

To the Members of the Education Committee,

I am writing to you today, as a parent and as a Principal, to ask that you please narrow the scope of S. 13 to create a task force that is only charged with creating a proposal to implement the corrected pupil weights. I am the Principal of Academy School in Brattleboro, where my daughter also attends first grade. With a free/ reduced lunch rate of over 60%, I see first-hand every day the needs of our students. Before they are able to access the learning we provide, they often need clean clothing, food, and family support. We are lucky to be able to meet most of these needs, due to creative thinking, problem-solving, and community support. We work very hard at Academy School to provide equitable experiences for our students: everyone has access to what they need, to the best of our ability. However, having a more equalized pupil weighting would certainly go far to benefit our students. I urge you to please speak with our WSESD House Representatives about this matter as well. Together, we can create a more equitable education and school environment for all children.

Thank you for your time,

Kelly Dias
Principal of Academy School, Brattleboro