

February 28, 2025

Representative Jennifer Leeper, Co-Chair of the Education Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Douglas McCrory, Co-Chair of the Education Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative Cory Paris, Co-Chair of the Children's Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2701
Hartford, CT 06106

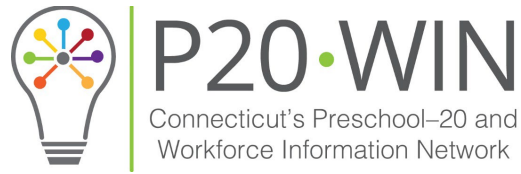
Senator Ceci Maher, Co-Chair of the Children's Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2701
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative Steven Stafstrom, Co-Chair of the Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Gary Winfield, Co-Chair of the Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative Emmanuel Sanchez, Co-Chair of the Labor Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Julie Kushner, Co-Chair of the Labor Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106



Representative Jillian Gilchrest, Co-Chair of the Human Services Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2002
Hartford, CT 061062

Senator Matthew Lesser, Co-Chair of the Human Services Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2002
Hartford, CT 061062

Representative Cristin McCarthy Vahey Co-Chair of the Public Health Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Saud Anwar, Co-Chair of the Public Health Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106

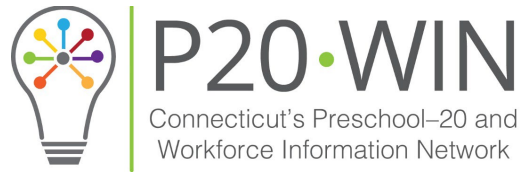
Representative Toni Walker, Chair of the Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Catherine Osten, Co-Chair of the Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106

Honorable Leaders of the Education, Children's, Judiciary, Labor, Human Services,
Public Health and Appropriations Committees:

Pursuant to Section 22 of Public Act 24-45, please find enclosed the final report on
disconnected youth.

The act requires the Executive Board of the Connecticut Preschool Through Twenty
and Workforce Information Network (P20 WIN) to "submit an annual report on
disconnected youth," using the data model established in the data sharing
agreement for past P20 WIN "Research on Disengaged and Disconnected Youth in
Connecticut." The report uses the definition of "disconnected youth" established in
Section 21 of the same Public Act.



As the Chair of the Executive Board for P20 WIN, I am proud to submit this report, which reflects the work of many agencies to integrate and analyze data to better understand the challenges that disconnected youth face in Connecticut. The report was developed by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), with substantial support from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), which staffs the P20 WIN board, and the Department of Labor, which integrated the datasets in the report. The following agencies contributed data, time and expertise to developing this report: Department of Children and Families, Department of Education, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Coalition to End Homelessness, Department of Correction, Department of Social Services, Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division, Department of Labor, Connecticut Technical Education and Career Systems.

The report details various counts and trends for disconnected youth, factors associated with disconnection and the impact of disconnection can have on communities in Connecticut.

Key takeaways from the report include:

1. The number of disconnected and at-risk youth declined by approximately 13,000 from the prior 2023 report. While still high overall, there were several contributing factors to the reduction including improvements in chronic absenteeism, through strategic investments in programs such as LEAP, and increased youth employment opportunities in a strong economy.
2. Youth who experience disconnection have lower wages and post-secondary education credentials, therefore, programs like dual enrollment and workforce training have the potential to help youth connect or re-connect and increase their earning potential over time.
3. The report highlights several groups of youth at risk of higher disconnection and future actions that can focus on re-connecting them. These groups include youth in the urban core, English Language learners, and students experiencing housing insecurity or those enrolled in special education programs.

In closing, I would like to reiterate our commitment to supporting the needs of Connecticut youth, young adults, and their families. The findings of this report will support agencies in meeting that commitment. If you have any questions regarding



P20•WIN

Connecticut's Preschool–20 and
Workforce Information Network

the report and data, please contact Scott Gaul, Chief Data Officer at OPM
(scott.gaul@ct.gov / 860-418-6236).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelli-Marie Vallieres".

Kelli-Marie Vallieres, PhD
Chief Workforce Officer, Office of Workforce Strategy
Chair, P20 WIN Executive Board

Cc: Clerk, House Chamber
Clerk, Senate Chamber
State Legislative Librarian