



GHIAA Testimony Guide for Education House Bill 5003

1. Compose your written testimony using the format below and related fact sheets.
2. Then go to this website to submit it:
<https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/CGATestimonySub/CGAtestimonysubmission.aspx?commcode=ED>
 - a. You can either upload your document or cut and paste your testimony into a box.
 - b. For the organization/agency, you can write your congregation's name/GHIAA or just leave it blank.
3. If you want to testify orally (in person or on zoom), you must sign up by **Thurs., Feb. 2 at 3pm** at this website:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nrxHjXORT1i33Mf817SclA
4. The public hearing will begin at 11:00 A.M. in Room 2C of the Legislative Office Building (LOB) and via Zoom. The LOB is located at 300 Capitol Ave, Hartford.
5. Speaker order of approved registrants will be listed in a randomized order and posted on the [Education Committee website](#) on Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. under Public Hearing Testimony.
6. If you sign up to testify orally, still submit written testimony ahead of Friday. Modify your oral remarks to be story-based, less detailed than the written testimony.
7. On Wednesday, Feb. 1 from 11-1 there will be informational forum on this bill on the Education Committee's YouTube channel: <https://cga.ct.gov/ytED>. A recording will be available after on the same site.

PRESS CONFERENCE!

Please join us for a press conference at 10am at the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, in room 1E. Wear your GHIAA shirts!

Format for Submitted Testimony

February 3, 2023

Written Testimony Submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly Joint Education and Appropriations Committees **in Support of** House Bill 5003: An Act Concerning Education Funding in Connecticut.

Co-Chairs Senator McCrory, Senator Osten, Representative Currey, and Representative Walker; Ranking Members Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and Representative Nuccio; and distinguished members of the Education and Appropriations Committees:

- Introduce yourself with your name and town. Identify your membership at a congregation and that congregation is a member of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA).
- Indicate clearly you are writing in support of the bill
- Include a few talking points to express why you support this bill – talking points provided on GHIAA fact sheets.
- Personalize your support – why do you care about this?

Sincerely,

Your name

Home address

Education Funding Equity

Ending Decades of Educational Injustice

We are calling on our leaders to support HB5003 to fully fund the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Formula. The race-based funding disparity must end now. Every student in CT must be valued equally and have their futures funded equitably.

Real Steps Toward Education Funding Equity

1. Invest \$275 million new dollars to fully fund the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Formula.
2. End the decade long ECS Gradual Phase-In for school districts receiving increases.

CT has a budget surplus. Let's use it to invest in our children.

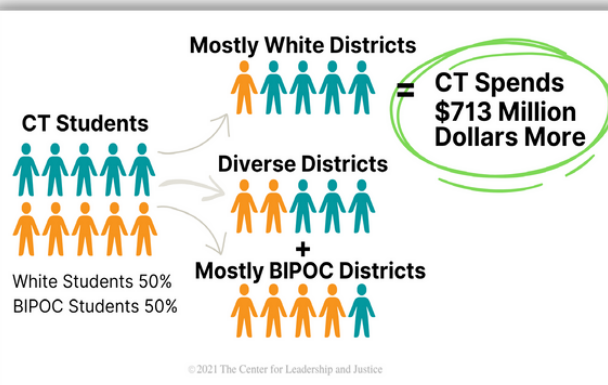
Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Formula was created to address school funding inequality by considering wealth and student needs. The ECS has never been fully funded since 1989.

Racial Funding Gap - CT students are 50% white and 50% BIPOC, but CT spends \$713 million dollars more on mostly white districts than diverse or mostly BIPOC districts. Majority BIPOC districts spend roughly \$2,300 less per student than Majority White Population districts.

Schools Need Resources to educate our students but 67% of public school students don't receive full funding for a high quality K-12 education. Under-funded schools are unable to offer teachers competitive salaries, causing high turnover and reliance on substitute teachers. A study showed 84% of CT voters support increasing teacher salaries.

**Hartford County
Mostly BIPOC Districts
Under Funded
\$50+ Million**

Hartford, Bloomfield,
East Hartford, Windsor
New Britain



Support HB5003

- Competitive Teacher Salaries
- Small Classroom Sizes
- More ESL Teachers
- Paraprofessionals

In CT, we value our history of calls for justice dating back to the Amistad Trails in New Haven and Harriet Beecher Stowe living and writing in Hartford. Let us build on that legacy by treating with our children justly. Together we can create a state where all students can thrive.



