

To: Appropriations Committee Chairs and Ranking Members
From: Family School Connection Program, Hands On Hartford
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“We are asking for preservation of Family School Connection, a program of the Children’s Trust Fund, that is proposed for elimination under the Governor’s budget. Family School Connection programs demonstrate significant increase in parental involvement in their children’s education, strong evidence of reduced absences, improved grades and improved behavior in children, and promising results for preventing child abuse and neglect. Please do not cut funding for this valuable program that can help reduce the achievement gap.”

Following are some statements from participating families:

(Last names of families have been deleted from this statement for confidentiality purposes).

“This is a wonderful program that helps people out that needs it the most”

-Wanda Q., parent at Betances School, Hartford

“They have available resources in my time of need. They provide friendly guidance and support for myself and my children. My family appreciates everything they provide for us.”

-Lashawnda D., parent participant at Betances School, Hartford

“My Home Visitor is very knowledgeable; her skills in dealing with children and families, peers, and other professionals are outstanding. She has always maintained a very professional, yet friendly demeanor. I ask you with all my heart and honesty to keep Family School Connection open to allow other families to enjoy what our family has enjoyed since our Home Visitor has been visiting our home.”

-Johanna C., parent participant at Betances School, Hartford

**When my kids started having problems in school, I was introduced to Family School Connection program, which has changed my life completely. They helped me know my rights as a parent in the school meetings. The Family School Connection program is really important to the community. A program like this can get a better future for our children and parents. I recommend this program 100%. I will be eternally grateful to the Family School Connection program for giving me a helping hand in time of need.”*

-Olga R., parent participant at Burr School, Hartford

**“Family School Connection has benefited me very much. I learned how to work with my children’s schools and education.”*

-Amelia R., parent participant at Betances School, Hartford

** “I am very grateful for what you have done for my family. It’s been unconditional support.”*

– Marta C., parent participant at Betances School, Hartford

**“This program has been an essential tool for me to use when I face adversities around me.”*

-Isa N., parent participant at Betances School, Hartford

*Translated from Spanish by FSC staff.