

To Whom It May Concern:

I am saddened and somewhat incredulous about the Governor's proposal of flat funding of ECS while allocating additional monies for Charters and Magnet Schools. I am an elementary school teacher in the Consolidated School District of New Britain and also a product of New Britain Schools. When the city was thriving our communities and schools turned out many productive members of society. I am in awe and proud the professions and contributions to our nation that hailed from the citizens of New Britain. With that being said I cannot impress upon the importance of equal funding for our children. I have worked in two charter schools both of which were under scrutiny from the state because of falsifying credentials and misappropriation of funds. As a teacher in these charter schools, I still paid for my own supplies and had to even devise my own curriculum. The funds certainly did not trickle down to the classroom and students. Here in NB, I have dedicated colleges that put so much of their earnings back into the classroom because they care and think our students are worthwhile. We provide instruction, security, consistency, healthcare and social and emotional support for all of our children. Resources are so thin we seem to be squeezing out the most valuable resource in this equation... those that care. Why is it that these children and families are not as important to our Governor? Is it a child's fault that they are born into their circumstances? How is it that the United States offers free and public education to all who enter our nation, but we (public schools) are expected to do so without the luxury of a lottery and "weeding out" those children with greatest (and most costly) needs and to do so with less money. I feel that the Governor needs to rethink his proposal and seriously consider not only equal funding for the public education sector in the State of Connecticut but reevaluate which areas are in the most need.

Educationally Yours,
Robin Pizzuto