

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886



PHONE: 860-442-0553
www.waterfordct.org

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2026 MAY 27 PM 1:21
ATTEST: David J. Langston
TOWN CLERK

RE: Refer Education Cost Sharing (ECS) to RTM Education Committee

Dear Moderator Driscoll,

I am respectfully requesting that the topic of Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding be referred to the Representative Town Meeting's Education Committee for discussion and review. I believe it is critically important that this issue remain at the forefront of conversations involving our local and state elected officials, particularly given the significant disparity in ECS funding received by the Town of Waterford.

Currently, Waterford receives approximately \$326,000 annually in ECS funding from the State of Connecticut, one of the lowest allocations in the entire state despite the substantial financial commitment (\$62M) our taxpayers make each year toward education. The Town of Waterford and its residents fund virtually the entire annual Board of Education budget locally, placing continued pressure on property taxpayers, including seniors and residents living on fixed incomes.

As education costs continue to rise and communities across Connecticut advocate for additional state support, it is important that Waterford clearly communicate the inequities that exist within the current ECS formula and funding structure. A formal discussion through the RTM Education Committee would help ensure continued awareness, collaboration, and advocacy among local leaders, legislators, and the public.

I am optimistic that important discussions regarding Long Range Fiscal Planning, Utility Commission capital planning and rate structure, and Fleet Management are already taking place and helping position the Town for future sustainability. In the same spirit, I believe we must ensure open and transparent discussions regarding the rising cost of providing education in Waterford, which has increased on average more than 5.5% annually in recent years.

Given the financial impact education has on our taxpayers and the long-term sustainability of our community, I believe the RTM Education Committee needs to help steer the ship alongside me, the Superintendent, Board of Finance Chairman, Board of Education Chairwoman, RTM Moderator, RTM Majority Leader, RTM Minority Leader, Waterford State Representative, and Waterford State Senator. Working collaboratively and proactively on ECS advocacy and educational fiscal planning will be essential to ensuring Waterford remains affordable while continuing to provide the high-quality education our students deserve.

Thank you for your continued leadership and service to the Town of Waterford. I appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working collaboratively on this important issue.

Respectfully,

Robert Brule
First Selectman