

To the Appropriation Committee,
In good economic times, and in towns where education's value is appreciated, the proposed MBR legislation might make sense. In this fiscal climate when Town finance decision makers have cut school budgets significantly, it may penalize school budgets more - this time with legislative approval.

For example:

In Enfield no increase in the education budget for 3 years meant an approximately \$4 million cut in the actual budget each year because of contractual obligations. The loss to our system after 3 years of comparable cuts has been disastrous.

We have cut at least 40 teachers
Failed to fill openings caused by retirement Cut elementary Guidance Counselors Cut elementary Computer teachers Cut some Music and Language classes at the High Schools Cut support staff including elementary Library aides (they kept the libraries open) Have had to institute "pay-to-play" for our sports or cut entirely at the High School level but still cut freshman basketball and football Cut sports at the Middle School Reduced the budget for our excellent Head Start program Removed a special reading program (TLC) from 6 elementary schools leaving it only in 2 schools Increased class sizes at all levels The list can go on to include the cuts in supplies, textbooks etc..

All was not entirely doom and gloom because we received significant concessions from all staff except teachers and some extra federal dollars.

To have the potential of about \$600,000 cut because of the new MBR legislation as the Federal Special Subsidies (ARRA, Jobs) disappear is another low blow.

Our School System is still functioning but not at its best.

Jim phall