




STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Commissioner of Education 

DATE: May 11, 2020

SUBJECT: Lt. Governor's COVID-19 Computing Challenge

Earlier today, Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz formally announced the *Lt. Governor's COVID-19 Computing Challenge*. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) joins Lt. Governor Bysiewicz in encouraging schools and districts to incorporate the *Lt. Governor's COVID-19 Computing Challenge* into distance learning opportunities to assist students in addressing global concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 is presenting challenges unlike anything we have ever seen in our state's history. We all have had to make adjustments and find meaningful ways in which to engage and connect from a distance. We know some students face barriers during this time of learning due to lack of access. This challenge allows students to exercise creativity to address the many real-world problems surfacing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The *Lt. Governor's COVID-19 Computing Challenge* provides an excellent opportunity for students to:

- apply critical thinking and problem solving skills;
- work collaboratively; and
- realize the uses of computer technology.

I encourage you to publicize this unique event to your [students](#), [families](#) and [teachers](#). Submissions of ideas will be accepted until May 29, 2020, and ideas will be posted to display our youths' ingenuity.

The *Lt. Governor's COVID-19 Computing Challenge* supports and enhances ongoing efforts of the Governor's Council on Women and Girls, specifically the work of the Subcommittee on Education and STEAM. Questions regarding the Lt. Governor's COVID-19 Computing Challenge can be directed to [computingchallenge@skills21.org](mailto:computingchallenge@skills21.org) or feel free to email CSDE's Computer Science Consultant, [Jennifer Michalek](#). For more information, visit the [Lt. Governor's COVID-19 Computing Challenge website](#).