

MARCH 17, 2021

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING
HB 6621: AAC ASSORTED REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES
SB 1032: AAC VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES
SB 1034: AN ACT CONCERNING MINORITY TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

TESTIMONY from Tim Sullivan, Superintendent of CREC Schools

Honorable Chairs, Ranking Members, and distinguished members of the Education Committee. I am Tim Sullivan, Superintendent of CREC magnet schools. I am here today to ask for your support in funding the CT Teacher Residency Program and bills creating incentives for the recruitment and retention of teachers of color as well as to support a 3% increase in magnet school tuition.

In 2019, CREC requested a 5% increase in statutory funding to prevent major increases to school district tuition rates, which are unavoidable without state funding. Thankfully, the legislature approved a 2% increase in the statutory payment for magnet schools statewide in the biennial budget ([Public Act No. 19-117](#)). This increase provided short-term relief, but did not cover the full funding need. *In lieu of a long-term Sheff magnet enrollment and funding structure, CREC needs an annual 3% increase in the magnet school grant.* We have a magnet line because CREC schools do not receive funding through ECS. We are trying to prevent tuition increases to the sending districts. The new RESC per pupil funding amount is now \$10,652, which is 65% of operating costs.

I am advocating on behalf of a statewide Teacher Residency Program. The growth and development of the CREC Teacher Residency Program has been awe inspiring. The program is now poised to make a major impact on the ongoing problem of getting Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) in front of our children. All that is needed is some well spent dollars to support its growth and expansion.

In the last two years, we have had 25 residents in our CREC magnet schools. Over 200 students of all ethnicities are looking up to a professional educator who may be the first educator who reflects their ethnicity. They are seeing the world differently as a result of the small, but significant change of having a BIPOC teacher educating them. Not only will this group of students benefit from that experience, but 1,000's of future students will have the same life changing experience.

While we appreciate the funding mechanism included in the bill, it overlooks the number of current and future partner districts who are not Alliance districts. Currently, 17 of our 25 partner districts are NOT Alliance districts and would be ineligible to benefit from the legislation as drafted. *In lieu of the funding mechanism included in the bill as drafted, we urge the committee to incorporate the \$4.5 million into a general fund line item to be included within the SDE budget for purposes of funding this program annually for all districts.* This funding would support four planned cohorts for up to 60 residents of color starting their Alternate Route to Certification this summer. For more information, www.ct-trp.org.

I hope you will incorporate these vitally important changes to support our teachers and our students in the state.

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