

MAYOR
MICHAEL A. PAVIA



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February 21, 2012

Ms. Andrea Stillman
Mr. Andrew Fleischman
Co-Chairs, Education Committee
Room 3100, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: ECS Funding in Stamford

Dear Chairs Stillman and Fleischman:

I am writing to you as Mayor of the fourth largest city in Connecticut with a public school enrollment of nearly 15,000 students to express our concerns over the current ECS formula. Our City stands out as having the highest percentage (96.35%) of education costs paid by local taxes in the state. The "cost share" allocation from the State of Connecticut to the City of Stamford is only 0.5%; is among the lowest in the State.

Bridgeport is proposed to receive in the FY 2013, \$168,599,000 or 8.7%, New Haven, \$146,351,000 or 7.5%, Hartford \$192,783,000 9.9%, and Waterbury \$118,012,000 or 6.1% of the total annual allocation funding to cities. The cost share allocation from the State of CT to the City of Stamford is only \$8,899,000, or 0.5% of all State education funds.

Despite these inequities, Stamford faces the same challenges in education as those in all other urban schools districts. Yet, Stamford's share of education funds is grossly under allocated and has been for decades. The formula as it applies to Stamford, severely shortchanges education needs in our community.

The ECS formula is flawed against its intent to provide fair and equal education to every student in Connecticut and not discriminate against any students because of the community in which they live. I urge your committee to review the ECS in order to make allocation to students throughout the state, including Stamford, a more fair and equitable solution.

Unfortunately, I could not be with you at this hearing today, however, I am more than happy and prepared to provide any and all additional information you may need to help solve a more equitable and effective ECS for the future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Pavia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "P".

Michael A. Pavia
Mayor

MP:la