



Middletown School Readiness Council

Shaping Our Children's School Success

Testimony Presented to the Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly February 24, 2014

Senator Beth Bye, Representative Toni Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the Governor's proposed budget. It is a great budget for children!

We support the movement towards universal preschool in Connecticut and a five year plan to get there. Going forward, we must be mindful of the need for flexible funding in this plan so that we reach all of Connecticut's children in need.

We applaud the inclusion of funding increases for slot expansion and long overdue rate increases for School Readiness and State-Funded centers and the increases in Care4kids rates for licensed centers and family day care homes. They are essential to maintain and improve program quality.

We support the creation and funding of the Office of Early Childhood, as it will be instrumental in the coordination and implementation of new and existing early childhood programs.

The Middletown School Readiness Council, a member of the CT Early Childhood Alliance

Daniel Drew, Mayor
Dr. Patricia Charles, Superintendent of Schools
Ed Bonilla, Middlesex United Way, Co-Chair
Dr. Alice Torres, Area Cooperative Education Services, Early Head Start, Co-Chair
Monica Belyea, Middlesex Hospital Family Advocacy Program
Sheila Daniels, Board of Education
Christine Fahey, School Readiness Coordinator
Elizabeth Fraser, Adult Education Even Start Program
James Gaudreau, Principal, Wilbert Snow School
Lisa Golebiewski, Director, CRT Head Start Program
Tina Gomes, Special Projects, Manager & Budget Analyst to the Mayor
Izzi Greenberg, Middlesex Coalition for Children
Beverly Lawrence, CT Parent Power
Dr. Jerome Long, Grandparent
Susan Macary, Parent
Donna Marino, Community Partnership Coordinator
Dr. Cliff O'Callahan, Pediatrician, Middlesex Family Medicine Residency Program
Christine O'Grady, Child FIRST, Middlesex Hospital
Ann Perzan, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education
Kitty Robinson, Children's Department Head, Russell Library
Dr. Robert Rosenbaum, Chair, PIMMS, Wesleyan University
Susan Sienkiewicz, Dept. of Children and Families
Amy Waterman, Director, Family Resource Centers