



TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT

Chairman Gary St. Vil

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March 17, 2026

Senator Cathy Osten
Representative Gregory Howard
Representative Larry Pemberton
Representative Brian Lanoue
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue; Room 2700
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

Dear Senator Osten and Representatives Howard, Lanoue, and Pemberton:

On behalf of the Ledyard Town Council, I write to express our strong support for legislative efforts to modernize and strengthen Connecticut's Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula.

Public education is one of the most important investments we make in our communities. However, the ECS foundation amount has not been meaningfully updated since 2013. During that time, inflation and rising operational costs have significantly increased the true cost of educating students. Municipal leaders and policy organizations estimate that if ECS funding had simply kept pace with inflation, the State of Connecticut would be investing roughly \$900 million more annually in public education than it does today.

Because the ECS formula has not kept pace with economic realities, the financial burden has increasingly shifted onto municipalities and local property taxpayers. As a result, towns like Ledyard are placed in the difficult position of balancing responsible fiscal stewardship with our obligation to support strong schools. Local governments have limited revenue options, and property taxes can only sustain so much of the growing cost of public education.

In Ledyard, education represents the largest portion of our municipal budget. Our community strongly values the quality of our schools and the opportunities they provide for our students but maintaining that standard while keeping property taxes affordable for residents becomes increasingly difficult when state education funding does not reflect current economic realities.

This issue has become a recurring challenge for municipalities across Connecticut. Each year, Boards of Education must develop budgets to meet student needs, while municipal leaders must simultaneously ensure that local taxes remain affordable for residents. When state funding formulas fail to reflect current economic conditions, it creates unnecessary tension in the local budget process and places additional pressure on municipal taxpayers.

The Ledyard Town Council believes that modernizing the ECS formula is an important step toward restoring balance to Connecticut's education funding system. Adjusting the ECS foundation to better reflect current costs, and ensuring the formula remains responsive to inflation over time, would provide municipalities with greater predictability and stability in the budget process while continuing to support high-quality public education.

We respectfully urge the General Assembly to continue pursuing reforms that strengthen the ECS program and ensure that state education funding reflects the true cost of educating Connecticut's students.

We welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with the legislature to modernize the ECS formula so that municipalities can provide high-quality education without over-reliance on local property taxes.

Thank you for your continued service to the residents of Ledyard and the State of Connecticut.

Sincerely,



Gary St. Vil
Town Council Chairman

cc: Senator Martin Looney, President Pro Tempore, Connecticut State Senate
Representative Matthew Ritter, Speaker of the House
Senator Doug McCrory, Co-Chair, Education Committee
Representative Jennifer Leeper, Co-Chair, Education Committee
Representative Nick Gauthier
Mayor Fred Allyn III, Town of Ledyard
Jennifer Reguin, Chair, Ledyard Board of Education
Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM)