



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut General Assembly – Appropriations Committee  
Testimony of Commissioner Stefan Pryor  
March 7, 2014

Thank you Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Kane, Representative Miner, and members of the Appropriations Committee for the opportunity to provide feedback on SB 340: *An Act Concerning a Two-Generational School Readiness Plan*.

We applaud this committee's commitment to addressing this important issue in a coordinated way – working to ensure that the State of Connecticut is collaborating between and across agencies to “promote long-term learning and economic success for low income families by addressing intergenerational barriers to school readiness and workforce readiness.”

Certainly, much work in this area is already underway – not just in plans, but in action. Specifically, we would like to share the efforts of our Family Resource Centers, valuable resources, which were expanded under Governor Malloy's and the General Assembly's leadership.

Family Resource Centers already serve as a model for the type of coordinated support envisioned by this plan. The Connecticut Family Resource Center concept promotes comprehensive, integrated, community-based systems of family support and child development services located in public school buildings. This model is based on the "Schools of the 21st Century" concept developed by Dr. Edward Zigler of Yale University. Family Resource Centers provide access, within a community, to a broad continuum of early childhood and family support services which foster the optimal development of children and families.

Service components of the Family Resource Center include:

- Quality Full-Day Child Care and School Readiness Programs
- School-Age Child Care
- Resource and Referral Services
- Families in Training
- Adult Education
- Support and Training for Family Day-Care Providers
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention (Positive Youth Development)

A more detailed description of these components, as well as a listing of current Family Resource Center locations, is attached to this testimony.

We are happy to address any questions you may have, and offer any feedback or further information to this committee – or other agencies – concerning the work of our Family Resource Centers.

We further make a renewed commitment to offering both our adult education and Connecticut Technical High School system as resources to help address this important issue, and are happy to work with you on improving communication between agencies.

# Family Resource Centers

## Family Resource Centers

### What are Family Resource Centers?

The Connecticut Family Resource Center concept promotes comprehensive, integrated, community-based systems of family support and child development services located in public school buildings. This model is based on the "Schools of the 21st Century" concept developed by Dr. Edward Zigler of Yale University.

Family Resource Centers provide access, within a community, to a broad continuum of early childhood and family support services which foster the optimal development of children and families. They offer parent education and training; family support; preschool and school-age child care; teen pregnancy prevention (positive youth development services); and family day-care provider training. Family Resource Centers provide:

- quality child care;
- physical accessibility in public schools;
- hours of operation consistent with family schedule; and
- family support and child care services administered by school or community-based agencies collaborating with schools.

### What is the Philosophy?

Family Resource Centers embody the underlying concept that healthy development and good education begin with access to quality child care and support services from birth. This concept fosters the development of a system for child care and family support that takes advantage of the physical accessibility of the public school. The school is an institution that is known to, recognized by, and accessible to all families. The model offers preschool programs with operating hours that are consistent with parents' schedules. The Connecticut model offers flexibility, in that family support and child-care services can be administered by the school or by community-based agencies on behalf of the school.

Family Resource Centers are expected to prevent an array of childhood and adolescent problems by strengthening effective family management practices and establishing a continuum of child care and support services that children and parents need. By using local public school buildings and resources, Family Resource Centers, with the collaboration of the school system, are able to better prepare children and families for success.

School-based Family Resource Centers collaborate with the many resources in their communities, including child-care providers, School Readiness Councils, local United Ways and service providers of the Departments of Social Services and Children and Families.

This philosophical foundation is designed to provide the best possible start for children and families of all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups living in communities in which Family Resource Centers are located. Like the public school system, Family Resource Centers provide a common ground for all families to benefit from the services offered, and a unique opportunity for families of diverse cultures and backgrounds to share and learn from each other.

### Who is Eligible for Services?

All families who reside in the designated service area, regardless of income, are eligible for services offered by the center. Some services may require a family contribution based on a sliding fee scale established by the center or school.

### What is the Legislative Authority?

Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-4o provides the authorization for Connecticut Family Resource Center Programs.

