

Remarks of Bonnie Hole  
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Longfellow School, Bridgeport, CT

Before the State Department of Education and State Board of Education regarding  
proposed changes to certification in Teacher Leader

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Good afternoon. My name is Bonnie Hole and I am the Numeracy Coach at Longfellow school in Bridgeport, which is located across the street from the P.T. Barnum Public Housing Project, where many of our students and their families live.

For eight years, I taught middle-grades math and collaborated with other teachers to increase learning at Longfellow, which under NCLB had been identified for five years as a school needing improvement. Last year I became the Numeracy Coach, and for the first time, Longfellow achieved Safe Harbor. We also received ConnCAN top-ten rankings for both performance gains and improvement. This did not happen by my efforts alone; but it also did not happen by chance.

Without changes, your proposed regulations will endanger the high-priority work that today's coaches are already doing in schools like Longfellow. Requiring all current coaches to partake of a variety of graduate-level courses and field experiences to satisfy a particular reform agenda will inevitably take time, energy, -- and perhaps