



Bradley School

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Mr. Mario Ciccarini, Principal

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*At Bradley School we leave our P.A.W.S. on everything we do. We **P**ersevere, **A**ct Responsibly, **W**ork and Play Safely, and **S**how Respect. These are the characteristics that define who we are and will help us become positive role models in our school and community.*

March, 16, 2021

Dear Members of the Education Committee:

My name is Mario Ciccarini. I currently serve as the principal of Bradley School in Derby, CT, one of the state's Alliance School Districts. We are also an Opportunity School District. We have been part of the CK3LI initiative for a number of years, much to the benefit of our students. Adult learning opportunities through the program have also helped build the capacity of our staff to better meet the academic needs of our very diverse student population.

I am writing you in support of the Right to Read Act (H.B. 6620). Connecticut has one of the largest reading opportunity gaps in the country. This gap affects thousands of children across Connecticut, especially students from disadvantaged backgrounds, many of which we serve in our own school district. The long-term effects of the reading opportunity gap are significant. The negative impact of this gap on academic, social, emotional, and economic outcomes is well documented and something we take very seriously in our district. Connecticut has made important investments in supporting reading success for all students through CK3LI, CT's Literacy Model, and other efforts. For our school, these efforts include:

- Providing teacher, interventionist, and principal training in research-based reading instruction.
- The development of family engagement modules in literacy, including Family Literacy events after school.
- The implementation of a comprehensive K-3 reading model with the goal of ensuring reading success for all students.

Thanks in large part to partnerships with Hill Literacy and Literacy How, we have strengthened our tiered intervention model and seen improvements in literacy for all our students. On behalf of the Bradley School community, we strongly urge you to consider H.B. 6620, "An Act Concerning the Right to Read and Addressing Opportunity Gaps and Equity in Public Schools."

Respectfully submitted.

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