



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE PATRICK S. BOYD
50TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4005
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-8267
FAX: (860) 240-0206
CELL PHONE: 860-208-5531
E-MAIL: Pat.Boyd@cga.ct.gov

CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

MEMBER
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

March 2, 2021

Congressman Joe Courtney
Senator Christopher Murphy
Senator Richard Blumenthal
United States Congress
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Honorable Members of Congress,

As you are aware, the historic health and economic crises facing us have posed several difficult hurdles for our state's academic institutions. In the last federal stimulus program rollout, Connecticut schools that were not eligible for current Title I funding were excluded from the funding made available by the COVID-19 relief package. In my district specifically, the **Town of Eastford**, the **Town of Union**, and **Woodstock Academy** are **excluded from such relief funding**. Using the Title I formula to determine eligibility for Local Educational COVID relief funding is pragmatic as it leaves Connecticut's most rural School Districts without any federal support and in most cases these school districts are already under resourced. These districts are not immune to pandemic expenses accrued due to accommodations made due to the global pandemic.

The public school in the Town of Eastford educates an average of 150 students from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. It employs 17 teachers as well as additional support staff. In Union, Connecticut's smallest school district, there are 53 students, eight teachers, and other support staff in the pre-kindergarten through eighth grade public school. Both schools are ineligible for Title I funds. Woodstock Academy serves as the public high school for Eastford and Union in addition to Woodstock, Pomfret, Canterbury, and Brooklyn. Of their 1,150 total students, 950 are from these sending towns. The remaining come from different regions and all over the world. In total, the Academy currently employs 254 individuals from the local community. Because of the unique structure of the Academy, it is classified by Connecticut State Statute as an "Endowed Academy," which is not eligible for traditional state or federal funding. It relies solely on tuition revenue to operate.

The challenges being presented by COVID-19 have caused schools across the state to struggle. Added needs, expenses, and circumstances have all arisen in the past year. The schools in Eastford, Union, and Woodstock Academy are not excluded from these difficult circumstances; however, they are excluded from relief funding.

On behalf of the schools located in my district and other Connecticut schools not slated to receive funding because of their unique structures, I ask that you not forget about those who are ineligible for Title I funding when providing relief. I urge you to revisit the funding formula in any bill directed towards helping schools to include town/endowed

academies with COVID-19 relief needs that do receive Title 1 funds. Rural Connecticut needs support during these difficult times.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your service on behalf of the residents of Eastern Connecticut.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Boyd', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pat Boyd

CC:

Connecticut State Department of Education
United States Department of Education
Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees
Board of Selectmen: Town of Union & Town of Eastford
Board of Education; Town of Union & Town of Eastford
Board of Finance: Town of Union
Office of Governor Ned Lamont