

Education Reform -

The State should consider the potential impact on the state budget of further declines in enrollment at private and parochial schools in the state. Historically the state has provided hardly any form of financial support to non-public schools. This stance has been incredibly short-sighted, as private and parochial schools, of which there are many in the state, effectively subsidize CT taxpayers by keeping state and local taxes lower than they otherwise would be. As private and parochial schools become a greater percentage of household income due to a further decline in the economy, which in my opinion is very likely to happen, private school enrollment will fall and shift into public schools, thus putting more upward pressure on state and local budgets. Inevitably there will be more pressure to raise taxes. We are already the highest tax state in the country and further tax increase will likely have deleterious effects on the state economy. Some tax subsidy for private and parochial school parents is warranted if for no other reason than it will help keep a lid on state taxes. The typical town in Connecticut probably spends \$15k+ on each student. A small subsidy for private school parents could help keep private and parochial school enrollment levels stable, thus preventing the shift of more tax burden onto state taxpayers.

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