

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a Reading Interventionist at Smalley Academy in New Britain, CT. The state has been generous enough to give our school a grant, which is greatly appreciated and deeply needed. Governor Malloy's new proposal for educational funding is, however, not going to give our priority school district enough financial support that is necessary for the Consolidated School District of New Britain. Our school especially is populated with students in poverty. Many of our parents do not have the resources that other parents have in affluent and middle class communities. Therefore, the schools in our district take on a huge responsibility to ensure that the students are equipped with the proper materials for learning. With the high expectations of SBACs and Common Core, we need as many staff members and educational resources as possible to help our students who are Tier 3 students to close the achievement gap. We have already made progress, but we need to continue this progress with the proper financial support. These students need to have the same opportunities that other children have. They should get the chance to bridge the gap, be successful academically, and get accepted into college. The potential is there for our students to excel, but the financial funds from our state need to be directed towards the students who need it the most. That is the less fortunate whose chance for a better life starts with receiving an education that can be delivered to them with the State of Connecticut backing up the Consolidated School District of New Britain financially. I really appreciate your time in reading this email. It is amazing how you have a chance to make a difference in the lives of students. God bless you!

Respectfully,  
Dorothy Burns  
Reading Interventionist  
Smalley Academy