

Testimony of Adrienne Morey
Parent of Student at Common Ground High School,
358 Springside Avenue, New Haven, CT 06515
Testimony submitted to the Appropriations Committee
March 24th, 2011

Honorable Chairs, Members of the Appropriation Committee:

As the parent of a charter school student, the school funding issue is very important to me. My son is a sophomore at Common Ground High School in New Haven. Common Ground is an excellent school with fantastic teachers who really care about the students. We had many reasons for choosing Common Ground. We had homeschooled for 6 years, so when Forest decided to attend high school we wanted to make sure we found the one that was right for him. Luckily we had options, since even though we come from a good school district (Amity), I just don't think a large public school would have been a good fit for him. Common Ground was the perfect option. The school is incredibly supportive and they really help every student to reach their full potential. Because of it's small size every teacher really gets to know every student and the kids all get to be friends, so it really is like a family. And what is great is that even though they are a small school they offer so much. The classes are interesting and challenging, and there are all kinds of fun and educational after school activities. Another reason we chose the school is the environmental focus, which is something that is important to us as a family. I really can't say enough good things about Common Ground and I feel lucky that Forest is able to go there. I can't imagine why they would deserve less money than another school (a lot less). I would think that a school that does so much should be highly valued. Having different schooling options is important, and the funding system, the way it is, does not support that. It is time for that to change.

Thank you,
Adrienne Morey