Hello, my name is Jordan Young and I am currently a sophomore at Achievement First Hartford High School. Thank you for allowing me this time to address the committee today about why my school deserves to be funded fairly.

First, let me say that my school is amazing. Our teachers push us to be critical thinkers and good citizens with strong character. My classmates and I work extremely hard day after day, and despite whatever obstacles we face, in or out of school, we continue to achieve at a high level. It’s the high bar set by our teachers and our ability to reach it that has made us one of the top high schools in the state.

But still, here we are again, humbly asking to be funded in the same way as our fellow students at other public schools. Fellow students who live in our neighborhood, who we see at church and hang out with on the weekend. We all are working hard and doing our best, so we all should be treated the same way by getting the same amount of money to meet the needs of every student.

I feel as though fair funding is a necessity for schools because education is the necessary building blocks to making a strong independent and intelligent person. However, with unequal funding students are left at a disadvantage from building these extraordinary life skills while in schools. For example, I would love to have the option to take a business or economic class so down the line I am educated and have some background on how business works or how the American economy works. However, since my school isn’t receiving the same amount of funding as others this may be possible for some students in but leaves others in the dust without the option. Therefore I urge you to keep in my mind equal funding for all schools in Connecticut to not only help children in my grade and children in the years behind me.

Thank you for your time!