

Remarks of Gail McKenna  
Educational Technology Facilitator  
South Windsor High School, South Windsor, CT

Before the State Dept. of Education and State Board of Education  
concerning the proposed changes to certification in Teacher Leaders.

April 5, 2010

Good afternoon. My name is Gail McKenna and I have been a teacher leader in educational technology at South Windsor High School for over 5 years. As an Apple Distinguished Educator with a master's degree in Educational Computing, I act as a mentor to teachers and students in the use of technology in the classroom. I have advanced knowledge in the creation of the audio and video projects in the classroom, web sites for teachers and students, electronic portfolios, and the use of blogs, wikis and other web 2.0 applications.

I am a veteran teacher with over 30 years experience in South Windsor as a French teacher (my first Master's is in French Language and Literature). I offer very specialized and necessary knowledge and assistance in a critical field, but would not have the desire or interest to pursue yet another degree with course work irrelevant to my role. If this certification proposal succeeds, South Windsor would lose my services and the benefits that go with a lifetime of knowledge and strong relationships within my community.

I believe that the State of Connecticut is rushing towards legislation on this topic without the necessary research and without considering the impact it might have on our students. Thank you.