

Remarks of Lisa L. Jungquist
Math Supplemental Skills Teacher, K-3
Litchfield Public Schools

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

April 27, 2010

Good afternoon. My name is Lisa Jungquist, and I am the Math Supplemental Skills teacher for K-3rd grade students in Litchfield. I would like to comment about the certification proposals for teacher leaders. I feel these should be changed for the following reasons.

Firstly, with the advent and implication of SRBI in Connecticut, I don't see how school districts can be in compliance with the need to service Tier 2 and 3 students if teachers currently serving in those positions are not grandfathered in with the ability to service them. If it was necessary to get an additional degree to keep my current position, I have to wonder, what colleges and universities would have a program designed to fit the certification on such short notice? I also have to wonder why the state now thinks that it is necessary to have elementary teachers specialize in a subject area, when this has never been done in the past; if we are on the Highly Qualified Personnel list, then why is it necessary to further our education, beyond Continuing Education Units? I also have to wonder why the state thinks that sitting in a

classroom can replace the invaluable knowledge gained by an experienced teacher on the job.

Finally, I have to wonder what would happen to those teachers currently serving in these positions, especially those veteran teachers...if they were to pursue the degree (at their own expense, in economically difficult times), would they be guaranteed a position as teacher leaders by their districts when it was completed? In the meantime, what would happen to all of the additional teachers that would be displaced (again, due to restrictive budgets in most towns in the state) if those teacher leaders currently in positions were put back into the classroom? And what would become of the students we are currently servicing? How would classroom teachers who are already stretched to find time to work one on one with students find additional time in their day to meet the rigorous demands of SRBI?

I believe it would make much more sense to make a plan to study what qualifications are necessary for teacher leaders, and discuss a variety of ways to reach those qualifications, especially for veteran teachers. I sincerely hope that the state will look before it leaps on this proposed change, and examine what is needed before making any changes.