

March 14, 2016

**State of Connecticut
General Assembly**

Testimony for the Education Committee regarding Raised H.B. 5308 – An Act Concerning a General Education Multi-tiered System of Instruction and Supports

Submitted by: Ingrid Canady, Interim Executive Director, State Education Resource Center (SERC)

SERC is a quasi-public agency formed under CT General Statutes to promote educational equity and excellence, which aligns with our agency's vision. Since 1969, SERC has supported the CT State Department of Education by providing resources, technical assistance, professional learning opportunities, and a specialized library for educators, families, and the community.

SERC strongly supports Raised Bill 5308 to sustain the momentum of CT's SRBI Framework and to provide additional guidance regarding district-wide implementation of multi-tiered systems of support for the benefit of all learners. SERC was instrumental in developing the original 2008 SRBI framework and has co-coordinated the implementation of SRBI on behalf of the CT State Department of Education (CSDE) Bureau of Special Education. We are eager to continue in partnership with the CSDE to support the fidelity of SRBI/MTSS implementation through the revision of guidelines and the provision of high-quality, comprehensive professional development as outlined in the twelve recommendations of this Bill.

Through SERC's coordination of CT's State Personnel Development Grant (www.ctserc.org/spdg), we have observed evidence of effective SRBI implementation in over 75 schools (PreK-12) across the state, including a dozen high schools. Participating schools have identified the structures and practices necessary to provide a continuum of literacy and behavioral supports to facilitate student success and eliminate gaps in achievement for students with disabilities, students of color, and students acquiring English.

Our experiences with research to practice indicate the value and importance of regular data analysis to effectively identify students' needs and provide the instruction necessary for all students to be successful. We recommend an addendum to Raised Bill 5308 to include the development of a common electronic platform to support data management and the efficient triangulation of data—which would be a great support to districts and educators across the state.

SERC's focus on equity and excellence in education and reputation for quality professional development are directly aligned with the underlying principles of CT's SRBI Framework, which has been highly regarded locally and nationally by renowned experts and researchers in the field. On behalf of SERC, I want to thank you for your consideration of Raised Bill 5308 that will surely benefit students, families, and teachers throughout the state.