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Cardona, Courtney visit Groton schools to discuss career and technical education



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GROTON, Conn. (WTNH) — U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona visited southeastern Connecticut Friday, pushing President Joe Biden's workforce agenda.

Cardona, who formerly served as the state's Commissioner of Education, toured two schools to showcase how early kids are focusing on science, math, and technology, otherwise known as STEM. At Ella Grasso Tech, Cardona toured the manufacturing center.

Congressman Joe Courtney (D) invited secretary Cardonato to shine a light on Connecticut's manufacturing programs. The curriculum starts with young kids then moves to high school, where students learn skills key to getting high-skilled high-paying jobs.

"This is an example of what we want to see around the nation where we have beautiful facilities working not only with our K through 12 students, but with our adults after school these technical schools having a second shift," Cardona said.

"How do we give kids the skills they need for the 21st century, which again is different than it was 30 years ago," Courtney said.

Cardona said American Rescue Plan dollars are helping fund programs like this around the country. He said Connecticut will be a model for the nation.

Cardona also responded to questions about COVID-19 in schools and the related staff shortages. He said he is proud of the administration and said 10 million tests per month will be sent out to schools nationwide and that "test to stay" in the classroom has been working.

Connecticut does "screen and stay," which many districts have opted out of.

Turn to News 8 at 5 and 6 for more on Cardona's visit to Groton.