

Colleen Brennan

- Resident of Hebron
- Parent of 2 CREC Museum Academy Students
- Teacher in Glastonbury Public Schools

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Secondary Education
Public Hearing

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Thank you Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann, my Hebron Representative Gayle Mulligan and other members of the Committee for this opportunity to speak. My name is Colleen Brennan. I have 2 sons who attend CREC Museum Academy and am employed as an elementary teacher in Glastonbury Public Schools. I am seeking full funding for the CREC Magnet schools.

Some may wonder why I choose to send my boys to a magnet school when my community offers a fine public education system. Although I concur about the quality of Hebron's schools, CREC Museum Academy provides my boys with educational opportunities not currently available in my community school. The two benefits that are most compelling are differentiation and diversity.

The diversity achieved in CREC Magnet schools creates the reality of our increasingly global society. Living in a very homogeneous town, my boys, Charlie, 8, and Harrison, 7, would not benefit from learning first hand about diverse cultures. At CREC Museum Academy, they are developing the understanding and knowledge of different people and cultures in our society; which is critical to producing a more unified and accepting society.

CREC's instructional model of two teachers in every classroom is the key to ensuring differentiation. In our current educational structure, students with numerous behavioral and intellectual challenges are mainstreamed into classrooms; often without the teacher support of previous years. I also believe mainstreaming students is beneficial to producing a more unified and accepting society, but struggle, as a parent and educator, with the decrease in classroom support given the increase in prevalence of underlying issues. My quiet and well behaved son, Charlie, would likely slip through the cracks and my gregarious and quick son, Harrison, would likely be problematic.

My husband and I did not feel that the issues of diversity and differentiation would be adequately addressed in our community school. We also find the Museum Studies focus to provide engaging and active learning. Please support the sustainability of the high quality CREC magnet schools as an option for families like ours.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cordiali saluti
Colleen Brennan