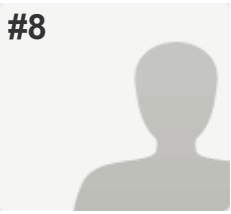


#8



COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)

Started: Sunday, November 29, 2015 5:39:02 PM

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Q1: Please enter your first and last name.

First Name	Linda
Last Name	Teel

Q2: Comment:

I was unable to make these remarks at the 11/24 meeting due to time limits on public comments. Therefore, I respectfully submit my written public comments.

As a school committee member, I appreciate the recognition that the Funding Formula needs to be updated. However, until the issue of local share is addressed, whether or not additional funds are allocated to students is of secondary importance as the pool of state money is not going to increase.

Having attended the Working Group meetings, I have noticed that there appears to be an assumption that the Core Instructional Amount is being fully funded at a local level. In many communities, including my home district of Cumberland, that simply is not true.

RIDE annually establishes the Core Instructional Amount - the amount of funds determined to be necessary to fund the Basic Education Program. It is central to the Funding Formula's goal of providing all students, regardless of where they live, equitable educational funds. The Formula also determines state and local share. Rhode Island has put a multiyear plan in place to meet its state obligation. There is no such legal requirement for local authorities to meet their obligation to fully fund their share.

For example, if the Core Instructional Amount is set at \$10,000 per student and the state share ratio for a community is 40% or \$4,000; one would assume that the local share provided is 60% or \$6,000. In fact, the local funding authority can pay any amount they choose. They are not legally required to meet their local share. As a result, the goal of the Funding Formula to provide equity for all students is unmet.

Non-core expenses, such as transportation and teacher retirement costs, are contractual and paid BEFORE core instructional expenses. In addition, state and local tax caps make it impossible for chronically underfunded communities such as Cumberland to ever fully fund their local share. They simply cannot raise enough funds to catch up and provide equity to their students.

I formally request that the Working Group recommend that the local share be a requirement and not a suggestion or guideline. It will probably be necessary to implement this requirement over a number of years similar to the state share ratio. The issue of exceeding local and state tax caps to meet the local share will also need to be addressed.

But what can't be allowed to continue is for local governments to expect that state to fund the state share without having the same obligation on their part to fully fund the local share.

Thank you for your time.
Linda Teel
Cumberland School Committee

#EdFundingRI - Public Comment Submission

Q3: By submitting this comment, you understand and acknowledge that your name and your comment will become available to the public as part of the public record.

Yes, I understand that my name along with my comment will be part of the public record and will represent me when shared or posted online.
