

Remarks of Henry Marchand  
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Torrington, Connecticut

Before the State Dept. of Education and State Board of Education  
Concerning the proposed changes to certification in Special Education.

April 27, 2010

Good afternoon. My name is Henry Marchand and I'm a Special Education Teacher and Coordinating Teacher in the Torrington School District

I am concerned regarding the proposed changes to certification of Special Education teachers with particular concern regarding how current teacher certification will be affected. I have been a Special Education teacher for 25 years and wonder what impact this new legislation will have on my certification. I hold a professional educator certificate in Comprehensive Special Education, Grades Pre-K-12 (065), Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 3 (003) and Middle School, Grades 4 through 8 (006).

With these certification I am able to be moved throughout the district and have become a valuable resource for programming for students of all grade levels. With no stipulations regarding the grandfathering of current teachers, I am left to wonder what my role, if any, will be for the last years of my professional life. I have always prided myself on keeping up on most current practices and trends in education and will continue to do so. However, I am worried that the rules will change and I will be left with trying to meet new certification expectations rather than educational practices that benefit students. Please consider what experienced teachers have to offer and do not make regulations regarding us an afterthought or add on. We need to know what our future holds for us professionally.