

TESTIMONY PREPARED FOR EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

20 February 2007
CT. LEGISLATURE
HARTFORD, CT.

Family Resource Centers

From 1993 and 9 Family Resource Centers (FRCs) to 62 FRCS today statewide, all FRCs are based on a concept developed by Dr. Edward Ziegler of Yale University: a comprehensive and integrated *community-based* system of family support and child development services *beginning at birth*.

The FRCs directly or in cooperation with other community-based providers, incorporate School readiness programs, school age child care and afterschool programs, all of which are aligned to *ensure that children enter school ready to learn and their parents participate* in their learning.

The target populations of FRCs are the children, parents and families in the school attendance areas in the 42 communities where the FRCS are located. On a year-round basis, FRCs utilize the Parents as Teachers (PAT) curriculum and model to provide:

- Playgroups in which parents meet and discuss parenting issues and their children, infants and toddlers, are guided in socialization activities,
- Conduct workshops that focus upon the cognitive, social, linguistic and motor development of children,
- Complete home visits with parents to address concerns and strengthen the bond between schools and home.

The modest budget increase of approximately \$50,000 per FRC will afford FRCs the ability to extend their PAT services on a satellite basis to nearby schools and populations. Your support of this request will be most appreciated. Thank you.

Dr. Sue Tenorio
Administrator
Danbury Public Schools
Danbury, CT.