

Dear Member of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Linett Talamona and I have been a social worker for the Middletown Board of Education for thirty-two years. I am also a Middletown resident. I'm writing to you today to request your support in reinstating funding for the Family School Connection Program from the Office of Early Childhood at Bielefield Elementary School and Snow Elementary School. Family School Connection is a unique program that supports families through home visiting services, and encourages parent involvement in schools. Governor Malloy stated on more than one occasion that he wanted to support programs that connected families with schools to increase student achievement. Family School Connection is a program that does exactly that, and has been very successful.

According to data from Safe Schools/Healthy Students, almost one-fourth (23%) of our student population received mental health services during the 2013 – 2014 school year. Family School Connection plays a big role in connecting families with mental health services and assisting them with the process. Knowing that the program has had a positive impact in providing critical care to children and families at risk, the State should be looking to increase the budget so that the program can be extended to all Middletown Schools, kindergarten through High School.

Please consider the impact that your decision will have on the lives of our children and families, and reinstate or increase the budget for this valuable program. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at Snow School 860 347-2579 on Monday, Tuesday or Friday and Wesley School 860 344-0381 on Wednesday or Thursday.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read my concerns, and please continue to put our children first with your vote.

Sincerely,

Linett Talamona, A.C.S.W., L.C.S.W.