

Remarks of Kim Cologero

Literary Support Specialist

Hart Magnet Elementary School, Stamford

Before the State Dept. of Education and State Board of Education

Concerning the proposed changes to certification in Literary Specialist

April 6, 2010

Good afternoon. My name is Kim Cologero and I'm a Literary Support Specialist in Stamford. My testimony is in regard to the proposed Literacy Specialist Certificate. I oppose the proposed certificate for many reasons. As a literacy specialist you not only work with students and teachers, but you also are given a very broad range of responsibilities that would make it difficult to list under one certificate. Also, for those of us who would have to return to school for required coursework, it would be a discouragement to seek the endorsement, as with the current economy being at an all time low it would definitely be a hardship for people as many of them might not be able to afford the costs incurred to meet the requirements for the certification.

Currently, literacy specialists receive numerous amounts of professional development in current literacy practices and research based programs that educate us better than a classroom course would to effectively do our jobs. I do not feel that obtaining an additional degree with an additional certification would increase a person's ability to perform their job more effectively or be more qualified for the job than they currently are. Instead of requiring teachers in this position to obtain yet another certification, it

would be more beneficial for them if there were state-wide trainings for the position so that there would be a general consistency across all of the districts or even district-wide trainings for each individual district so that there is a consistency within the district.

Thank you.