

September 14, 2005

Dear Principal:

As part of a statewide initiative to develop a Framework for Connecticut's High Schools, we would like to invite three of your students and one teacher to attend a regional Student Forum. The forum will begin at 8:45 a.m. with registration at 8:15 a.m. and will conclude at 2:45 p.m. We believe that students can make valuable contributions to the school reform process and this Forum is a means for us to hear their voices.

The Student Forum is a full day event during which students are offered the opportunity to share their thoughts on school, make recommendations regarding instruction, and come up with ideas about restructuring schools to increase the level of student interest and engagement. The day will start with a discussion of their perceptions of what schools value based on their observations during a walk around their school. Students are also given time during the Forum to work in groups to design a course or a learning environment for the future and to present their design to the other participants.

We are asking you to identify three students from your school to participate in a Student Forum. We would like the group to be as diverse as possible, so we ask that you invite no more than one honor student/student leader. Once you have identified the three students who will attend, please give them the attached letter which provides more details and outlines an assignment they must complete before the Forum.

We look forward to working with you and hope that we can be a resource for encouraging the inclusion of student voice in the CT's high school reform process. Thanks in advance for encouraging your students to participate in this Forum.

Student Forums will be held in four locations on four different dates. Please select one of the dates and register your three students and one teacher by faxing the enclosed registration form to Wayne and Annie Sweeney at 860.632.1447.

September 29, 2005	Fairfield Ludlowe High School	785 Unquowa Road Fairfield, CT 06824
October 3, 2005	Cromwell High School	Donald Harris Drive Cromwell, CT 06416
October 6, 2005	South Windsor High School	161 Nevers Road South Windsor, CT 06074
October 7, 2005	Education Connection	355 Goshen Road Litchfield, CT 06759

Sincerely,

Wayne Sweeney

Annie Sweeney

Cc: Fran Rabinowitz, Associate Commissioner of Education