

Bill No. 425: *An Act Concerning the State Education Resource Center*

I would like to lend my voice in support of this bill concerning the State Education Resource Center. During my 42 years in education in the State of Connecticut, I have seen first-hand SERC's commitment to equity and excellence for all of Connecticut's children. For the last seven years, I have been privileged to be a direct part of that work as an external consultant for the agency.

SERC works successfully with districts and schools across the state to help them improve instruction and the delivery of services to students and their families. They introduce and train Connecticut educators in leading edge initiatives to help them improve school climate and outreach to families: Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS), a school climate/culture initiative; Welcoming Walkthrough, helping schools to be more inclusive of all families; Scientifically Research-Based Interventions (SRBI) to target appropriate instructional supports to students who need them; Courageous Conversations to deepen educators' understanding about racial factors in academic performance; and the State Personnel Development Grant, an all-inclusive program which combines and aligns all of these initiatives to help close the achievement gap. These are but a sampling of the projects, in which SERC is engaged. It is initiatives such as these that make a meaningful difference in a school's ability to transform educational delivery to *all* of students, something that is close to the heart of all Connecticut's educators and citizens.

It is for these reasons that I support the passage of Bill No. 425. Our state needs to enable SERC to continue its important work in working with schools to provide greater equity and academic excellence to all of our students. There is no other agency that has this *statewide* commitment. SERC is essential in helping our educational institutions to continue their efforts to close the achievement gap and provide a world-class education to all of our students.

Thank you,
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