Participants had the opportunity to learn from: Miguel Melendez, original Young Lord and CEO of Weapons of Knowledge, regarding the history of the Young Lords; Dr. Johanna Fernandez, Professor and Historian, regarding the intersectionality of civil rights; and Maria “Mariposa” Fernandez, Poet and Author, regarding how The Arts were used as a form of resistance. Participants gave feedback on the depth of knowledge shared and received from each of these presenters better prepared them for applications in the classroom.</p> <p>The fourth session was held on March 21st focusing on Semester 1 Units 1-3. Participants had the opportunity to learn from: Dr. Benjamin Foster Jr., Professor, African American Studies and Religion, CCSU, regarding Mansa Musa’s impact on world history; Sherma Rismay, Educator and Founder, BluePrint Publishing, Inc., regarding the Black American History Mapping Project; Sandra Taitt-Eaddy, Educator and Genealogy Researcher, regarding inquiry into Black and Latino Studies from a genealogical perspective; and Dr. Beryl Irene Bailey, Educator and Founder, From Pages to Pedagogy, regarding strategies for implementing CT’s New Social Studies Standards. Participants shared appreciation for the various resources presented to enhance student engagement and access to the curriculum.</p>
Student Summit IV	<p>Student Summit IV was held on March 28th at the Waterbury location of SERC’s new partner CTLEAD (Latinos for Educational Advocacy and Diversity). Speakers Eboné Bell of SimplyLead, and Noel Quiñones, Writer and Poet, engaged students in exploration of historical themes that have contributed to our unique identities. Students and teachers from the following schools participated: Global Experience Magnet School, Bloomfield; Academy of Science and Innovations, CREC; Cromwell HS; Ludlowe HS, Fairfield; Windham HS; Global Experience Magnet School, Bloomfield. CTLEAD sponsored a cross-cultural and students from ASI gave several different performances reflecting the Summit theme. Students remarked regarding the benefit of the cross-cultural experience and the need for more opportunities like this for students of course to interact with each other.</p>

Please reach out to any member of the SERC Project Team with questions.

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Curriculum website: <http://ctserc.org/pa1912>