

## Friis, John

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**From:** Donald Margulies [donaldmargulies@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2009 12:37 PM  
**To:** Friis, John  
**Cc:** stefanie lapetins; Sally Larrick; debbie lavranchuk; Lashawn Lawhorn; Marina Lee; sally levy; Liora Lew; Catherine Lincoln; debra lombard; Luke Lynch; lorrie maiorano; lady mccrady; Jayne Mednick; David Miller; beth miller; Thomas Moore; Sarah Morant; Ed Morcaldi; Debra Morcaldi; Deb Morcaldi; edward morcaldi; Ingo Mugge; anne-marie mulliouand; Beth Murcko; eca\_pace@yahoo.com; Lynn Street  
**Subject:** To Mr. John Friis... From an ECA parent

Dear Mr. Friis,

I am the father of Miles Margulies, a sophomore at Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven, and a student in the creative writing program at ACES/ECA. I am also a playwright and adjunct professor of English and Theatre Studies at Yale University, where I have taught playwriting for nearly twenty years. My educational background is in neither English nor Theatre Studies, but in Visual Arts; I have a BFA but no graduate degree; nor do I have any kind of certification. What I do have is decades of professional experience. If I were a teacher at ECA who lacked a certain piece of paper, my future there would be called into question.

The proposal by the Commissioner of Education that would require all part-time instructors, with no regard to their areas of expertise, to incur the cost of certification is extremely wrong-headed. It threatens to destroy an institution, not strengthen it. Why, in this precarious time, tamper with a formula of education that demonstrably works? The professional artists who have chosen to teach have clearly done so because they love it and have a passion for what they do. Artists who practice what they teach bring a unique perspective to the classroom, one that must not be underestimated: they make tangible and real what might otherwise remain abstract and unattainable.

If the state of Connecticut is going to insist that all teachers, including those who teach the creative arts, acquire certification in order to do something they have done successfully for years, why not allow for a waiver of certification? Such an act would be bold and correct, and honor - not penalize - the dedicated men and women who are an inspiration to our children.

Sincerely,

Donald Margulies

142 Huntington Street  
New Haven, CT 06511