

RESC Alliance

CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE OF REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE CENTERS



THE CONNECTICUT RESC ALLIANCE

“2016 Madison Accord”

A Statement of Beliefs

Preamble:

The Executive Directors of Connecticut’s six Regional Education Service Centers (RESC) herewith agree the organization known as *THE CONNECTICUT RESC ALLIANCE* which shall serve as the framework for relations between and among the service centers and provide them with a base to pursue common goals and objectives.

Beliefs:

1. The strength of the RESC ALLIANCE will depend on the economic stability and integrity of each individual RESC being maintained. We commit ourselves to assisting one another in achievement of that goal.
2. RESC ALLIANCE member boundaries are recognized as an artificial distribution of the state’s municipalities and resources. However, the member boundaries are also recognized as providing a base for the existence of the respective RESCs. Consequently, boundaries should be respected in terms of membership and service opportunities. Where there is a crossing of boundaries due to factors outside the control of the individual, then the affected directors shall communicate with one another to be sure that the factors are understood and that the position of each is protected.
3. While the major focus of RESC ALLIANCE member is on its respective service area, there shall be a greater emphasis on collaboration between and among members for the purpose of better utilizing scarce resources and deploying quality services on a cost-effective basis.
4. The RESC ALLIANCE members will explore with LEAs opportunities for collaboration and cooperative ventures.
5. The RESC ALLIANCE shall consider its charge to be broadly construed in that services will be designed for the total population of the state’s learners, regardless of age, capacity, or status.



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6. The RESC ALLIANCE, when confronted with unusual circumstances, dangers or challenges, will set a high priority on developing a common position from which to confront the difficulty. Members will commit themselves to adhere to such positions.
7. The members commit themselves to the creation/pursuit of an environment within which RESCs are more widely understood, are politically better positioned to play a leadership role in educational circles, and are recognized as a key component in the implementation/delivery of statewide initiatives.
8. The members agree to provide such in-kind support to the common ventures of the RESC ALLIANCE.
9. Members pledge to meet regularly and to communicate openly to support the implementation of this accord.
10. The members accept the fact that there will be inevitable situations in which competition for resources will occur due to the current nature of funding mechanisms and grant opportunities. The members pledge to keep each other informed as to their intentions to pursue competitive initiatives and to marshal support for one another when there is no competitive situation involved. (See ADDENDUM: Procedural Guidelines)
11. The principles comprised in this Accord will be reviewed annually. Modifications, deletions, and additions may be added to address issues that emerged during the course of the previous year.



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Thomas M. Danchy
ACES

Fran Pittsiff
CES

Gary Johnson
CREC

Paula Coker
EASTCONN

Myra Kelly
EDADVANCE

Carl Stanley
LEARN

12/14/16
DATE

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Madison Accord, 2016

ADDENDUM

Procedural Guidelines:

- A. In the course of conducting RESC business, we recognize that it is inevitable that a RESC will be asked to provide services to a district or organization within the catchment area of another RESC. Further, there will also be times when a specific staff member is invited by a district or organization in another catchment to provide a service to that district or organization. When either situation arises the following guidelines will be in effect:
 - a. All staff should respond to an out of RESC request by first asking if the requesting party has contacted their local RESC in reference to this work.
 - b. If that does not redirect the requesting party to their own service center, then a courtesy call, email or other communication should be delivered to the impacted director/staff of the host RESC stating the type of service that is being requested, and the length of the service commitment to be delivered.
 - c. If the service is of significant depth and length, a conversation should be held to identify any possible collaboration (within the restraints of the work commitment and/or desire of the client), capacity building or transfer of service to the impacted RESC.
 - d. If there are situations where items A-C are not addressed, as soon as the impacted staff member hears about such a service request within his/her own without prior notice from the requested RESC, the impacted host staff member should contact his/her peer to seek clarification about the depth and length of service to be delivered and to explore areas of collaboration and/or transfer of service.
- B. When competitive funding opportunities are announced by the Connecticut State Department of Education the following guidelines will be in effect:
 - a. All primary notices will be sent through either CSDE or the Executive Directors to the designated Alliance coordinator at the staff development director level. He/she will communicate the opportunity and circumstances with one director who has been designated by each RESC to serve as the clearinghouse person to communicate regarding CSDE contracts. All communication about the funding possibility will be channeled through that person during the bidding process.



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- b. A conference call will be initiated at the beginning of the bidding process with the appropriate CSDE personnel and all interested RESC contacts.
- c. RESC contacts who are not interested in the particular funding opportunity will serve as neutral judges for submitted proposals.
- C. As new staff are appointed throughout all RESCs, as part of their on-boarding orientation, the Madison Accord shall be shared and discussed.
- D. It is recognized that each RESC has specific expertise in key areas of interest to all of the others. Regular meetings of role-alike groups will include time for sharing professional knowledge and expertise. Specific areas of new learning of interest to the group may be identified and assigned to a particular representative to present at a future monthly meeting.
- E. As concerns and barriers to effective service are identified by an individual or group of directors, the issue(s) will be placed on the monthly agenda for discussion about the best course of action and who are the most appropriate CSDE and/or RESC administrators to involve. For each issue, the group will decide if other groups of representatives (Professional Development Directors or Executive Directors for example) might need to be included in the discussion.



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