

SPEAKING POINTS ON CEA INJUNCTION TO SAVE EDUCATION FUNDING AND TEACHER JOBS

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Governor Malloy's executive order cuts \$557 million in education funding to cities and towns, leaving school budgets across the state out of balance.

The Governor's executive order violates state law. The order violates state statutes and the state's constitutional obligation to provide adequate education to public school students.

CEA is seeking an injunction against the state for defaulting on its constitutional duty, jeopardizing students' futures and putting cities and towns at risk.

CEA is going to court to ask the judge to require the state to follow its statutes and provide the same education funding grants to our cities and towns as they received in the previous fiscal year.

Time is of the essence—our students can't afford to wait. If allowed to proceed, essential student resources—especially in towns with significant numbers of students living in poverty—would be wiped out due to the loss of state funding.

CEA is taking every possible measure to protect students, teachers, and communities from devastating cuts that would cause irreversible damage.

These cuts severely jeopardize school districts' ability to provide quality education, thereby shortchanging Connecticut students' futures.

CEA, Torrington, Brooklyn, Plainfield, and teachers and students in those municipalities are taking this action to prevent the potential downward spiral that could further push our schools into chaos.

Without a state budget, the Governor's executive order went into effect on Oct 1. The order calls for 85 cities and towns to lose all state educational funding and another 54 towns, including towns with high levels of poverty, to have their funding severely cut. The 30 Alliance District towns would receive flat funding compared to last year.

These draconian cuts will result in massive disruptions and harm for students, teachers, and public schools throughout the state. Many districts have already taken actions, including delaying the start of school, not hiring for open positions, laying off teachers, cutting resources, and more. With additional cuts, vital resources and critical services are all in jeopardy of being drastically cut or eliminated.

Torrington, Brooklyn, and Plainfield—which rank among the lowest municipalities in wealth—as well as teachers and students in these three municipalities have already signed on to the injunction. Other plaintiffs are expected to join the action in the coming weeks.

Under the Governor’s plan, Torrington will receive only \$4 million, a loss of nearly \$20 million. Torrington received the first ECS check on Oct 2. It should have been for nearly \$8 million. It was for only \$1.2 million.

Torrington’s mayor says the city can’t take that kind of hit and will have to take drastic actions. Even if Torrington laid off teachers and closed the high school and middle school, it wouldn’t be enough to make up for the loss of \$20 million.

Brooklyn will lose nearly \$3 million in education funding, resulting in significant teacher layoffs and the loss of critical education programs and resources.

Torrington, Brooklyn, and Plainfield are just three of more than 52 cities and towns that are at the bottom 40 percent of towns in wealth, are not Alliance Districts, and do not have the funds to cover the cuts to the ECS funding proposed by the governor.

The first selectman of Plainfield, which is losing \$6 million, says the town has already had to close its early childhood daycare center, delay or eliminate school programs, lay off teachers, reduce paraprofessionals’ hours, and implement a townwide hiring freeze.