

# Watertown Board of Education

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**Donnah A. Rochester**  
**Director of Student Services**

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Testimony by Donnah Rochester, Director of Student Services  
IN SUPPORT OF Bill No. 425: An Act Concerning the State Education Resource Center  
Before the Education Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly – March 12, 2014

The State Education Resource Center (SERC) is an invaluable source of support as a service provider to Connecticut schools through dissemination of information, the provision of professional development and technical assistance. Given the current state of affairs and climate in public education with school reform; the shift in state standards, the state assessment, and teacher evaluation and the impact on teachers, related service providers, administrators, and most importantly our children and families; school districts need access to high-quality professional development and technical assistance. Therefore, I believe SERC in accordance with Bill No. 425, should be established as a quasi-public agency.

When I was a special education teacher I worked in an urban district that SERC provided technical assistance to. I also worked at SERC as an Education Consultant for just over three years, and in my current role I have contracted a variety of services with SERC. I have personally and professionally benefitted from the work conducted by this agency. I know that countless other educators and para-educators have also gained new learning and deepened their understanding about best practices and legislation that impact the day-to-day work they do for Connecticut's children and families. Therefore, I urge the Education Committee to support Bill No. 425.

Respectfully submitted,

Donnah A. Rochester