

To: CT State ECS Task Force

From: Kathryn Jones, Norwalk, CT  
Mom from Fox Run Elementary and Ponus Ridge Middle Schools

Date: July 12, 2012

**Subject: Fair funding for Norwalk**

I cannot be in attendance in Bridgeport tonight, but wanted to be sure that you know my opinion – that Norwalk is truly underfunded by the state per pupil.

Yes, Norwalk has high property values – but the number of children I see in the morning at the elementary school carrying white paper bags with breakfast from the cafeteria is surprising every time I see it.

Yes, Norwalk has some wealth similar to our neighbors New Canaan, Darien and Westport – but why have I personally paid for other children's field trip expenses at the middle school, or they wouldn't have been able to participate in the field trip.

In my time helping the elementary school of 460 children with PTO fundraising efforts, I can tell you that only about 80 families continually support the fundraisers (approx 25% excluding families with multiple children attending). So at a school with 45% of the children on "free and reduced lunch", only about 25% of the families help the school. **This tells me that there is another 30% of our school, in addition to the "free and reduced" families that are not able to support the schools financially. We are not wealthy like our neighbors.**

Kathryn Jones  
6 Bonnybrook Road  
Norwalk, CT 06850