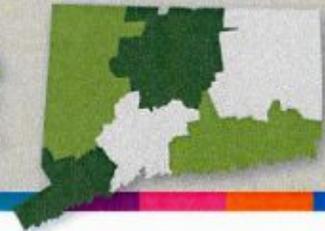


# RESC Alliance

CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE OF REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTERS



## TESTIMONY TO APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

ACES  
CES  
CREC  
EASTCONN  
EdAdvance  
LEARN

March 1, 2021

Good evening Honorable Chairmen, Ranking Members, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Dr. Thomas Danehy, I am the Executive Director of Area Cooperative Educational Services. I am here to speak on behalf of the RESC Alliance, the organization representing regional educational service centers which operate state-wide. As you may know, Regional Educational Service Centers or RESCs are not-for-profit, fee for service public education agencies that support the educational needs of our member school districts. Established by C G S 10-66 more than 45 years ago, for “the purpose of cooperative action to furnish programs and services”, we have provided cost efficient, cooperative solutions that have addressed educational needs and supported savings for our member school districts. We operate independently, serving our regional member school districts in our six regions—ACES, CES, CREC, EASTCONN, ED ADVANCE, and LEARN. We also work together as an alliance, the six RESCs acting as one, as a statewide network in the procurement of resources and delivery of services for our members.

We urge the legislature to consider the following adjustments to the Governor’s budget proposal:

1. Teacher Diversity and Recruitment: Allocate \$3.6 million (approx. 80% of needed funds) to ensure that approximately 60 new teachers of color are hired across Connecticut annually.

The State’s commitment to increasing the racial, ethnic, and linguistic diversity of our teaching workforce is laudable, but more needs to be done. As of the 2019-20 school year, educators of color are under represented (9.6%) relative to the number of students of color (39.6%) in the state. CREC’s Teacher Residency Program has demonstrated early success that should be expanded upon with investment from the state. The RESC Alliance is prepared to expand this program statewide. However, support from the state to do so is necessary. Attached to my written testimony is a fact sheet on this program for the committee’s information.



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2. Magnet School Funding: Enact a 5% increase for magnet schools across the state in order to sustain Connecticut's high-quality, integrated, regional education programs for the over 39,000 magnet school students.

The promise of magnet schools was to ensure that families throughout Connecticut were offered high-quality, integrated school options for their children's education. These schools successfully continue to provide high-quality and diverse learning environments with an equitable education that increases student achievement and reduces racial, ethnic, and economic isolation through regional programming. Magnet schools require reliable funding from the state. An increase of 5% in tuition across the state will continue the promise as will an increase in seats of 3%.

Thank you for your consideration on these matters.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas Daney  
Executive Director

#### Background on RESCs:

All RESCs are governed by Boards that consist of locally elected Board members from our member districts from each of our regions. We are dedicated to supporting local school districts to improve teaching and learning. We regularly facilitate partnerships with many different stakeholders and are dedicated to providing high quality and affordable solutions that address regional educational needs. All RESCs provide many common services, while each also has specializations that are driven by the regional needs and interests. Our services are responsive to local needs and interdistrict opportunities. Our services are across a broad spectrum from special education and related services, to professional development for educators to school improvement, curriculum development and coaching, early childhood programs and services, and magnet schools, to name a few.

