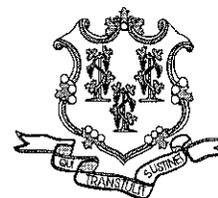




STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Public Hearing Testimony  
Education Committee  
March 4, 2013



***S.B. No. 999 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TIMELY TRANSFER OF STUDENT RECORDS***

The Department of Children and Families **opposes** S.B. No. 999, An Act Concerning the Timely Transfer of Student Records, as written.

The Department of Children and Families operates Unified School District #2 (USD #2) which provides educational services to students who reside in DCF facilities and whose treatment needs require them to receive their education within the facility. USD #2 also provides educational services to students who have a status of no-nexus and who have been placed by DCF in a private residential facility, a psychiatric hospital with an approved special education program or in the residential component of a Regional Education Services Center (RESC).

USD #2 strives to transfer educational records within the ten-day statutory time frame in all cases. We believe that many other school districts do the same. However, we are also aware, through direct experience, that many local school districts do not provide records in a timely manner as required by law. We experience many cases each year in which a child's educational programming is delayed or reduced because we cannot quickly get the appropriate records from the sending school.

DCF agrees with the intent of the legislation, which is to enforce compliance with the law in an effort to ensure uninterrupted educational programming for children under the supervision of a state agency. We disagree that such enforcement provisions should apply solely to the three state agency school districts when the problem is widespread throughout the state. Thus, we could support this provision if it applied the enforcement penalty to all school districts in the state.