

Testimony
Submitted to the
Appropriations Committee

February 11, 2009

GOVERNOR'S BILL NO. 830 AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING EDUCATION

Good afternoon Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian, and members of the Appropriations Committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you today.

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Alliance of Regional Education Service Centers, also known as the Connecticut RESC Alliance.

We encourage you to support the provisions within the Governor's proposed budget that rewards and encourages the use of regional approaches to realize cost-savings within the educational community.

As a result of our state's staggering budget deficit, there is growing interest in "smart growth" and regional cooperation. There is a growing realization that working in isolation is prohibitively expensive – something that we have known for years.

There are six RESCs in the state of Connecticut. We are owned and governed by the elected members of the districts we serve. We were created roughly 40 years ago by state statute to offer programs and services that would be too expensive or difficult for any one district to offer alone.

We reduce redundancies in the state's 166 school districts by providing high quality, cost-effective services. This tested, regional model has proven so effective that RESCs are operated in over 40 states across the country. We encourage you to look to us for solutions.

Connecticut's RESCs have historically been and can continue to be a big part of cost-saving efforts.

Here is a short list of the numerous cost-saving, high-quality services and programs that we currently offer to school districts.

We provide:

- High value, student diagnostic and special education services
- Regional student transportation, including out-of-district special needs transportation.
- Regional facilities management and food services.