



CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
GEORGE A. COLEMAN
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER



July 20, 2009

Mr. Charles B. Tisdale
Executive Director
Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc.
1070 Park Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Dear Mr. Tisdale:

The Connecticut State Department of Education is pleased to provide this letter of support for A.B.C.D.'s Quality Teacher Partnership (QTP) grant application that will extend Total Learning to Higher Education.

A.B.C.D. has partnered with the State Department of Education to improve educational outcomes through the Total Learning Program in Bridgeport Schools and has provided more than \$2,000,000 over the past two years toward this endeavor. Outcomes from the summative evaluation have encouraged the Department that Total Learning is a promising vehicle for closing the achievement gap and is an effective mechanism for providing professional development in high needs schools.

The State is very much interested in the expansion of the initiative to include teacher preparation at institutions of higher education and anticipates the successful implementation of the QTP will increase the pool of teachers who are trained and experienced in meeting the multiple challenges of teaching in high needs, urban school districts.

As Connecticut has one of the largest achievement gaps in the country, and has been exploring a variety of strategies to address this gap, A.B.C.D.'s proposal will help move the State in the right direction and provide a model that will inform both higher education and the public schools.

As in the past, we look forward to our continued collaboration to meet the educational needs of all of our children.

Sincerely,

George A. Coleman
Deputy Commissioner of Education

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