## What are the Service Components?

Centers must provide or collaborate with existing agencies to offer the following services:

### ❖ Quality Full-Day Child Care and School Readiness Programs

Quality full-day child care and school readiness are services offered year-round for children ages three to five who are not enrolled in school. This service and the school-age child-care component operate on a sliding fee scale. Centers must be licensed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health and are expected to be accredited or in the process of being accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children or other accrediting agencies recognized by the State Department of Education.

Preschool programs must be in compliance with all state statutes and regulations governing child care and, in the case of the school readiness program, in compliance with the standards set for programs pursuant to Section 10-16p, as amended.

### ❖ School-Age Child Care

This component is offered for children enrolled in school up to the age of 12 for before and after regular school hours and on a full-day basis during school holidays and school vacation. This service is offered from 7:00 a.m. until school starts and from the end of the school day until 6:00 p.m., and is in operation full-time (7:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.) during the summer and when school is not in session.

### ❖ Resource and Referral Services

Family Resource Centers, by their location and access to families, have established themselves as a primary resource and referral service for issues concerning the well-being of families. Support services are provided to parents of newborn infants to ascertain their needs and provide them with referrals to other services and organizations and, if necessary, education in parenting skills.

### ❖ Families in Training

This component provides, within available appropriations, community support services to expectant parents and parents of children under the age of 3. Such services shall include, but not be limited to, providing information and advice to parents on their child's language, cognitive, social and motor development, visiting a participant's home on a regular basis, organizing group meetings at the center for neighborhood parents of young children and providing a reference center for parents who need special assistance or services. The program shall provide for the recruitment of parents to participate in such programs.

### ❖ Adult Education

This component offers a range of adult education opportunities, including parent training and adult education, support and educational services to parents with children who are participants of the child-care services of the program and who are interested in obtaining a high school diploma or its equivalent. Parents and their preschool-age children may attend classes together in parenting and child-rearing skills so as to promote the mutual pursuit of education while enhancing parent-child interaction. English as a Second Language (ESL) and Basic Skills may also be offered through this component.

### ❖ Support and Training for Family Day-Care Providers

A continuum of child-care opportunities are provided for families. The staff of the center offer training and technical assistance and other support to providers in the community and serve as an information and referral system for other childcare needs or coordinate such systems as may already exist in the community.

### ❖ Teen Pregnancy Prevention (Positive Youth Development)

The Family Resource Center provides a teen pregnancy prevention program to adolescents emphasizing responsible decision-making and communication skills. Aimed at children in Grades 4 through 6, this component offers a range of recreational and educational opportunities targeted at preventing teen pregnancy, substance abuse and school dropouts.

# Connecticut State Department of Education Family Resource Centers 2012-13

(Revised 01-25-13)

## **Bloomfield**

The FRC at Laurel School  
1 Filley Street  
Bloomfield, CT 06002  
TEL: 860-769-5518

## **Branford**

The FRC at Indian Neck School  
12 Melrose Avenue  
Branford, CT 06405  
TEL: 203-315-3799

## **Bridgeport**

The FRC at Cesar A. Batalla Elementary School  
606 Howard Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06605  
TEL: 203-579-8526

The FRC at Dunbar School  
445 Union Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06607  
TEL: 203-576-7194

The FRC at Roosevelt School (@ Swing Space)  
160 Iranistan Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06605  
TEL: 203-275-2198

The FRC at Barnum School  
495 Waterview Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06608  
TEL: 203-275-2388

## **Bristol**

The FRC at South Side School  
21 Tuttle Road  
Bristol, CT 06010  
TEL: 860-584-7812

The FRC at West Bristol School  
500 Clark Avenue  
Bristol, CT 06010  
TEL: 860-584-7815 Ext. 5

The FRC at Greene-Hills School  
718 Pine Street  
Bristol, CT 06010  
TEL: 860-584-7822 Ext. 52143

## **Danbury**

The FRC at Mill Ridge Intermediate School  
1 School Ridge Road  
Danbury, CT 06811  
TEL: 203-790-2896

The FRC at Morris Street School  
28 Morris Street  
Danbury, CT 06810  
TEL: 203-790-2682

## **East Hartford**

The FRC at Silver Lane School  
15 Mercer Avenue  
East Hartford, CT 06118  
TEL: 860-622-5515

The FRC at Hockanum School  
191 Main Street  
East Hartford, CT 06118  
TEL: 860-622-5455