Education Funding Equity

The Vision: CT Schools Thriving through Funding Equity

References

1. A Segregated Connecticut. School + State Finance Project. 2023. <https://schoolstatefinance.org/issues/segregated-connecticut>
2. Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Formula Infographic. (2021). School + State Finance Project. <https://schoolstatefinance.org/reports/ecs-formula-infographic>
3. Segregation & Education. School + State Finance Project. 2-23. <https://schoolstatefinance.org/issues/segregation-and-education>
4. School and State Finance Project. (2020). Racial Disparities in Connecticut Education Funding. New Haven, CT: Author. Retrieved from <http://ctschoolfinance.org/resources/uploads/files/Racial-Disparities-in-CT-Education-Funding.pdf>.
5. School and State Finance Project. (2020). Fact Sheet: Racial Disparities in Connecticut Education Funding. New Haven, CT: Author. Retrieved from <http://ctschoolfinance.org/resources/uploads/files/Racial-Disparities-and-Educational-Funding-Fact-Sheet.pdf>
6. CEA Survey Finds Connecticut Voters Concerned About Growing Crisis in Public Schools. Connecticut Education Association. 2023. <https://cea.org/cea-survey-finds-connecticut-voters-concerned-about-growing-crisis-in-public-schools/>

Note

GHIAA uses the term BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) to refer to individuals who self-identify as American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Black or African American; Hispanic/Latino of any race; Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander; or two or more races. This is used to remain inclusive and respectful when discussing individuals from a variety of communities.

Written testimony submitted to the Education and Appropriations Committees
on H.B. 5003, An Act Concerning Education Funding in Connecticut

February 3, 2023

Co-Chairs Senator McCrory, Senator Osten, Representative Currey, and Representative Walker; Ranking Members Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and Representative Nuccio; and distinguished members of the Education and Appropriations Committees:

My name is NAME and I am from CITY/TOWN, Connecticut.

I'm asking you to vote "Yes" on H.B. 5003, An Act Concerning Education Funding in Connecticut, because it will:

- Address longstanding injustice. Connecticut spends \$788 million more educating white students than students of color. The racial funding gap is growing, and we need to close it.
- Unify our education system. Public schools should be funded fairly based on need. This includes traditional, magnet, charter, and vocational-technical schools.
- Make up for lost funding. Districts will lose more than \$1 billion when federal COVID relief runs out. We can't treat temporary funds like a permanent solution.

I support this because.....

I'm asking you to help make Connecticut a more just and equitable place to live. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

NAME

ADDRESS

Hartford County School Districts, Diversity & Impact of HB5003

| Town | Category | Percent White | Percent BIPOC | HB5003 Impact |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Avon | Diverse | 63.10% | 36.90% | \$174,276 |
| Berlin | Mostly White | 78.10% | 21.90% | \$243,966 |
| Bloomfield | Mostly BIPOC | 8.30% | 91.70% | \$1,964,644 |
| Bristol | Diverse | 49.10% | 50.90% | \$4,833,209 |
| Burlington(Regional District 10) | Diverse | 71.20% | 28.80% | \$772,804 |
| Canton | Mostly White | 82.10% | 17.90% | \$477,499 |
| East Granby | Diverse | 73.50% | 26.50% | \$141,747 |
| East Hartford | Diverse | 11.30% | 88.70% | \$8,897,590 |
| East Windsor | Diverse | 50.20% | 49.80% | \$382,714 |
| Enfield | Diverse | 64.70% | 35.30% | \$1,446,507 |
| Farmington | Diverse | 56.40% | 43.60% | \$430,157 |
| Glastonbury | Diverse | 66.80% | 33.20% | \$791,119 |
| Granby | Mostly White | 84.00% | 16.00% | \$195,613 |
| Hartford | Mostly BIPOC | 7.30% | 92.70% | \$23,593,332 |
| Hartland | Mostly White | 84.30% | 15.70% | \$68,230 |
| Manchester | Diverse | 31.70% | 68.30% | \$7,123,937 |
| Marlborough | Mostly White | 86.80% | 13.20% | \$134,167 |
| New Britain | Mostly BIPOC | 15.30% | 84.70% | \$14,384,300 |
| Newington | Diverse | 54.90% | 45.10% | \$1,320,754 |
| Plainville | Diverse | 65.30% | 34.70% | \$600,401 |
| Rocky Hill | Diverse | 51.90% | 48.10% | \$1,437,386 |
| Simsbury | Diverse | 71.30% | 28.70% | \$1,627,934 |
| South Windsor | Diverse | 50.10% | 49.80% | \$499,536 |
| Southington | Mostly White | 77.50% | 22.50% | \$725,425 |
| Suffield | Mostly White | 83.20% | 16.80% | \$287,673 |
| West Hartford | Diverse | 56.00% | 44.00% | \$652,491 |
| Wethersfield | Diverse | 66.20% | 33.80% | \$2,817,985 |
| Windsor | Diverse | 23.50% | 76.50% | \$1,436,626 |
| Windsor Locks | Diverse | 57.70% | 42.30% | \$536,258 |