

What will our children lose?

March 18, 2011

To: School Board Members, School Superintendents, School Business Officials, Parents

From: Whatwillourchildrenlose.com Coalition

Re: Continued Discussion with Legislators Needed

In his proposed budget, Governor Dannel Malloy has taken the courageous step of recommending that the Legislature fill the “Over the Cliff” deficit caused by the loss of federal stimulus funds. The Governor included \$269.5 million in his proposed to level fund the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Grant for 2011-2012, and again in 2012-2013.

We applaud the Governor for taking this important position. We recognize that without this commitment, funding to local districts will be lost with the likelihood of cuts in programs and staff in local educational budgets.

That was, however, only the first step in helping ensure that the 14 percent budget gap is filled and that school districts are at least flat-funded in general aid for the next two years. The Appropriations Committee (will act by April 26) and thereafter the Legislature must still act upon the Governor’s recommendation.

In the weeks since the Governor delivered the budget message, there have been intense discussions of the proposed budget and particularly tax increases in the media, as well as at the Governor’s town hall meetings. There is much pressure to find ways to cut the budget and we believe that the Governor’s recommendation may be subject to cuts.

In order to keep the pressure on the Legislature as budget discussions intensify, we are calling upon all of our members to continue, or, if appropriate, begin discussions with legislators on this important issue. If we sit back as if the issue already had been decided, it may be very well decided--- and lead to a very different decision.

Therefore, CAFE, CAPSS, CASBO and the CTPTSA recommend that you bring information on this issue before your members and legislators. We have developed informational materials, including district-by-district breakdowns of what districts will lose if the State doesn’t fill the gap. This material can be found at www.whatwillourchildrenlose.com

Thank you for your continued work on this critical issue.

