

C A A C E

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR ADULT AND CONTINUING  
EDUCATION

March 15, 2010

Testimony on the following bill HB 5489 AN ACT CONCERNING SECONDARY  
SCHOOL REFORM:

Submitted by: David Downes, Vice President, Connecticut Association for Adult and  
Continuing Education and Director of Adult and Continuing Education for the West  
Hartford Public Schools

The following testimony is submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Association for Adult  
and Continuing Education, a statewide professional organization representing providers  
of mandated adult education.

Representative Fleischmann, Senator Gaffey and members of the Education Committee:

The Connecticut Association of Adult and Continuing Education would like to comment  
on HB 5489

Raised Bill 5489: Section 3 of this bill allows students in regular education to take two  
of their high school graduation credits by, in effect, taking up to four classes in the  
mandated adult education program, a program established by law to provide education to  
persons 16 and over who are not attending regular K-12 education. The current  
regulation in this regard states that high school students may take one "adult education  
activity" for credit as a part of their high school program of study. The proposed bill in  
effect doubles the number of adult education courses allowed to be taken by regular  
education students. For a few adult education programs with the capacity to accept  
additional mainstream students needing additional credits to graduate, this bill may not be  
an issue and may be seen as an additional educational benefit to the overall local  
educational system. For many adult education programs, however, which deal with  
limited capacities and funds in their programs, this expansion of demand for services will  
mean a diminished capacity to serve their current mandated student population, without  
supplemental resources. Furthermore, adult education programs are not equipped to  
provide the many support services and parent communication available in the regular  
high school program. Regular education students are better served by other means of  
earning credit within the high school purview, such as independent study, college credit  
and online course programs, summer school and community work-study credit. The  
option of using mandated adult education courses to earn regular high school credit  
should be clarified and continue to be limited to the accepted interpretation of an "adult  
education activity" as at most two semesters of an adult education academic course.