



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



February 15, 2022

Larry Schall, Ph.D.
President
New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE)
3 Burlington Woods Drive, Suite 100
Burlington, MA 01803-4514

Dear Dr. Schall and NECHE Commissioners,

As the state's K-12 education system works to establish a better alignment with the community colleges to enable students to more easily achieve academic success and viable careers, the merger of the 12 community colleges into one Connecticut State Community College is a proactive approach.

The Connecticut State Community College (CT State) will make it easier to align academic, counseling, and career supports across Connecticut. In particular, the focus on reforms in English and mathematics will help to ensure high school graduates can more easily transition to higher education without losing time to degree. In addition, dual-enrollment programs, which the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is working to expand throughout all districts, will be more easily established and grown under this plan. This consolidation and alignment will help ensure that regardless of which district in Connecticut a student graduates from, the classes, programs, employer connections, and investments found at the community colleges are equitable.

Deliberate and connected pathways from high schools to community college can only be accomplished through sustainable partnerships. The changes brought about by this merger will enhance the collaboration between the CSDE, CT State, and school districts to equitably support the higher education of students in our state. I encourage your support of the community college merger and look forward to working together to benefit the students of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Charlene M. Russell-Tucker".

Charlene M. Russell-Tucker
Commissioner of Education