

It is with much urgency that I express my concern regarding the recent proposal to flat fund the ECS while allocating additional monies for Charter and Magnet schools. Over the last five years, Charter and Magnet schools funding has increased over 68% while public school funding has only increased by 8%. The ECS formula has been frozen at an arbitrary level- This is not acceptable.

Currently, New Britain is ranked 157th in per pupil spending (\$12,842) as compared to the state average \$15,180. In our DRG we are ranked at the bottom. Our children in New Britain come from poverty as evidenced by 80% of our students receive free or reduced lunch. We need to lower class sizes, support our children with special needs and address the closing of the achievement gap.

Please consider how our public schools are being funded so that all students in this state receive a fair and equitable education.

Sincerely,

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