

TESTIMONY
H.B. No. 5519 AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT INTERNSHIPS
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The CT Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) which represents the superintendents of schools in CT along with over a hundred school system central office administrators is strongly supports the enactment H.B. No 5519 AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT INTERNSHIPS for the following reason.

For CT's school systems to meet the expectation that **EVERY CHILD** will learn what they need to know and be able to do to lead decent and productive lives, the systems need to move from a *one size fits all children* approach to a student-centered or personalized approach. For this approach to be implemented successfully, structures need to be put in place for children to engage in learning outside the confines of the school building and the traditional school day. Student internships that are components of a child's learning plan that has been approved by and will be monitored by a certified teacher are an effective strategy for moving learning outside these confinements.

H.B. 5519 addresses successfully one of the major impediments that presently exist for the successful implementation of student internships. This is the fear that the institutions that cooperate with school districts to establish student internships will incur too great a degree of liability.

There is another impediment to the successful implementation of student internships that might need to be also addressed. It is apparently unclear whether private businesses that work with school systems to establish student internships have to pay the students for their time of internships. If the pay requirement does exist, it is a major impediment to the implementation of student internships. To require private businesses to have to pay students for time spent at the businesses as a component of an approved educational plan when those businesses are civic minded enough to provide internships in the first place is counter productive.

So, CAPSS urges the Legislature to clarify whether children who engage in student internships in private businesses have to be paid and if clarification is necessary, amend H.B. No. 5519 by removing this impediment to student internships.