

TESTIMONY
H.B. No. 5519 AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT INTERNSHIPS
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PRINCIPAL MALONEY HIGH SCHOOL
MARCH 12, 2014

The leadership team of Francis T. Maloney which represents students and faculty strongly supports the enactment of H.B. No. 5519 AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT INTERNSHIPS for the following reasons.

- Student Success Plans are required under Public Act No. 11-135, Section 2(j) ". . . each local and regional board of education shall create a student success plan for each student enrolled in a public school, beginning in grade six. Such student success plan shall include a student's career and academic choices in grades six to twelve, inclusive." Student Success Plans include student goals relative to academic, social/emotional development and career planning. Student internships would allow schools to incorporate career exploration activities in meaningful ways, helping to achieve the goal that all students are college and career ready upon graduation from high school.
- Local not-for-profit, for profit and governmental agencies have expressed an interest in and commitment to supporting students develop valuable job skills. As students are still developing skills, most employers will realize a greater cost than benefit to working with our students as interns. The additional cost of paying student interns impedes the likelihood of this opportunity, especially given the current state of our economy.
- The Framework for 21st Century Learning, Life and Career Skills state that "Today's life and work environments require far more than thinking skills and content knowledge. The ability to navigate the complex life and work environments in the globally competitive information age requires students to pay rigorous attention to developing adequate life and career skills." To develop these skills we must provide students with opportunities to experience real world work settings in order to apply, practice and develop 21st Century skills.
- Our students are engaged in learning activities that align with the CCSS. The Meriden Public School District has invested resources for the acquisition of career and college readiness skills, including the development of Personalized Learning Experiences (PLEs), coordinated by a Personalized Learning Coordinator. These PLEs allow students to pursue an area of interest or explore a potential career path. As we reform secondary education to include anytime, anywhere learning, it will benefit our students to extend the learning beyond the classroom and make connections to the world of work through student internships.
- We support clearing the hurdles to allow student internships opportunities through limiting liability of our district partners.
- Additionally, we would encourage changes in legislation to allow students to participate in non-paid internships with not-for-profit, for-profit and governmental agencies. We suggest that the criteria applied to non-paid internships for college-level internships, apply to high school students as well. These criteria are listed in the United States Department of Labor Fact Sheet 71: Internship Programs Under The Fair Labor Standards Act.

1. The internship, even though it includes actual operation of the facilities of the employer, is similar to training which would be given in an educational environment;
 2. The internship experience is for the benefit of the intern;
 3. The intern does not displace regular employees, but works under close supervision of existing staff;
 4. The employer that provides the training derives no immediate advantage from the activities of the intern; and on occasion its operations may actually be impeded;
 5. The intern is not necessarily entitled to a job at the conclusion of the internship; and
 6. The employer and the intern understand that the intern is not entitled to wages for the time spent in the internship.
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