



DANNEL P. MALLOY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

March 28, 2012

Dear colleague:

As you head into session today, I want to take a minute of your time to put a fine point on a concern I have regarding the debate we've been having on education reform.

We all seem to agree on a few core principles – principles that must serve as the foundation upon which we build real reform as we work to fix what's broken in our public schools.

We agree that too many of our schools are failing too many of our children.

We agree that the expansion of early childhood education must be a central element of real reform.

We agree that failing schools require special intervention if we want our students to learn and succeed in life.

And we agree we want the best teachers in all our classrooms.

But here's my concern: while I think everyone understands that doing nothing is not an option, I am concerned that some people think we can wait another year, or longer, to tackle the big, tough issues.

Let me clear about this: we can't wait. If we wait, we are consigning too many of our children to another year in which they will continue to fall behind their peers. The farther behind they fall, the less likely they are to ever catch up. And if they don't catch up, well, we all know their chances of building a good life for themselves are slim.

Why would we allow that to occur?

We can't wait to take on reforms that some of our neighbors implemented nearly 10 years ago, reforms that have led their graduation rates to improve while ours continue to decline.

We can't wait to implement an evaluation system that will make sure the good teachers in our system have peers that are their equal.

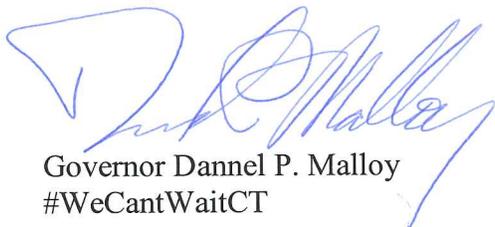
If I seem impatient, it's because I am. I see kids almost every day who I know we're failing because we're sending them into broken parts of our school system. It's got to stop.

I am aware that change is hard, and I am aware that we all have relationships and alliances that make change even more difficult.

But when it comes to education reform, it's time to put the needs of our children ahead of those relationships and alliances. Working together, I believe we can accomplish the needed reforms this session to fix what's broken in our state's public education system.

To those who say we can wait, I respectfully say you're wrong. We can't wait. We've waited long enough.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dannel P. Malloy". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "M".

Governor Dannel P. Malloy
#WeCantWaitCT