

Connecticut Businesses Are Lacking Qualified Job Candidates



Say YES to Senate Bill 24 and Education Reform

Connecticut businesses are having a tough time finding qualified job applicants. Statistics show that our state's public schools are failing to provide young people with the basic skills they need to succeed in today's workforce. Each year, the problem gets worse. CBIA supports the Governor's education reform bill, Senate Bill 24, because it will stop and reverse this dangerous long-term trend, by:

Rescuing at-risk students

- ▶ SB 24 gives more children access to quality early childhood education programs;
- ▶ Offers additional help and resources for low income students, students with histories of low academic performance, behavioral/social difficulties, and English language learners;
- ▶ Provides additional training and incentives for teachers and administrators who choose to work in low performing schools.

Fixing broken schools

- ▶ Provides a systematic, intensive approach for intervening and turning around our worst performing schools;
- ▶ Gives those turnaround schools the necessary operational, management, and evaluation resources;

- ▶ Continued funding of turnaround schools contingent on results.

Supporting teachers & leaders

- ▶ SB 24 encourages and rewards teachers, principals, and superintendents for enhancing their skills, fostering student learning, and improving student performance;
- ▶ Connecticut teachers will enter the classroom better trained and better prepared;
- ▶ Fairly evaluates teachers and administrators as true professionals, with more than \$7 million allocated for new development and training programs.

Offering more choices

- ▶ Magnet, agricultural science, charter, and technical high schools receive more funding, including performance-driven grants;

- ▶ Preference in granting/renewing charters to applicant schools that recruit and retain identified student populations;
- ▶ Develops and adopts readiness assessment plans for college and vocational tracks.

Promoting accountability

- ▶ Cuts red tape, giving school districts more flexibility to pursue innovation and increase efficiency;
- ▶ Schools and districts must track how they spend education dollars and measure effectiveness;
- ▶ Adopts new, performance-based evaluation and tenure systems for teachers, principals, and superintendents.

Connecticut's most important economic asset is the skill, innovation and productivity of our workforce. Today's competitive global economy demands that we raise the academic performance of all students and close the achievement gap. Talk with your state legislators as soon as possible. Tell them why it's so important that they support SB 24 in its entirety.

Support SB 24 today!