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MEMORANDUM

To: Education Committee, Connecticut General Assembly

From: David J Calchera, Director Public Policy, CAPSS

Date: February 23, 2011

Subject: **H.B. 6385. AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE BUDGET
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNOR CONCERNING
EDUCATION.**

Good afternoon Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischman and members of the Committee. My name is David Calchera and I am representing the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) as their Director of Public Policy.

Members of CAPSS are extremely appreciative of the Governor's proposal to maintain ECS funding at its present level. We encourage members of the General Assembly to support that proposal. While continued flat funding of ECS represents a real reduction in funding available to local schools, we fully understand the condition of the state budget.

Equally important is the explicit statement of a "Minimum Budget Requirement" which will ensure that this funding goes where it is intended, to maintain and strengthen public education.

Finally, with regard to the 2011-13 budget, we ask that you consider continued support for school transportation and special education excess cost grants at least at their present level. Reduction to these or any municipal grants reduces the impact of holding ECS funding constant.

Thank you for your time.

The mission of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents is to lead the continuous improvement of public education for all students by advocating public policy for children and by developing and supporting executive school leaders.