



April 24, 2020

The Honorable Ned Lamont, Governor of Connecticut
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont,

As the Executive Director of the State Education Resource Center (SERC), I want to express my deepest gratitude on behalf of our Board of Directors and our staff for your courageous leadership during these challenging times impacting our nation and our state. We all look forward to the day that we can get back to some of what we once we knew as “normal.”

Leading an essential quasi-public agency dedicated to providing educational professional development services and resources to our Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), has become extremely challenging as a result of COVID-19. SERC was authorized by statute almost 50 years ago to ensure the agency would continue its work of providing professional learning to educators and information to families of students with disabilities. Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 10-357 b specifically states that the agency’s purpose is “...to assist the State Board of Education in the provision of programs and activities that will promote educational equity and excellence...”. During the 2019 legislative session, SERC was also included in PA 19-12 and has taken a leadership role in delivering the Black and Latino Studies curriculum to the legislature.

I am writing this communication with the utmost respect to request that you include SERC as one of the education-related entities that can have access to The Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund. SERC doesn’t receive any direct state funds; our funding sources are derived from federal and state dollars discretionally received through the State Department of Education, other state agencies, and direct contracts with LEAs.

I am deeply concerned that without any fiscal support from the state, this agency that has served Connecticut’s educational community since 1969 is in danger of ceasing operations after June 30, 2020. Closing our doors will jeopardize not only the over fifty years of historical commitment to the educational community within our state but also the fiscal stability of forty committed employees and their families.

I look forward to the opportunity of pleading our case with you directly or with a designated member of your team. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Ingrid M. Canady
Executive Director
State Education Resource Center (SERC)

CC: Dr. Miguel Cardona, Commissioner of Education
George A. Coleman, Chairperson, SERC Board of Directors
Josh Geballe, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Governor
Bobby Gibson, State Representative
Jonathan Harris, Senior Advisor, Office of the Governor
Paul Hinsch, Bureau of Assets Management, Office of Policy and Management
Douglas McCrory, State Senator
Paul Mounds, Jr., Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Charlene Russell-Tucker, Deputy Commissioner of Education
Robert Sanchez, State Representative