



## Commission for Educational Technology 2022 Annual Report

### Year in Review

The return to consistent, in-person learning in 2022 has elicited a sense of gratitude among students, families, teachers, and administrators. Fully remote learning, and the shifts in instruction and operations it necessitated, has ended. In most educational settings, normalcy has returned, even as schools and universities assess and work to accelerate learning that may have slowed during the pandemic, especially among specific student populations.

The chaotic experience of supporting education during the pandemic, along with the historic technology investments to support learning have led to a key concern at the close of 2022: how to sustain investments in digital learning tools and resources with the forthcoming “funding cliff” that looms with the end of pandemic aid programs. Relief funds have made possible a multitude of one-time digital learning programs, any one of which would have been considered a seminal investment in years past. This report highlights those investments in providing access to high-quality learning materials ([page 14](#)), district strategic planning ([page 15](#)), educator training ([page 15](#)), digital equity ([page 17](#)), and educational software to support personalized learning ([page 18](#)).

These advances represent an inflection point, with Connecticut institutions of learning never better equipped to leverage technology. The vast availability of devices, broadband, software, and support provide the essential conditions to support learning in and out of the classroom. To ensure sustainability and fidelity in learning, the Commission issued a resolution outlining key steps necessary to ensuring the full return on technology for learning ([page 13](#)).

The resolution will serve as the departure point for the development in 2023 of the next State Education Technology Plan. That framework will address the concerns highlighted in the resolution, including leadership commitment, access to technology infrastructure, digital literacy skills, and ongoing support for educators. The Commission’s complementary work in 2023 to develop the State Digital Equity Plan ([page 16](#)) will address many of these same concerns — with the common goal of equity — to ensure that all residents can benefit from the employment, healthcare, learning, and social benefits that technology access and skills afford.

Planning and bringing about sustained improvements in education through technology cannot happen through one organization alone. In the design and implementation of the State Education Technology and Digital Equity Plans, the Commission will engage with state and local leaders for input and insights, as well as commitments to help make these plans a reality.



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## 16,000 Educators

More than 16,000 teachers and professors use [www.GoOpenCT.org](http://www.GoOpenCT.org), the Commission's open education resources site, to write, curate, and share free, high-quality digital learning materials.

→ See [Open Education Resources](#), page 15

## 177 Materials

In 2022, [www.GoOpenCT.org](http://www.GoOpenCT.org) provided the platform for the CSDE to create and publish 177 courses, units, and other learning materials to provide statewide curriculum for all schools

→ See [Open Education Resources](#), page 15

## 17,000 Hours

Through the AccelerateCT program in partnership with ISTE, 1,147 educators have benefitted from more than 17,000 hours of professional development toward certifications in the use of digital learning tools and pedagogies.

→ See [ISTE Training](#), page 15

## 13% Disconnected

In the coming year, the Commission will work with state and local leaders as well as residents to develop a State Digital Equity Plan that helps ensure affordable Internet access to the estimated 13 percent of households not connected to high-speed broadband.

→ See [State Digital Equity Plan](#), page 16



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## **28% Increase**

2022 saw a 28 percent increase in the number of unique digital learning tools (6,400) used by districts, which leverage the free set of LearnPlatform management tools provided through the Commission.

→ See [Educational Software Hub](#), page 20

## **\$5M<sup>+</sup> Cost Avoidance**

Since its 2017 launch, the Commission's Educational Software Hub has saved districts an estimated 40,000 hours in staff time — in addition to legal fees — to comply with Connecticut's data privacy law. The Hub helps schools leverage innovative technology solutions and comply with state statute.

→ See [Technology Management](#), page 19

## **\$40M<sup>+</sup> Savings**

The Connecticut State Library continues to deliver exceptional value through researchIT, the digital library free to all Connecticut residents. This service delivered \$42M in digital content subscriptions at a cost to the state of \$1.5M.

→ See [researchIT CT](#), page 28

## **\$30M Cost Avoidance**

The CEN delivers Internet connections, federally mandated content filtering, and cyber protection services to schools, colleges, libraries, towns, and open access members at a cost that saved these institutions more than \$30M this year alone.