



May 19, 2025

The Honorable Ned Lamont  
Governor of the State of Connecticut  
10 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont,

As representatives of Connecticut’s public-school teachers and support staff, we write to respectfully urge your support in the current biennial state budget for more robust and equitable school investments. Increasing the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) foundation amount and adopting a 50% weight for special education in its formula would go a long way toward resolving Connecticut’s student learning crisis.

Across the state, educators are doing more with less—addressing learning gaps, mental health needs and increased demands in classrooms without the essential resources to match. The current ECS foundation amount underestimates the true cost of educating students today and does not account for the unique and significant needs of those with special needs.

A 50% weight for special education would provide more appropriate and equitable funding for districts, ensuring these students receive the individualized support they are legally entitled to and morally deserve. Without this change, districts must continue to rely on local resources, exacerbating inequality and placing undue strain on struggling communities with limited tax bases.

The disparity in access to support for students in Connecticut’s chronically under-resourced districts demonstrates the need for a more equitable approach from state leaders. Furthermore, many local officials have reacted to the loss of federal resources by cutting back vital services and laying-off educators and support staff. These short-sighted decisions disproportionately impact on our most vulnerable and underserved youth.

Sustainable funding for PreK-12 education is possible. We can achieve that by adjusting the budgetary roadblocks to ensure that necessary resources make it to the communities that need them. Now is the time for us to commit to the promise of public education for our current and future students. In one of the

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35 Marshall Road  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
860/257-9782  
Fax: 860/257-8214  
Toll Free: 888/398-3373  
[www.aftct.org](http://www.aftct.org)

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Jan Hochadel  
PRESIDENT

John Brady, RN  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Shawn Brown  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

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richest states in the richest country in the history of the world, we must deliver the education our students deserve.

By increasing the ECS foundation and prioritizing special education, you can move Connecticut decisively toward a fairer approach that reflects our shared commitment to educational opportunity for all.

We appreciate your leadership and respectfully ask that you prioritize this issue in the state budget.

Sincerely,

Jan Hochadel  
President, AFT Connecticut

John Brady, RN  
Vice President, AFT Connecticut

Leslie Blatteau  
President, New Haven Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 933  
At-Large Vice President for Teachers, AFT Connecticut

Shellye Davis  
President, Hartford Federation of Paraeducators, AFT Local 2221  
Division Vice President for Paraprofessionals & School-Related Personnel, AFT Connecticut

Bill Garrity, RN  
President, University Health Professionals, AFT Local 3837  
Division Vice President for Public Employees, AFT Connecticut

Dennis Bogusky  
President Federation of Technical Colleges, AFT Local 1942  
Division Vice President for Higher Education, AFT Connecticut

Walter O'Connor, RN  
Division Vice President for Retirees, AFT Connecticut

Kristen Malloy-Scanlon  
President, West Haven Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 1547  
At-Large Vice President, AFT Connecticut



Mary Yordon  
At-Large Vice President, AFT Connecticut

Joan Andrews  
At-Large Vice President, AFT Connecticut

Ally Sexton  
At-Large Vice President, AFT Connecticut

Paul Angelucci  
President, State Vocational Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 4200-A  
At-Large Vice President, AFT Connecticut

Carol Gale  
President, Hartford Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 1018  
At-Large Vice President, AFT Connecticut

Michael Reynolds  
President, Bristol Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 1464  
At-Large Vice President, AFT Connecticut

Mary Symkowicz  
President, East Hartford Federation of Paraeducators, AFT Local 4257  
At-Large Vice President, AFT Connecticut

Susan Saluru  
President, New Britain Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 871  
At-Large Vice President, AFT Connecticut

Lauren Mancini  
President, Meriden Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 1478  
At-Large Vice President, AFT Connecticut

Trent Harrison  
President, Newtown Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 1727  
At-Large Vice President, AFT Connecticut

Louise Williams  
President, CSU-AAUP, AFT Local 6745  
At-Large Vice President, AFT Connecticut



John Disette  
President, Administrative & Residual, AFT Local 4200  
At-Large Vice President, AFT Connecticut

Steve McKeever  
Vice President, Middletown Federations of Teachers, AFT Local 1381  
At-Large Vice President, AFT Connecticut

Mathew Hough  
President, Ansonia Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 1012

Sam Norman  
President, Colchester Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 1827

CC: Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz  
State Senate President Martin Looney  
State Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff  
State Senate Minority Leader Stephen Harding  
State House Speaker Matt Ritter  
State House Majority Leader Jason Rojas  
State House Minority Leader Vincent Candelora