

Dear Andrew and Marilyn,

As you are aware, Raised Bill 5490 which has been referred to the Education Committee proposes to add an amendment to Section 1(d) to allow municipalities to reduce the MBR threshold by a district's decrease in enrollment calculated at \$2000. per student. Thus, if a district's enrollment declined by 50 students, \$100,000. would be used in the calculation to further reduce the MBR requirement.

This is an irrational premise that a decline in student enrollment would result in the reduction of expenses. Typically, when enrollment declines it is across many grades, it is not at one or two grade levels whereas teachers from that grade level are eliminated. School districts presently reallocate staff based on student enrollment and when feasible reduce personnel as warranted. Furthermore, as you are aware, the ARRA ECS funding component has already impacted the 2009-2010 MBR threshold by reducing it the amount calculated at the 14% reimbursement to Boards of Education.

From my perspective, this is another unfounded attempt to further reduce already austere school budgets that are not meeting the needs of our children. This proposed Bill is not good for kids and I urge you to advocate for the resources needed for our children.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Bivona
Superintendent of Brookfield Public Schools