



CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Kevin D. Case
Superintendent of Schools
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September 12, 2007

Senator Thomas P. Gaffey
Legislative Office Building
Room 3100
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Senator Gaffey:

On behalf of the Canton Board of Education, we are writing to ask for you to discontinue your stance and support of any legislation that would mandate the start of the school year statewide. School year start times are specific and special by town set by Board's of Education who seek input from their stakeholders on everything necessary to improve their District.

In Canton, we have tried start times before and after Labor Day. There was quite a public outcry to remain with a pre-Labor Day start. That protest came from teachers, staff, and parents. They felt a pre-Labor Day start provides the possibility of an earlier June release, depending on snow days. Clearly our Canton residents and staff are more concerned about finishing a bit early in June than starting after Labor Day.

In our discussion of your proposed bill on September 6, 2007, it was unanimous by the Canton Board of Education to instruct both the Superintendent of Schools and the Board Chair to send you a letter of nonsupport. Besides our opinion that we know our town better than the state legislative body, we were also concerned about the State's insertion in local matters by trying to usurp control from local Boards on any issue.

Please reconsider your position. Our well wishes to you as you try and make our education system stronger in other areas.

Sincerely,

Louis M. Daniels
Chair, Canton Board of Education

Kevin D. Case
Superintendent of Schools

pc: Mrs. Mary Tomolonius, First Selectman
Mr. Thomas Herlihy
Mr. Kevin Witkos