

Sen. Bye & Rep. Walker and Honorable members of the Appropriations Committee,

It is with a desperate plea that I send you this email in regards to funding Charter & Magnet schools way above other Urban Districts like New Britain. The funding for the Charters & Magnets is way out of proportion! You are creating more of what you were trying to fix, the haves and the have not's!!! The Urban school districts are being left with much less money for students that need much more help. While Magnets and Charters are funded way beyond their needs. Here are the facts about New Britain:

- > Facts: ECS formula which is supposed to include multiple factors such as student poverty has been frozen at an arbitrary level. In other words - it is not being applied.
- > To maintain a status quo system for next year, we need a \$5.3 million increase. This accounts for contractual increases in both employee salary/benefits and other services as well as facility upkeep/utilities.
- > In 2013 -14 New Britain was ranked 157 th in per pupil expenditures at \$12,842 - while the State average was \$15,180 and our DRG I average was \$16,027. Within our DRG four cities receive a higher per pupil allocation - Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport and Windham. It is true that the State funds two thirds of our budget - however, our students are among the neediest children in the State. They need more. Equity is not everyone receiving the same ...it is receiving what you need....our children, the majority of whom come from poverty (free/reduced lunch approx.79-80%) need more not less. We must be properly equipped to close the achievement gap (opportunity gap, accessibility gap, resource gap). We need to lower class size, increase support for Tier II and Tier III students, offer more children extended day/extended year and wrap around services.
- > Now our circumstances are not all dire - the State is still discussing mandating All Day Kindergarten - which is something we have accomplished and sustained for years! The State is talking about school resource officers and Mou's with local police departments which we have already done. Secondary education reform and increased credit requirement - done!
- > Aggressively Addressing chronic absenteeism and closely monitoring attendance - doing it!
- > Creatively tackling the issue of under credited high school students - Satellite Academy.
- > Whether you agree with the Common Core or not it is the State's adopted standards and staff have done a yeoman's job developing curriculum and securing textbooks aligned to these standards. We have successfully worked with our local government to provide resources - a two year City bond authorization that allowed the Boe to purchase new text books and provide classroom technology throughout the district and a previous increase (2013-14) in local contribution by \$4 million.
- > Putting our plea for an additional \$5.3 million (to fund status quo) in perspective - based on 10,500 students- that dollar amount equates to increasing our expenditures by \$ 476 per student per year or \$2.64 per student per day.
- > What we lack in sufficient resources is partially mitigated by the sheer determination and dedication of our people!

Sincerely,

Mr. Leonard J. Corto

District Coordinator Health , Physical Education & Athletics

Consolidated School District of New Britain

