District Financial Considerations (Live webinar)
A quick overview on the distribution of the balance of state grant funds through the close of the fiscal year, followed by discussion of the following topics: Should districts expect changes in state aid based on the shortened school year?; Will state grant funds have to be expended by the close of the fiscal year or will the state allow for carry forward of funds into Fiscal Year 2021?; and budget planning for the 2020–21 school year. This session will be interactive. Please bring your questions!

Guidance on Special Education (Live webinar)
Briefing on March 24, 2020 Continued Educational Opportunities and Special Education During the Covid-19 Pandemic
The CT State Department of Education will provide a brief overview of the March 24, 2020 guidance document. There will be an opportunity for participants to submit questions about the document that will be answered during the session. Questions that are not answered during the session may be submitted for future response and will inform future guidance.

Guidance on English Learners (Live webinars)

High-Quality Distance Learning Resources for English Learners
In these unprecedented times, it is extremely important to continue to support our English learner (ELs) by providing high-quality resources for distance/virtual learning. For ELs, this means offering content area supports and providing resources to help them develop their English proficiency and support their native/home language. Join us as we highlight several high-quality resources for ELs that provide important strategies and scaffolds for content area learning and help them continue to develop their English language proficiency at home.

Best Practices for Serving English Learners
Over the past several years, the population of English learners (ELs) in Connecticut’s public schools has continued to grow both within and across districts. Despite our small size geographically, Connecticut communities vary widely in their EL populations, ranging from zero to over 3,000 ELs in districts around the state. Given this demographic diversity and the unique needs of ELs, what are the best program models through which to serve these students? Are there models that honor students’ cultural and linguistic diversity, and if so, where are they being implemented? Join us for a webinar designed for building and district administrators to explore research on the academic outcomes of ELs in various programs and to look closer at districts around the state that are implementing research-based models which are proving effective for EL students.
Talent Updates

**SDE Talent Office Updates for District Human Resources (HR) Staff**

The SDE Talent Office will take district human resources staff through the Bureau of Educator Standards & Certification’s continued efforts to respond to the current public health emergency. They will explain the new flexibility allowing some electronic submission of documents; extension of expiration dates on some certificates and permits; which authorizations will be extended and which will not; considerations when hiring recent graduates who may or may not have completed student teaching; and waiver of educator evaluation requirements. They will also include a brief tour of the CSDE certification web pages to help you stay informed of additional changes as we move forward, how to find new fillable forms, and how to contact the bureau for additional assistance.

Directions for Sharing Best District Practices in Connecticut

As districts across the state have stepped up to provide learning opportunities for students, we know that there are many amazing things going on throughout our state on behalf of students. We want to highlight and share best practices around distance learning, early childhood practices, English learners, food distribution etc. This overview will give districts additional information on how to submit your best practices so we can share through social media and our website so we can all learn from and share with each other. We would love to share your examples too.