

## **Connecticut Parent's Union Educational Plan Policy Recommendations (A View from the Classroom & Community – The Parent's Perspective)**

Do you believe that people who have the most to lose should have a say in the education of their children? Parents do! That is why the Connecticut Parent's Union (CTPU) was founded.

Parents, family and community want to be partners in building our state's and country's future economic and social success.

CTPU's education plan calls on lawmakers to give parents and guardians access to the decision making table that determines the educational fate of their children, as well as to school choice, equitable funding and resources, and access to effective school boards, principals and teachers.

The CT Parent's Union and community members are mostly proposing "unfinished business" policy recommendations:

1. **Reforming School Residency Laws:** *Parents should not be penalized for sending their children to safe and high quality schools, and should be able to choose whatever public school is right for their child, no matter where they live.*
2. **Ending "Educational" Non Therapeutic "Time-Out/Scream Room " Practices**
3. **Reform To School Governance Council Waivers:** *Low performing schools should not be exempt from collaborating with parents and improving their systems overall*
4. **Reform School Pupil Count Funding Practices:** *Move pupil school count from October to January (as previously introduced in 2010 by former state Rep Jason Bartlett )to ensure schools districts are not "pushing out" students into alternative settings after schools are allocated school funding*
5. **Tenure Reform:** *We support Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendants' proposal to revise tenure law to include a rigorous, standards-based review process more closely tied to student learning. After educators show outstanding performance in student learning, they will receive five-year contracts, which districts may or may not renew*
6. **Support Effective Teacher and Principal Preparation Programs:** Ensure future teachers and principals have access to diverse, hands on internship programs

"Education reform means putting kids first when adults are making 'what's best for kids' decisions," said Gwen Samuel, Founder of the Connecticut Parent's Union. "Parents need equal power to help administrators and educators turn around low performing schools. Failing schools should not be an option in the Connecticut education reform plan."