




**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**



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Circular Letter: C-4

**TO:** Superintendents of Schools  
**FROM:** Mark K. McQuillan, Commissioner of Education   
**DATE:** November 3, 2010  
**SUBJECT:** State Board of Education Resolution Regarding Tracking

On January 5, 2010, the State Board of Education adopted a resolution regarding tracking. Tracking is defined as the practice of permanently assigning students for instructional purposes to an instructional group that denies voluntary association and instruction with higher achieving students, based on assessed or perceived readiness.

As indicated in the resolution, every school district has an obligation to assure access for all students. The practice of tracking students has a negative impact on student achievement – particularly for low-income minority students and English Language Learners. This action is fully aligned to the state's Five-Year Comprehensive Plan, Secondary School Reform Initiative, Student Success Plans and Scientific Research-Based Intervention (SRBI) Initiative.

The State Department of Education (SDE) will develop a self-assessment tool for district use. Data collected will include student gender, the criteria used for placement decisions and the demographic information for students in each placement.

A school district not in compliance will be required to make an annual report to the SDE detailing placements that deny students access to instruction with their higher performing peers, research-based evidence that supports such placements and a timeframe indicating when access will be available. More information will be forthcoming regarding the details of the monitoring protocol.

MKM:kwd