



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MARCH 12, 2007

**TESTIMONY OF
GEORGE A. COLEMAN, INTERIM COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
ON**

RAISED BILL 7359

AN ACT CONCERNING A GRANT PROGRAM TO COMBAT TRUANCY

RAISED BILL 1413

AN ACT CONCERNING IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS

Student learning takes place primarily when students are in school. If students fail to attend school regularly or are frequently disciplined and given out-of-school suspensions, they are not in a school environment and student learning is made more difficult. Raised Bill 7359 is to combat truancy and proposes addressing issues such as the needs of students who exhibit patterns of unexcused absences from school and school-wide positive discipline policies and practices that lead to a decrease in truancy. Raised Bill 1413 provides that school suspensions be in-school suspensions unless there is a determination that the pupil being suspended poses such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the educational process that the pupil shall be excluded from school during the period of suspension. The Department of Education supports both of these bills, but there are no funds in the Governor's budget for the purposes of the Raised Bill 7359 concerning truancy.