



Brookfield Public Schools



"Create Your Tomorrow"

Dear Brookfield Parents,

September 8, 2017

We write to you today to share the concerns we have with the Governor's budget proposal. The proposal includes drastic cuts in state aid to local municipalities' Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding. For Brookfield, this could mean up to a 1.4 million dollar cut in state aid.

As your Superintendent and local State Representative, we have been working tirelessly with the entire Board of Education to advocate for our students and the proper funding for Brookfield. Collectively, we find the Governor's proposal to cut ECS funding unacceptable as it will be devastating to our students.

The Governor's proposal will become our reality if the State Legislature continues without adopting a budget for this year. It has been almost three months into this fiscal year and the Legislature is yet to adopt a budget. Connecticut is one of only two states in the Nation currently in this position.

Cuts to Brookfield's ECS funding of this magnitude could result in the following reductions to our valued programs and personnel:

- Increase class size due to reduction of teachers
- Reduction/elimination of extracurricular activities
- Reduction of intervention services due to reduction in teachers and/or support personnel
- Delay in response time and parental convenience due to reduction of clerical and secretarial staff
- Delay in organizational responsiveness, problem resolution and supervision due to reduction of administration
- Reduction of professional development opportunities to enhance educator effectiveness
- Delays in necessary maintenance and repairs to facilities due to reduction of maintenance staff
- Delay in purchase of necessary supplies and materials for students and staff

While we are working to ensure there is adequate funding for our schools, we need your help. Please join us in advocating for appropriate funding for the Town of Brookfield. The Speaker of the House, Joe Aresimowicz, has the unilateral authority to call the state budget for a vote. The Legislature plans to convene next Thursday, September 14, 2017. It is important that your voice be heard. Please email your opinion on this critical matter to Joe.Aresimowicz@cga.ct.gov. Thank you for your continued support of the children.

Sincerely,

John W. Barile, Superintendent

Stephen Harding, State Representative

The sole reason for the existence of our profession is the student