

Dear Senators, Representatives and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am write on behalf of my children who attend Elm City Montessori School in New Haven and really on behalf of all the children of New Haven Public Schools. My daughter (Elise) is in 1st grade and has attended ECMS since Prek 3 and my son (Everett) began his journey at ECMS this fall as a Prek 3 student. Elise was able to do math and read before Kindergarten and it is my hope that Everett will too. However, their continued growth is not possible without adequate funding. The Governor's proposed budget for public education is not adequate to fund our public schools. Our community can no longer tolerate under-funding of our public schools year after year. The current proposed budget with its increase of 1.5 percent (below inflation), would continue to sentence New Haven to a deficit without meeting students' holistic needs as it does not account adequately for inflation or the already \$1.2 million in under-funding. ECMS needs proper funding to continue our grade growth. I wanted to see my children and all the children of ECMS graduate as 8th graders but that is only possible with the appropriate funding. As one of the wealthiest states in the country, our educational system should be the gold standard for education. I am deeply sadden that it is not. I ask the legislature to right this wrong and approve a budget that invests where it is most needed putting the needs of New Haven and the state's children first. Our children are most valuable resources and continued under-funding will have profound impacts our future for decades to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. You may reach me at 203.747.0332 or mooremom1@gmail.com.

Thank you again,

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