The FRC at Franklin H. Mayberry School  
101 Great Hill Road  
East Hartford, CT 06118  
TEL: 860-622-5737

## **East Haven**

The FRC at D.C Moore School  
82 Elliot Street  
East Haven, CT 06512  
TEL: 203-468-3898

## **East Windsor**

The FRC at Broad Brook Elementary School  
14 Rye Street  
Broad Brook, CT 06016  
TEL: 860-627-9741

## **Enfield**

The FRC at Enfield Street School  
1318 Enfield Street  
Enfield, CT 06082  
TEL: 860-253-5144

# Connecticut State Department of Education Family Resource Centers 2012-13

## **Groton**

The FRC at Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School  
500 Poquonnock Road  
Groton, CT 06340  
TEL: 860-235-1194

## **Hamden**

The FRC at Church Street School  
95 Church Street  
Hamden, CT 06514  
TEL: 203-407-3111

The FRC at Ridge Hill School  
120 Carew Road  
Hamden, CT 06517  
TEL: 203-407-2035 Ext. 28

## **Hartford**

The FRC at Ramon E. Betances School  
42 Charter Oak Boulevard  
Hartford, CT 06105  
TEL: 860-695-2881

The FRC at Martin Luther King, Jr. School  
2 Ridgefield Street  
Hartford, CT 06112  
TEL: 860-695-4013

The FRC at America's Choice at SAND  
1750 Main Street  
Hartford, CT 06120  
TEL: 860-695-5061

The FRC at Latino Studies Academy at Burns  
195 Putnam Street  
Hartford, CT 06106  
TEL: 860-695-2994

The FRC at Maria Sanchez School  
176 Babcock Street  
Hartford, CT 06106  
TEL: 860-695-4983

The FRC at Clark Street School  
75 Clark Street  
Hartford, CT 06120  
TEL: 860-695-3300

## **Hebron**

The FRC at Gilead Hill School  
580 Gilead Street  
Hebron, CT 06248  
TEL: 860-228-9488

## **Killingly**

The FRC at Goodyear Early Childhood Center  
22 Williamsville Road, P.O. Box 218  
Rogers, CT 06263  
TEL: 860-779-6770

## **Manchester**

The FRC at Washington Media Arts Magnet School  
94 Cedar Street  
Manchester, CT 06040  
TEL: 860-647-3330

## **Meriden**

The FRC at John Barry School  
124 Columbia Street  
Meriden, CT 06451  
TEL: 203-237-4743

The FRC at Roger Sherman Elementary  
64 North Pearl Street  
Meriden, CT 06450  
TEL: 203-630-4424

The FRC at Benjamin Franklin School  
426 West Main Street  
Meriden, CT 06451  
TEL: 203-238-2316

## **Middletown**

The FRC at Commodore Macdonough School  
66 Spring Street  
Middletown, CT 06457  
TEL: 860-638-3742

The FRC at Farm Hill School  
390 Ridge Road  
Middletown, CT 06457  
TEL: 860-347-0869

## **Milford**

The FRC at Mathewson School  
466 West River Street  
Milford, CT 06461  
TEL: 203-783-3627

# Connecticut State Department of Education Family Resource Centers 2012-13

## **New Britain**

The FRC at Jefferson School  
140 Horseplain Road  
New Britain, CT 06053  
TEL: 860-224-3193

The FRC at Smalley Academy  
175 West Street  
New Britain, CT 06051  
TEL: 860-612-3312

The FRC at Smith Elementary  
142 Rutherford Street  
New Britain, CT 06051  
TEL: 860-223-8819

## **New Haven**

The FRC at Wexler/Grant School  
55 Foote Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
TEL: 203-503-5621

The FRC at Katherine Brennan School  
200 Wilmot Road  
New Haven, CT 06511  
TEL: 203-946-6171

The FRC at Hill Central School  
140 DeWitt Street  
New Haven, CT 06513  
TEL: 203-946-6155

The FRC at Fair Haven School  
164 Grand Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06519  
TEL: 203-691-2600

The FRC at Ross Woodward Classical Studies Magnet  
185 Barnes Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06513  
TEL: 203-691-3118

