

# What will our children lose?

created by the collaborative efforts of



For More Information, or to Speak with Coalition Members

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## An Important Statement Regarding Governor Malloy's Budget Address

### The Impact on Public Education

**The What Will Our Children Lose Coalition (WWOCL)** made up of the CT Association of Boards of Education, the CT Association of School Business Officials, the CT Association of Schools and the CT Association of Public School Superintendents greets Governor Dannel P. Malloy's budget proposal for education funding with mixed feelings.

On the one hand, **WWOCL** appreciates the fact that the Governor is not recommending any decrease in education funding for the next two fiscal years. Given the poor state of the State Government's financial condition, it is a relief that the Governor is recommending that CT remain among the few states in the country that is not decreasing funding for public education.

On the other hand, flat state funding when costs are increasing results in a situation in which the burden for paying for public education becomes more and more the responsibility of local communities. This is a pattern that has been dominant now for a number of years and local communities have become less and less willing and able to bear this increased burden. **WWOCL**, therefore, fears that if state funding for public education does not actually increase during the next two fiscal years, the children of CT will experience less in terms of educational programming. This would be a shame because it would represent a significant failure to invest in the future of the State.

**WWOCL** is also concerned that despite recommending flat funding for public education for two years, in his budget address the governor made a commitment to full day Kindergarten in all districts by the fall of 2017. While there are not specific funds in the budget to achieve this goal, he pledged to work with districts that do not yet have full day programs, which we hope will be the case as this recommendation represents a major unfunded mandate for some of CT's school districts, one that is very difficult to understand when accompanied by a recommendation that there be no increase in State funding for education.

**WWOCL**, looks forward to working with members of the Legislature and with the Governor's office in the effort to adopt a State budget that represents the investment in public education that is needed to insure the future prosperity of the State.

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#### ABOUT THE COALITION

The What Will Our Children Lose Coalition (WWOCL) was created by the collaborative efforts of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Connecticut Association of School Business Officials, the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents and the Connecticut Association of Schools. As advocates for public education, these organizations pledge to provide information to the community and statewide education leaders in order to support positive results for children in their school districts.