



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

Leadership for the Future of Learning

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August 15, 2017

Dear Governor Malloy and Members of the Legislature,

As education leaders in Connecticut, we are deeply concerned that not having a state budget in place as we embark on this school year will cause irreparable damage to the schools and the children we are privileged to serve. We write respectfully but urgently to ask you to pass a state budget now that serves the needs of Connecticut's schools and its children.

The beginning of a school year should be a time for celebration, with schools opening fully ready to provide for our eager and excited children to pass through the door that will open their future, and our state's. In an ordinary year, teachers have been hired, books and supplies are ready, and all the careful planning done by teachers and administrators is evident in every classroom in the state. This year, instead, schools will open with great uncertainty. Teachers will still be ready and eager to begin their work, and they will bring to that work the joy and professionalism they always do, but without a state budget, our schools will be hobbled.

As we begin this school year, we are already faced with yet unknown budget challenges which impact the operation of our schools. Some districts are delaying the opening of school, while others are not hiring the teachers they need to maintain appropriate curricula and class size. Some are cutting programs in the arts and high school electives. Many fear that when a budget is finally passed, they will be forced to lay off teachers after the school year has already begun.

Here are just three examples of the real and likely impacts of the current budgetary uncertainty.

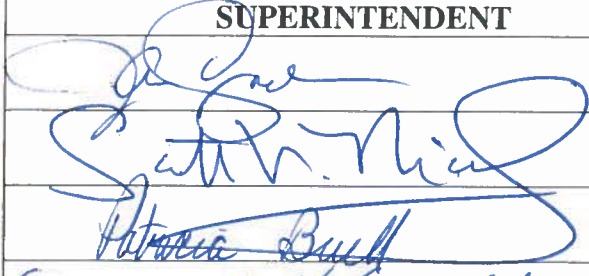



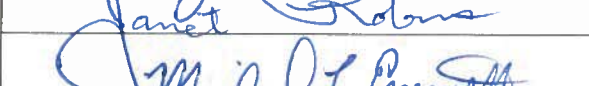
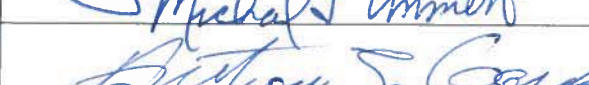
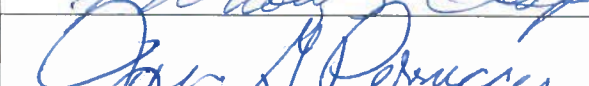









- In 30 suburban, rural and urban districts, surveyed on August 14th, 67 positions have been eliminated and 372 have been placed on hold.
- A high school student will be assigned to a study hall instead of a World Language class because the teacher has been laid off and there is no room in the other classes.
- A kindergarten child who began with a teacher in a class of twenty-two students will be shuffled after a few weeks to a different class of twenty-nine students and a different teacher because of a layoff. The trusting bond between that child and her teacher will be severed, and a new one will need to be built.

We recognize the daunting and perhaps heart-wrenching decisions faced by the legislature during this difficult year, and we honor its members for their hard work and dedicated service.

Yet, with the deepest respect, we call upon our legislators to fulfill their Constitutional duty to implement the principle that "[t]here shall always be free public elementary and secondary schools in the state..." [Art. 8, Sec.1, Constitution of Connecticut], and to fulfill the corollary of that mandate, that those schools be fully functioning equally for all the state's children.

With equal respect, we call upon the governor to provide leadership that will advance the educational opportunities for the half-million of our state's citizens whose school experiences will define their lives, and the future life of our cherished state.

Respectfully,

SUPERINTENDENT	DISTRICT
	Hamden
	Ellington
	Brooklyn
	Hobart
	Avon
	Great Oaks
	Stratford
	Wethersfield
	Wolcott
	Old Saybrook
	Brookfield
	ORANGE
	Solom
	EdAduance
	Subfield
	Bethany
	Region 14

SUPERINTENDENT	DISTRICT
Mark D. Benigni	MERIDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Thomas M. Damby	ACES
Paula M. Allen	BARTON
Kristin B. Heckt	Bolton
Abby L. Dallyer	Norwich
Sam P. Miller	GRISWOLD
Ronnie Shaul	Middletown
Tom Morrison	Easton, Redding, Region 9
Sally Keates	Lisbon
Evan Pittsford	Cooperative Educational Services
Greg Felt	C R E C
Rayan Rupp	New Canaan
CHRIS TRANSER	GRANBY
David B. Erwin	Berlin
Christopher Clout	Shelton
C. Dumas	AMITY - REGION 5
Ken Pitts	EAST HAVEN
Robert Lee	Region 4
Judith Palmer	Region 7
KATE CARTER	SOUTH WINDSOR
	Stafford
B. A.	Montville
Conn.	EAST HAMPTON
Ch. H. H. H.	Waterford
St. Peter	Region 14

SUPERINTENDENT	DISTRICT
Kelly Lyman	Mansfield
Don Law	Region 8
Christina Mahoney	East Granby
M.H.I.	Derby
Kristen Brooks	Bethel (Assistant superintendent)
Don	East Hartford
Ula Bakke	Ridgefield
Austad John	Bridgeport
M.H. Mac	Groton
Marybeth Dabelli	Norfolk
D. Moore	West Hartford
John	Tutnam
John	Naugatuck
John W. Hume	Region 11 / Chaplin
Keneth Kliruta	Lebanon
Water Luth	Plainfield
Susan A Bell	Woodstock
Don Peters	Windsor Locks
John E. B.	Coventry
Timothy J. Ameller	Plainville
Debra J. Long Rdg.	Southington
Don	Hartford
Don	Lebanon
Don	Windsor
Don	Enfield

SUPERINTENDENT	DISTRICT
Pat Costantino	Reg 12
Pat Ciccone	WESTBROOK
SL Sh	Torrington
Rynn	New Hartford.
Michael Yamin	Region 16
Musella	Newington Public Schools
M	Hampton School
Adam & Burrows	Voluntown
DA	WFA
Superintendent	Milford
Richardson (Assistant)	North Haven
Joel Schenck	North Branford
Ed W. Clark	Bristol
John Johnson	Explorations
Mr. Paul Vogel	Region One School District
Leo Driskill-King	Canterbury Public Schools
JEFFREY NEWTON	ERTS LIME Public Schools
John Balle	Monroe Public Schools
Regina L. Balford	Region 15
Steve Roy	New Fairfield
Steve Ruff	Killingly
Bob Seang	Columbia
T. J. Smith	CREC
John Smith	New Milford
Robert Salom	Westport

SUPERINTENDENT	DISTRICT
Soni Jones	Fairfield
Melinda A Smith	Thompson
Lang A. Giff	Trumbull
Christine D. Sarge	East Windsor
W/S McChine	Weston
Alan Addley	Granby
Kathleen C. Greider	Farmington
Daniel Brenner	Darien
Markus Heng	Manchester
H. H.	Madison
S. F.	Guilford

Nancy Sana	New Britain
Handwritten signature	Branford
Iron Rabinowitz	CAPSS