

Testimony of Bryanna Johnson
Student at Common Ground High School,
358 Springside Avenue, New Haven, CT 06515
Testimony submitted to the Appropriations Committee
March 24th, 2011

Honorable Chairs, Members of the Appropriation Committee:

My name is Bryanna Johnson and I am a sophomore at Common Ground High School in New Haven.

Back in January 2009, when I was in middle school and I had to choose classes for my freshman year of high school, I was nervous. I didn't want to go the local high school in my town, which consists of 2,500 students. So I asked my parents if I could explore other options.

So I shadowed students at High School in the Community, Career High School, New Haven Academy, Coop Arts and Humanities, and Common Ground. And out of these schools, Common Ground was for me. I felt so welcomed and unjudged.

What I love most about Common Ground are my teachers. They inspire me to excel, not to just get by. My teachers challenge me and encourage me to pursue my interests. Common Ground has given me many options to choose from. I had a college mentor in my freshman year. I joined the Cooking Club where we made some awesome food.

Not only are the after school programs great, the classes pique my interests. One of my favorite classes I had was called Ecologia, which combined Spanish and gardening skills. When we worked outside in the garden, we had to communicate in complete Spanish to work together in the garden as a team. This class has taught me how diverse it can be at Common Ground. With fair funding, Common Ground can expand such great courses as this to benefit my fellow students and me.

Please support Student-Based funding to fund charter schools fairly and equitably.

Common Ground is the best fit for me!

Bryanna Johnson