



# CCM 2013 Testimony

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## ***EDUCATION COMMITTEE***

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

### **SB 1097 "An Act Concerning Revisions to the Education Reform Act of 2012".**

Among other things, would postpone certain aspects of the 2012 Education Reform Package by postponing new (1) teacher evaluation requirements; and (2) mandated implementation of reading assessments and intervention programs. CCM views both of these proposals as positive steps toward immediate mandates relief.

Towns and cities are currently facing the potential for significant state aid reductions, based on the current proposed budget, not to mention the looming possibility of a greater than \$700 million loss in revenues if elimination of the car tax is indeed implemented.

And, as CCM has testified to before, the cost for public education in our state for the current school year is over \$10 billion, and municipal property taxpayers already:

- Fund 51.4 percent of that amount (more than \$5 billion). The State contributes an estimated 42.9 percent and the federal government 5.2 percent.
- Pay at least \$0.62 of every \$1.00 raised in property taxes toward PreK-12 public education.
- Pay at least 60 percent of Connecticut's \$1.7 billion in special-education costs.
- Pick-up the bill for numerous other state-mandated education priorities that are not fully funded by the State.

CCM urges the committee to **support mandates relief and postpone costly aspects of the 2012 Education Reform Package** included in this bill.



If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, State Relations Manager,  
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