



**Cooperative Arts & Humanities Magnet High School**  
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<http://co-opartsandhumanities.org>

**Frank Costanzo**  
Principal

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Administrative Intern

2/20/13

Dear Connecticut Appropriations Committee,

I write to you this morning as the principal of the Co-operative Arts and Humanities High School, one of only two full-time creative and performing arts schools in Connecticut with an integrated arts and academic curriculum. We serve 650 student-artists from the Greater New Haven area, including 30 neighboring towns.

During the past four years Co-op has experienced unprecedented growth. We have produced one of, if not, the most comprehensive after-school program in the state:  
<http://co-opafterschool.org/>

Each day, upwards of 50% of our student body remains with us following dismissal instead of boarding a school bus and returning home to their neighborhood. Our rich after-school programming is much more than an extension of the school day. The Co-op After School Program (CAS) makes us who we are. It is integral to the spirit and soul of our community and has much to do with our marked improvement in various areas including student attendance and failure rates, student achievement growth and increases in school learning environment data. Last year, our graduation rate increase was the greatest improvement in the city, increasing by 8.3%. This is due in part to CAS and keeping kids in school. The depth and breadth of our current programming, and future growth patterns is not sustainable if the CT After School Grant is cut or eliminated.

CAS takes advantage of our city's cultural institutions and our close relationship with Yale University. Whether it is field trips to local galleries, programs taught by Yale students, or projects led by local artists, our student-artists choose to remain with us through the early evening hours for the opportunity to learn, grow and impact the world. Student-centered and innovative in so many ways, the CAS experience is unlike anything I have seen before working in schools.

I believe my work as a school leader is the greatest service I can give to my country and state. I sincerely hope that this Committee will find a way to preserve the grant so that I may continue the important service work described above.

Truly Yours,  
*Frank Costanzo*  
Frank Costanzo

Cc Dr. Mayo, Superintendent of Schools, The Honorable Mayor John DeStefano Jr.,  
Imma Canelli & Garth Harries, Assistant Superintendent of NHPS Schools