

I am writing on behalf of Bill 425, An Act concerning State Education Resource Center. As an administrator in the Southington Public Schools, I would frequently attend in-service training programs at SERC on topics relevant to improving teacher skills in working with children in our district. Their knowledge and professionalism always impressed our staff and made them very enthusiastic about returning to the classroom to implement these new strategies. SERC became an excellent resource for the staff in Southington. Many new initiatives were implemented with true fidelity after working with the Consultants at SERC.

When I retired in 2002, I was very fortunate to be able to work as an External Consultant for SERC within the areas of Early Intervention and Special Education initiatives. Teams from SERC worked with school districts in Connecticut and developed an on-going relationship with schools. The staff at SERC became the experts with many unfunded mandates directed at school systems. Large percentages of school districts attended workshops given by the Consultants from SERC. The Library at SERC also became an excellent resource for classroom teachers from all over the state.

When the mandates became a reality for school districts, the Consultants worked very closely with the personnel at the State Department of Education as well as the RESCS from around the state in the implementation of these mandates. As an external consultant, I was able to work within school districts and staff from individual schools to develop programs meeting their individual needs in relation to the mandates. With limited funding, unfortunately, my involvement as an external consultant was diminished.

State Education Resource Center has become a necessary agency to assist school districts around the State implement many new programs including testing, common core, teacher evaluation as well as providing a place for parents to obtain information on the programs that affect their own children.

I am unable to attend the public hearing on Bill 425 on March 12th, however, I would be available to answer any questions that you may have regarding my personal involvement with the State Education Resource Center. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anthony D'Angelo
Coordinator of Special Education (retired) External Consultant, SERC Member of the Task
Force for Unfunded Mandates

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