



REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY
Office of the Superintendent
Kevin D. Miller, Ph.D.

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Chair Kelly and Members of the House Education Reform Committee:

I am submitting testimony today as Superintendent of the St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency (St. Clair County RESA) to address several points discussed by the committee associated with House Bill 6291, introduced by Representative Hornberger. HB 6291 was introduced the day before the committee meeting and not on the original committee posting. St. Clair County RESA, nor our representatives in Lansing were not notified that the bill was introduced or that it would be discussed. Had I known, I would have been at the committee meeting to testify. Let me first make it clear that our RESA is committed to providing quality learning experience to every student in the county and working to assist and support every public school in the county. I have spent several months working to building a positive relationship with Landmark Academy to enhance the education opportunities for their students and to save taxpayer dollars. The one-sided testimony presented included several misconceptions and misrepresentations about St. Clair County RESA.

One part of the discussion before this committee appears to have been triggered by "participation in the CTE Middle College." Participation in the CTE Middle College Program is a decision made by local boards of education. To assume that Landmark wasn't participating due to something our RESA has done is totally false. The brochure circulated to members of this committee was disingenuous at best. The brochure was presented to parents at an early September Middle College CTE meeting and Landmark had not yet decided to become a participating district. We are pleased to update the committee that on September 27, Landmark Academy's board adopted a resolution to participate. This is the culmination of a long effort and we believe will be a great benefit to the Landmark students.

The complaint about "fairness" regarding CTE slot selection is really about process, not about actual slots received. Slots are distributed based on a district's percentage of students in the county. Landmark's size has generally been between 2-3 percent of the county over the past decade. Over that time, they have received more than their "fair" share of slots by district size; they're entitled to about 8 slots per year, they've received an average of about 10 slots per year.

The state, and the legislature, has earmarked money through the years, and encouraged collaboration. Financially, we have set up a collaborative model in St. Clair County should be a model for other entities in our state. All the other public schools districts the county recognize that partnering with our RESA creates tremendous economies of scale in multiple areas. We offer IT support, HR and purchasing services, and many others.

St. Clair RESA is committed to providing quality education opportunities for all county students. We will continue to work hard to ensure that Landmark students benefit from our offerings. We are disappointed that our good name was besmirched while not having an opportunity to testify at that meeting.

Sincerely,

Kevin D. Miller, Ph.D.
Superintendent, St. Clair County RESA