

[Your Name] [Your Address] [City, CT ZIP] [Your Email] [Date]

RE: Increasing and Reforming the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Formula

Dear Members of the Connecticut General Assembly,

I am writing to urge you to take immediate and meaningful action to increase the state's Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula grant and ensure that Connecticut fulfills its constitutional and moral obligation to provide an adequate, equitable education to every child in this state — regardless of the town in which they happen to live.

The ECS Formula Is Chronically Underfunded

Connecticut's Education Cost Sharing formula was designed to ensure that the state provides sufficient support to municipalities so that every district can meet an adequate spending threshold. Yet for years, the state has failed to fully fund what the formula itself calculates is necessary. Many towns — particularly those with lower property wealth and higher concentrations of students with special needs, English language learners, and children from low-income households — have been left to make up the difference on their own, or simply go without. The result is an unacceptable and widening gap in educational opportunity across our state.

Local Property Taxes Cannot and Should Not Bear This Burden Alone

Connecticut remains one of the most property-tax-dependent states in the nation when it comes to funding public education. This structure is fundamentally unfair. A child growing up in a lower-wealth municipality should not receive a diminished education simply because their neighbors have less taxable property. When the state fails to deliver on its ECS commitments, it forces towns into an impossible choice: cut programs that students depend on, or raise property taxes on residents who are already stretched thin. Neither outcome is acceptable.

What I Am Asking You to Do

I respectfully urge the General Assembly to:

1. **Commit to full ECS funding** — appropriate the amount the formula calculates as necessary, and establish a clear, enforceable timeline to close any remaining gap.
2. **Update the formula's underlying weights** — the student need weights used in the ECS formula (for poverty, English language learners, and other factors) have not kept pace with the real costs districts incur. These weights must be recalibrated to reflect

current research and actual expenditures.

3. **Prioritize equity in any new investment** — additional state education dollars should be directed first and foremost to the districts that have the greatest need and the least local capacity to raise revenue.
4. **Protect ECS from budget-year cuts** — ECS funding must be treated as a non-negotiable baseline, not a discretionary line item to be reduced when revenue is tight. The constitutional right to education cannot be subject to annual budget negotiations.

The Stakes Are High

Every year that Connecticut delays full and fair ECS funding is another year that students in under-resourced districts fall further behind. Research consistently shows that early, adequate investment in public education produces better lifetime outcomes — higher graduation rates, greater economic participation, lower criminal justice costs, and healthier communities. The cost of inaction far exceeds the cost of investment.

Connecticut has long prided itself on being a leader in education. It is time for our funding to match our aspirations. I urge you to make full, equitable, and reliable Education Cost Sharing funding a top priority in this legislative session.

Thank you for your time and your service to the people of Connecticut. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

[Your Name] [Your Title / Affiliation, if applicable] [Your Town] [Contact Information]