

Education Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-136 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE STATE.

Vote Date: 2/27/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/20/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Education Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The reason for the bill is to mandate that the Department of Education conducts a study of public schools. Through these studies, the Department of Education can learn more about the public-school atmosphere.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Charlene M. Russell Tucker, Commissioner, Department of Education

This testimony states that the Department recognizes that these proposals are placeholder bills, however, we must emphasize that if the Department is required to conduct two additional studies related to the state of our schools and public education in Connecticut, we would require additional resources that are not currently included in the Governor's proposed budget.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Dawn-Marie Callahan

The individual claims that the bill provides opportunity for schools to keep up with modern child development research and strengthens practices fundamental for student's success. They state that supporting SB00136 is an opportunity to align Connecticut's education system with the best available scientific evidence and proven global practices. Prioritizing visual arts education, recess, handwriting instruction, developmentally appropriate schedules,

and balanced technology use, reflects well-established research on how children learn most effectively.

Eugenio Ayala, School Counselor, New Britain High School

This individual says that if we do not receive enough financial support from the state, the proposed budget for next year will not be sufficient to maintain our current level of operation, and students will suffer.

Jessica Spar, School Counselor, Hartford Public Schools

In this testimony, Jessica states that supporting this bill will allow school counselors to have the resources they need to support students through all phases of high school.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Sarah Dzialo

This testimony claims that this bill represents another expansion of state authority over local schools. Centralized mandates on curriculum, assessments, and administrative processes diminish local control, limit innovation, and reduce parental authority.

Patricia Pogmore

In this testimony, Patricia states that this legislation as it does not say what is being studied. She states that this generalized legislation avoids transparency in costs and can provide a vehicle for a claimed hidden "political" agenda.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Anonymous 12 Anonymous 12, Instructional Coach, New Britain Schools

This individual urges the state to increase funding for urban schools. They state that they are often personally funding their own basic classroom supplies and further budget reductions will only intensify the workload of already burnt-out teachers.

Naomi Nova, Vice President, Special Education Equity for Kids (SEEK)

This testimony focuses on the need for cameras in self-contained classrooms, the need to clarify the definitions of restraint and seclusion, the need to ban the use of seclusion in schools, and the need to guarantee parents the right to have their experts observe in school.

Reported by: ReAnna Jean Adams

Date: 3/5/26