

Dear Members of the Board of Representatives:

As you must know, Governor Rell is planning to cut \$426,769 from Stamford's ECS allotment. As you also know, this proposed cut will put enormous pressure on our budget and severely hamper our ability to meet the City's many needs. The executive board of PT Council sent a letter today to Governor Rell, Lt. Governor Fedele and the entire Stamford delegation, the text of which I will paste below. We are also mobilizing parents to contact them and protest this cut.

Please contact the Governor, Lt. Governor and the delegation to protest this funding cut. Your expert voice will certainly help convince those in Hartford that this cut is ill-advised and will do much harm to our City.

Thank you in advance. Our letter is pasted below.

Sincerely,

Wendy Lecker  
Co-President, PT Council

Dear Governor Rell, Lt. Governor Fedele and Members of Stamford's Legislative Delegation:

As the executive board of Stamford's Parent Teacher Council, representing the twenty PTOs in our city, we are writing to protest the Governor's proposed cuts of over \$426,000 in Stamford's ECS funding.

Stamford's school district has substantial and costly needs. Over 40% of Stamford's students qualify for free and reduced price lunch, almost 15% of its students are English Language Learners, 37% of its students come from homes where English is not the first language and about 10% of our students have disabilities. Despite this level of need, Stamford has historically been underfunded by the State. In fact, our district must rely on local funding for 86% of our budget. Our district receives one tenth the amount of ECS funding that most similarly situated municipalities, those in DRG H, receive.

In our struggle to compensate for inadequate state educational funding, our city contends with divisive battles over the school budget every year. Year after year, our schools have to cut staff, services and programs. With dwindling resources, we must meet ever increasing mandates.

It is inconceivable that the state would wreak further havoc to our schools by cutting already promised funding. Such cuts will be devastating to our school budget. Regardless of the economic climate we are in, we must continue to properly educate all our children. Depriving students of needed educational resources will only cause our students to fall behind. The lasting consequences of an inadequate education are far more costly in the long run than any short term savings that may accompany such funding cuts.

Furthermore, we believe that these proposed cuts violate the spirit, if not the letter, of the federal "supplement not supplant" requirements.

We urge you not to make the cuts to the ECS funds. Neither our City nor our State can afford the lasting damage that will result.

Sincerely,

Cindy Grafstein

Wendy Lecker  
Candy Yeager  
Owen Nieberg  
Regan Allen  
Shelagh Corporon,  
Cathy Drenckhahn  
Cathy Lueders  
Rosemarie Foley-Sileo

Stamford Parent-Teacher Council Executive Board