

Dear Members of the Education Committee,

As the Supervisor of the Department of English Language Learners Programs for the New Haven Public Schools I ask that you strongly consider passing SB175.

The Seal of Biliteracy is in close alignment with the Position Statement on the Education of Students Who are English Language Learners passed by the Connecticut State Board of Education.

In addition, this legislation has the capacity to strengthen and lend force to dual language programs currently being implemented across the district and the state. Thus, providing additional parental demand for programs that reward their children with an additional merit upon graduation having demonstrated proficiency in two languages.

Furthermore, last year's legislation increasing the amount of up to sixty months that a student is eligible to participate in a bilingual program, supports the development of students becoming bilingual as it validates the languages that these students bring with them.

This is a win-win situation for students, parents and districts. Therefore, I urge that you vote for the passing of SB175.

Thanking you for your consideration,

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