

Testimony S.B. 24

My name is Christopher LaBelle and I'm principal of Six to Six Interdistrict Magnet School operated by Cooperative Educational Services and located in Bridgeport CT. I ask you to support the increase funding for magnet schools as proposed in S.B. 24.

Six to Six Magnet School is a Preschool through grade 8, Title I School, with a student enrollment from 14 different neighboring communities. Students from the Bridgeport Public Schools make up 50 percent of our student population. We have an overall enrollment of 462 students. The school is designed to provide a high-quality educational program to meet the needs of students and working parents. Therefore, we open at 6 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. Our preschool is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and enrolls eighty 3-and-4-year-olds, 40 from the city of Bridgeport.

We have been recognized by the Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now as one of Connecticut's leading schools in closing the achievement gap for minority students and children living in poverty. Our minority subgroups well out perform state averages for student performance and continue to improve each year.

Increasing funding for magnet schools to equitable levels across the state will help us continue our goal to provide all our students with the high-quality educational opportunities that they deserve. Therefore, I ask you to support the increase funding for magnet schools as proposed in S.B. 24.

Thank you.