

From: [Casey Conetta](#)
To: [StateBoard, SDE](#)
Subject: Stamford Charter School for Excellence Middle School Expansion
Date: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:15:00 PM

Dear Connecticut State Department of Education - To whom it may concern,

My name is Casey Conetta and I am a teacher at Stamford Charter School for Excellence and a Stamford resident. I am in full support of the expansion of Stamford Charter School for Excellence into a full middle school, eventually becoming a Pre-K to 8th grade school. This school and school community is a place for scholars to feel safe, welcome, and successful. In the 2 years that I have been a part of this school, I have seen how deeply the teachers and staff care for each scholar, and the dedication each person has to making their school experience the best that it can be. We are a unique school in that we fully differentiate to meet the needs of each scholar and utilize small group instruction everyday in both math and literacy. Scholars are able to make significant progress in their reading abilities each year because of the high quality, consistent, and targeted small group instruction that occurs daily throughout each grade level. Our school has an academic team that works with the teachers to develop and deliver rigorous instruction to our scholars in a model that has proven to be successful through our SBAC scores, but also through the amount of progress scholars make throughout each year and the pride they feel in their abilities. Scholars come to school happy and ready to learn in an environment that they know will allow them to succeed. There are high expectations for behavior that holds scholars accountable for his or her actions and teaches responsibility, respect and accountability. There is a model in place to consistently communicate with parents of scholars to reinforce behavioral and academic expectations while building relationships with families. I was a teacher in the Stamford Public Schools for 2 years as well, and while there are some very highly skilled and effective teachers and amazing students, there is a clear difference at SCSE. The extended day allows more time for each academic subject and more focus on the foundational skills scholars need.

I believe that the proven success of Stamford Charter School for Excellence and the support of the staff and parents for the school speaks for itself. The Stamford Public School system is overcrowded and underfunded, so there is no reason to oppose an alternative choice of schools. Allowing our scholars to continue their education into an SCSE Middle School should not even be a question. There is a clear plan for success and a path for an underserved student population to be seen, heard, and given a high quality education that will allow them to have unlimited options for their future.

Thank you for your consideration in this important decision,

Casey Conetta