



Ned Lamont
GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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

Dear Members of the New England Commission of Higher Education,

I write to express my strong support for the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities' (CSCU) plan to merge the state's 12 community colleges into a single accredited institution known as Connecticut State Community College (CT State). The Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) has recognized that student success is linked to the system's ability to sustain itself financially and provide access and opportunity to Connecticut residents. The community colleges are an important state asset, but they must operate more efficiently and have better outcomes for Connecticut residents, businesses, and communities. The success of this merger is critical to us all.

The CSCU administration has worked with my office as it puts CT State on a path to fiscal sustainability by sharing services to eliminate duplicative functions and investing in the supports students need to succeed. In my last budget, I provided resources to support the Guided Pathways initiative to ensure improved outcomes from the college system and will continue to work with CSCU and the legislature to identify other potential funding to support the success of this merger.

In addition, the move to CT State aligns with Governor's Workforce Council Strategic Plan. The regional approach has already begun to leverage resources and expertise across campuses to respond to the needs of businesses throughout the state in a more coordinated, nimble, and efficient manner. In particular, we have seen success as the colleges, through the CT State regional workforce officers, helped to quickly provide training services to those impacted by the pandemic.

I applaud President Cheng, Interim President Rooke, Chair Fleury, and the BOR for this thoughtful and innovative approach, and I urge the Commission's support.

Sincerely,

Ned Lamont
Governor