



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

March 14, 2018

Members, Connecticut State Board of Education
Office of Board Matters
Connecticut State Department of Education
450 Columbus Boulevard - Suite 606
Hartford, CT 06103

Dear Members of the State Board of Education:

The undersigned leaders are writing to you regarding the implementation of the state's Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) for local education funding in FY 18. We understand that the State Department of Education has sent letters to some municipalities indicating that they are in non-compliance with the MBR because they reduced their FY 18 education appropriations to reflect Governor Malloy's holdbacks in state education funding to their towns.

When we negotiated and adopted the bipartisan state budget, we expected and intended that Education Cost Sharing (ECS) would be held harmless from executive holdbacks. The budget included a list of policy changes for the Governor to follow in order to meet budgeted targeted savings. Many of the suggested items had previously been agreed to by the Governor.

However, the Governor proceeded to hold back more than \$57 million in local ECS funding. The result has been an extreme hardship on towns who must adjust their budgets mid-year.

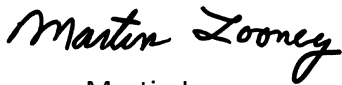
In order to fully comply with the leaders' true intentions in this bill to have the MBR be based on money actually received by municipalities, not theoretically allotted, we are writing to ask that you exercise your authority pursuant to Section 10-252i (e) of the general statutes to waive the forfeiture penalty for those towns that have reduced their local education expenditures to reflect the Governor's FY 18 holdbacks. Said subsection authorizes the State Board of Education to waive penalties for noncompliance with the MBR for "good cause shown."

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In light of the fiscal strain caused by mid-year holdbacks and the fact that the legislature specifically did not include ECS funding in the list of targeted savings items for the Governor to implement, but rather intended that ECS be held harmless, we believe there is "good cause" to waive these penalties.

Thank you for your time and attention and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Martin Looney
Senate President
Pro Tempore



Len Fasano
Senate Republican President
Pro Tempore



Themis Klarides
House Republican Leader

cc: Commissioner Dianna R. Wentzell, State Department Education