## **New London**

The FRC at Jennings School  
50 Mercer Street  
New London, CT 06320  
TEL: 860-447-6050

The FRC at Nathan Hale School  
432 Montauk Avenue  
New London, CT 06320  
TEL: 860-701-6035

## **North Branford**

The FRC at Jerome Harrison Elementary School  
335 Foxon Road  
North Branford, CT 06471  
TEL: 203-484-4243

## **Norwalk**

The FRC at Fox Run Elementary School  
228 Fallow Street  
Norwalk, CT 06854  
TEL: 203-899-2326

The FRC at Side by Side Charter School  
10 Chestnut Street  
Norwalk, CT 06854  
TEL: 203-857-0306

The FRC at Naramake Elementary School  
16 King Street  
Norwalk, CT 06851  
TEL: 203-899-2900

## **Norwich**

The FRC at Wequonnoc School  
155 Providence Street  
Taftville, CT 06380  
TEL: 860-823-4286

The FRC at John B. Stanton Elementary  
386 New London Turnpike  
Norwich, CT 06360  
TEL: 860-892-9571

## **Plainfield**

The FRC at The Early Childhood Center  
651 Norwich Road  
Plainfield, CT 06374  
TEL: 860-564-6411

## **Plainville**

The FRC at Linden Street School  
69 Linden Street  
Plainville, CT 06062  
TEL: 860-793-6304

## **Plymouth**

The FRC at Plymouth Center School  
107 North Street  
Plymouth, CT 06782  
TEL: 860-283-6167

# Connecticut State Department of Education Family Resource Centers 2012-13

## **Stonington**

The FRC at West Broad Street School  
131 West Broad Street  
Pawcatuck, CT 06379  
TEL: 860-536-0608

## **Stratford**

The FRC at Stratford Academy/Johnson House  
Johnson House - 719 Birdseye Street  
Stratford, CT 06615  
TEL: 203-381-6992

## **Tolland**

The FRC at Birch Grove Primary School  
247 Rhodes Road  
Tolland, CT 06084  
TEL: 860-870-6750

## **Torrington**

The FRC at Vogel-Wetmore School  
68 Church Street  
Torrington, CT 06790  
TEL: 860-489-8552

## **Vernon**

The FRC at Maple Street School  
20 Maple Street  
Vernon, CT 06066  
TEL: 860-875-5771

## **Waterbury**

The FRC at H.S. Chase School  
40 Woodtick Road  
Waterbury, CT 06705  
TEL: 203-573-6646

The FRC at Woodrow Wilson School  
235 Birch Street  
Waterbury, CT 06704  
TEL: 203-573-6664

The FRC at Jonathan Reed Elementary School  
33 Griggs Street  
Waterbury, CT 06704  
TEL: 203-574-8180 Ext. 102

## **West Hartford**

The FRC at Charter Oak Academy  
425 Oakwood Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06110  
TEL: 860-233-4701

## **Putnam**

The FRC at Putnam Elementary School  
33 Wicker Street  
Putnam, CT 06260  
TEL: 860-963-6940

## **Stafford Springs**

The FRC at West Stafford School  
153 West Stafford Road  
Stafford Springs, CT 06076  
TEL: 860-684-6927

## **Stamford**

The FRC at Rogers International Magnet  
202 Blachley Road  
Stamford, CT 06902  
TEL: 203-323-0681

The FRC at Westover School

412 Stillwater Avenue  
Stamford, CT 06902  
TEL: 203-975-9559

## **West Haven**

The FRC at Savin Rock Community School  
50 Park Street  
West Haven, CT 06516  
TEL: 203-931-4739

## **Winchester**

The FRC at Batcheller Early Education Center  
201 Pratt Street  
Winsted, CT 06098  
TEL: 860-379-0828

## **Windham**

The FRC at North Windham School  
112 Jordan Lane  
North Windham, CT 06256  
TEL: 860-465-2592

The FRC at Natchaug School @ Kramer Building  
322 Prospect Street  
Willimantic, CT 06226  
TEL: 860-465-2396

## **Windsor**

The FRC at Oliver Ellsworth School  
730 Kennedy Road  
Windsor, CT 06095  
TEL: 860-687-2070