

WASHINGTON, DC —“ Congressman Joe Courtney and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan today praised the staff, teachers, parents and students of Groton’s Charles Barnum Elementary School after the students posted superlative test scores in math and reading. The scores are particularly impressive because more than 90 percent of the students at Barnum are from military families, making for a unique educational environment due to frequent moves and parental deployments.

“Places like the Charles Barnum School are playing an important role in bringing together parents, teachers, administrators, and students to ensure that military-connected students receive a great education in the face of unique challenges,” said Sec. Duncan. “I was thrilled to be able to talk to Principal Nelson and hear about what’s working at the school level.”

Congressman Courtney visited Barnum Elementary earlier this month for their Veterans Day celebration. He saw firsthand the students’ and teachers’ hard work, and encouraged Sec. Duncan to congratulate Ms. Nelson and the school on their test scores. Duncan followed through today, calling Ms. Nelson.

"Barnum's success with a student body that is in constant motion is due to amazing teamwork among administrators, teachers, staff, but most important students and parents," said Congressman Courtney. "As our nation is actively engaged in a vigorous debate over school reform, Barnum is a terrific example of public school success — success I was very proud to share with Sec. Duncan. His call to Ms. Nelson shows that Barnum's achievement is recognized at the highest level by America's education policy makers."

Congressman Courtney is a member of the House Education and Labor Committee. He is the first member of the Connecticut Congressional delegation to serve on the House Education and Labor Committee since the World War II era.