



**To: The Honorable Beth Bye, Senate Chair
The Honorable Roberta Willis, House Chair
The Honorable Toni Boucher, Senate Ranking
The Honorable Timothy LeGeyt, House Ranking
Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee**

**From: President Gena Glickman, Ph.D, Manchester Community College
President Ross Tomlin, Ed.D, Quinebaug Valley Community College**

Re: Higher Education and Employment Advancement Public Hearing

S.B. 857, An Act Concerning Higher Education

Date: March 3, 2011

The Connecticut Community College System supports *S.B. 857, An Act Concerning Higher Education*. The new language in Section 2 will modify the existing statute for middle college high schools located in shared space on the Manchester Community College and Quinebaug Valley Community College campuses with regard to the Student Code of Conduct.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2011) (a) For purposes of this section, "middle college high school" means a secondary school that (1) is located on or near the campus of an institution of higher education, (2) is included in the organizational structure of such institution of higher education, (3) shares educational resources with such institution of higher education, (4) is authorized to award high school diplomas, (5) allows secondary students to earn transferable college credits through its collaboration with such institution of higher education, and (6) implements a collaborative, project-centered and inquiry-based curricula.

(b) The Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges, on behalf of a regional community-technical college, shall have the authority of a local or regional board of education under sections 10-233a to 10-233f, inclusive, of the general statutes for purposes of said board's sponsorship of a middle college high school.

The Board of Trustees of Community-Technical Colleges on behalf of Manchester Community College and Quinebaug Valley Community College, is the sponsor of two middle college high schools. The Board has overall responsibility for the middle college high schools in accordance with requirements of the Connecticut State Department of Education and laws and regulations applicable to middle college high schools, known in statute as interdistrict magnet schools.

When middle college high schools located on college campuses were approved by the legislature, an unintended consequence left authority over student behavior under the jurisdiction of their home school, particularly in relation to the Student Code of Conduct, with very limited rights afforded to the Board of Trustees, the Governing Advisory Board of the Middle College High School, and the School itself. Students come from multiple school districts and have a range of sanctions applied by their home institutions when a student violates the middle college schools' student code of conduct.

The reason for supporting the language in section 2 is to afford the host colleges the authority to apply the Board of Trustees approved Student Code of Conduct and attendant sanctions on students. Currently the Board does not have this authority. If a student is also a college student, then the Board of Trustees' Student Code of Conduct applies to the extent that when a student violates the college's code of conduct, the requisite sanction may be applied, but is not enforceable because behavior is adjudicated through the home school.

Ultimately each host college has the responsibility for all students on its campus but little authority over the middle college high school students. In the case of a middle college school student, the colleges may apply a sanction, but there is no way to remove a student from the campus unless the home school agrees and applies the sanction.

Community College students, staff and visitors to the colleges must abide by a code of responsibility which a college may adjudicate, yet middle college school students are not held accountable for their behavior in the same manner as others on campus. When a middle college school student violates either Community College student policies, State Department of Education policies, or Capitol Region Education Council policies, it is the sending high school which holds the hearing and ultimately decides on the measures of accountability.

The Community Colleges that host middle college high schools should have the authority to apply the college's Student Code of Conduct to these students. If this adjudication would result in a suspension, the middle college school student would be sent back to the sending institution for continuance of the student's education or additional sanctions as applied by the student's sending institution.

Not having the authority to implement similar sanctions for all members of the college community renders the Community College Board of Trustees, the middle college schools' governing boards, and the hosting colleges vulnerable in its ability to respond to unacceptable behavior.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the Community College Legislative Liaison, Meghan Collins Fanning: mfanning@commnet.edu or 860-244-7631.