

Carol Guernsey
23 Murray Street
Norwalk, CT 06851

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The Honorable Education Committee
General Assembly
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106
via email: chris.calabrese@cga.ct.gov

To The Honorable Education Committee:

I am writing to address a perceived inequity in ECS funding. Specifically, I am concerned about how this inequity is impacting Norwalk. My concern is not limited to the \$72,000 shortfall in education funding projected for this year, but to the larger inequity in funding education in Norwalk based on the current ECS formula.

In my opinion, the current ECS formula unfairly distributes monies throughout our state. There are many examples of this, but I think the most shocking is the comparison of Norwalk to Danbury. Both cities have similar populations, median household incomes, and percentages of free/reduced lunch. Danbury, however receives more than double the amount of state funding (roughly \$10M vs \$23M). In the case of Norwalk, the ECS formula becomes skewed once it takes into account our higher property values. While it might make sense to use mathematical formulas to calculate many things, the current ECS formula fails to adequately address the educational needs of Norwalk--even with the Priority School District grant monies that have since been jeopardized.

I hope the Education Committee will consider the specific and non-formulaic needs of the city of Norwalk by initiating changes in the way ECS funding is distributed in the future. Norwalk is a city with educational challenges similar to other urban areas of our state; the current ECS formula is no longer an equitable way to assess the educational needs of Norwalk.

If I can provide you with any additional information, please do not hesitate to call me at 203-845-9093.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to your active support.

Sincerely,

Carol Guernsey