

SHARE YOUR VOICE!

SCHOOL FUNDING COMMUNITY FORUM, MONDAY, MARCH 20, 6:00 p.m.

Fitch High School Auditorium

JOIN US

We invite you to attend a community forum with local legislators to discuss the proposed state cuts

Monday, March 20, 6:00 p.m. at Fitch High School Auditorium

State Senator Heather Somers, Representatives Joe de la Cruz and Christine Conley, and school and town leaders, will be in attendance.

WELCOME to this special financial edition of School Matters. Recently, there has been much discussion in the community regarding the proposed state budget for 2018-19 and concern over the massive reductions in education funding.

The proposed cuts are unfathomable and also grossly unfair and the bottom line is Groton would lose \$13.2 million dollars in education funding; which is by far the largest reduction of any town or city in Connecticut.

The Groton community could not possibly absorb a cut of that magnitude, with absolutely no time to phase in the cuts, and we have united with local and state officials. We recently testified at the state capitol making a plea for fair and reasonable education funding and are taking every measure to protect our schools and maintain the quality of programs.

We are not alone. Towns across the state are letting state officials know these cuts drastically reduce the state's responsibility to fund education, while placing enormous, unreasonable, responsibility on the towns. It is important to remember the state cuts are still only a proposal at this point in time. We are not letting it paralyze our local efforts and we are continuing to move forward.

As we highlighted in our first edition, in Groton, *our schools do matter*. We are proud to be home to Connecticut's only military base, to serve those who serve us, and excited about the positive momentum and direction forward to enhance the education for all our students and strengthen our entire community.

The Board of Education voted to approve a level service budget to support current staffing and allow us to continue present initiatives and plans for the future. It's a budget that meets the need of our students, while keeping in mind the taxpayers.

We will continue to provide updates to keep the community well informed.

Dr. Michael Graner
Superintendent

Ms. Susan Austin
Assistant Superintendent


WE NEED YOUR VOICE TO OPPOSE THESE CUTS TO GROTON


Town and school officials testified at the state capitol and voiced their opposition to these cuts. **NOW WE NEED YOU!** Your input opposing the Governor's budget is extremely important. The legislators need to hear your voice!

THE FACTS

The Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant from the state helps CT towns fund education. The state is proposing the largest cut to Groton.

 **\$9.2 million** loss to Groton in ECS funding.

 **\$4 million** in teacher pension costs shifted from the state to the town.

 **\$13.2 million total cut** to our town and our schools.

WHY ARE THE PROPOSED STATE CUTS UNFAIR?

- The calculations are based on community need and a new formula is being used by the state to determine that need.
- Groton students who are military dependents are being excluded from the calculation.
- Groton is incorrectly being classified as 'affluent', which contradicts reports from the CT Department of Economic and Community Development and home sale prices.