

To: Appropriations Committee

From: Michael Royston – Board Member Windsor Locks Board of Education  
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Re: ECS Formula

Thank you to all the members for hearing this issue and giving me time to speak. The ECS formula is broken and does not effectively provide funding to the towns or to our students. I am here to support Senate Bill 1195, which would fix the formula.

To that end I will use my town of Windsor Locks as the example with our District Reference Group. This is a group of towns that is supposed to have similar demographics within the state. As you can see from the attached chart, even though the districts are supposed to be similar, the amount of funding provided through ECS varies greatly from a high of \$5,838 per pupil to a low (in Windsor Locks) of \$2,359.

There are many factors that make up the ECS formula, but per capita income and the number of students who receive free and reduced lunch are supposed to be big factors. Again going back to the graph you can see Windsor Locks is 9<sup>th</sup> out of 17 in per capita income and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the number of student who receive free and reduced lunch, yet we receive the least amount of funding per ECS.

Let me show you what this means for my town. Even if we moved up to 9<sup>th</sup> on this list and received funding at that level, Windsor Locks would receive approximately \$2,000 of additional revenue per child, over \$3.8 million dollars. To a town that continually has its PILOT funding from Bradley reduced and is losing \$2.4 million in PILOT manufacturing funding this year, this would make all the difference. Senate Bill 1195 can fix these disparities by more accurately accounting for town wealth and student need.

I realize I have simplified the formula and process but I hope I have showed the disparity the ECS formula has created in Connecticut. I urge you to move forward with Senate Bill 1195 to fix this problem.

Thank you,

Michael Royston

Attachment: Table comparing Windsor Locks and other towns under ECS

District DRG	Cost per pupil	ECS per pupil	per capita income(1)	free lunch
1 North canaan	16191.58	1 Voluntown	5838.75 23,707 6	19.9 9
2 Windsor Locks	14031.92	2 Canterbury	5741.28 22,317 11	17.9 12
3 Voluntown	13706.56	3 Sprague	5676.79 20,796 15	35.6 1
4 Plainville	12914.56	4 Griswold	5528.93 21,196 13	27.1 5
5 East Windsor	12827.81	5 Thompson	5464.02 21,003 14	24.6 7
6 Sprague	12711.54	6 Plymouth	4884.7 23,244 8	18.4 10
7 Canterbury	12529.91	7 Sterling	4664.83 19,679 16	28.3 2
8 Montville	12200.58	8 North canaan	4458.2 18,971 17	17.8 13
9 Suffield	11858.55	9 Enfield	4435.22 21,967 12	26.3 6
10 Enfield	11741.01	10 Montville	4415.05 22,357 10	21.1 8
11 Thompson	11690.87	11 Wolcott	4369.71 25,018 2	16 15
12 Somers	11385.71	12 Plainville	4024.34 23,257 7	18.1 11
13 Griswold	11359.87	13 Seymour	3829.22 24,056 4	17.2 14
14 Plymouth	11064.68	14 East Windsor	3592.93 24,899 3	27.2 4
15 Sterling	11009.83	15 Somers	3477.7 23,952 5	5.4 16
16 Seymour	10960.47	16 Suffield	2492.64 28,171 1	4.6 17
17 Wolcott	10349.17	17 Windsor Locks	2359.69 23,079 9	27.4 3

(1) from Strategic School profiles;

<http://sdeportal.ct.gov/Cedar/WEB/ResearchandReports/SSPReports.aspx?type=SSP>