

## Kane, Brittany

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**From:** Nancy Vitale <NVitale@eastconn.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 12:51 PM  
**To:** AppropriationTestimony  
**Subject:** INTERDISTRICT GRANTS

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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### YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED IN RESTORING INTERDISTRICT GRANT FUNDING FOR CONNECTICUT YOUTH THAT WAS ELIMINATED IN THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET

Over 4,000 students in grades 2-12 have participated in the Interdistrict grants during the 2011-2012 school year – not a small number for Northeastern CT. In Northeast CT, the EASTCONN region from Tolland to Thompson – 30 of our 36 districts are involved in the grants. EASTCONN also has a waiting list of classroom teachers supported by the administration to be part of a grant. There are a total of 47 schools within the districts that participate in the Interdistrict grants. The Interdistrict grants provide high academic rigor connected to the district's curriculum thus contributing to reducing the achievement gap in CT, along with promoting a reduction in racial and social isolation by having students work in diverse settings with their peers. A large number of our students have never met peers from surrounding towns before participating in the Interdistrict grants. There are many different types of isolation in CT not just in Hartford. This year a few of our main topics, as identified by our participating schools were bullying, the arts, health and fitness, STEM, history, and literacy. Overall, 90% of our students have shown an increase in their understanding of bullying, acceptance and respect of others and an appreciation of diverse peoples. In the area of content knowledge, overall 80% of students showed an increase specific to the academic content of the grants in which they were involved. Eighty-seven percent of participating district staff received training around tolerance and understanding personal differences. We believe all of these statistics to be significant in promoting high academic success and developing an understanding around reducing social and racial isolation in CT.

The results have been impressive over the years. To quote the Governor's budget document on page 376, "Interdistrict Grant Programs provide funding for Interdistrict programs that increase student achievement and reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation while also promoting a greater understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity. It is a highly successful program with more than 47,789 students participating in the 2011-12 school year".

The grants that are in jeopardy now were written and submitted January 25<sup>th</sup> 2012 with the intent of continuing to work with our teachers, administrators, and most importantly the youth from our communities. We have done a great deal with these programs with very little

money. As you are aware Northeast CT does not receive anywhere near the funding other parts of the state does and this is why it is imperative for the funding for these programs to continue.

Any assistance you can provide in restoring the Interdistrict grant funding for Northeast CT would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely

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