

CONCORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
CONCORD-CARLISLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Tracey Marano  
CHAIR, CCRSD  
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To: Concord and Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committees  
CC: Carlisle Finance Committee  
Carlisle Select Board,  
Concord Finance Committee  
Concord Select Board  
Date: September 27, 2023  
Re: CCRSD BUDGET PROJECTION SEPTEMBER 23 UPDATE

**BACKGROUND:** In July of this year, we distributed a memo detailing the challenges confronting the district related to the transportation of students residing at the DCHD shelter facility.

We had *specific concerns regarding the timing of reimbursement payments* for costs associated with transporting students residing at the DCHD shelter facility to their home districts, as detailed below (copied from our original July memo):

*Reimbursements for transporting students residing at the Best Western will not be reimbursed **for a full fiscal year**, meaning the transportation expenses incurred in **FY23** will not be reimbursed to the Concord and Concord-Carlisle school districts until **June 2024**.*

**UPDATE:** Thanks to the joint lobbying efforts of Superintendent Hunter and Representative Cataldo, Concord will be included in a *pilot program of 22 communities with DCHD shelters that will receive more timely disbursement of reimbursement funds for the time period of April - June of 2023*.

This is not new legislation but instead an administrative change to the timing of the reimbursement. This change does not suggest or ensure that the state of Massachusetts will commit to a similar disbursement schedule for any or all future disbursements. *For now we should expect all future disbursements to come as outlined in the existing legislation as detailed in the original memo.*

**WORTH NOTING:** The chairs of Concord Public Schools and Concord-Carlisle Regional High School sent a note of thanks to Representative Cataldo on behalf of the school committees (see below):

*Hi Simon,*

*I just heard from Laurie that you made a real impact in helping secure timely disbursement of reimbursement funds for the transportation of students from the DCHD shelter to their home districts.*

*This has true, genuine, tangible impact, and on behalf of the Concord and Concord Carlisle School Committees, Tracey and I would like to thank you.*

*We appreciate your advocacy and we look forward to continued and sustained partnership.*

*Best,*

*Alexa Anderson, Chair CPS  
Tracey Marano, Chair CCRSD*

Representative Cataldo responded with the following:

*Dear Alexa and Tracey,*

*Thank you for this kind note. On top of everything else she does, Dr. Hunter has worked overtime over the past several months to get me the information that I needed to relay to multiple stakeholders in the Legislature and Administration. I'm delighted that we could capture the attention of all of the right people in order to make this happen.*

*One thing that has been made very clear to me is how much House Leadership and the Healey Administration respects and appreciates the way that the Concord-Carlisle community has welcomed our new residents with grace and generosity. This made it easy for me to advocate for timely reimbursement of out-of-district transportation costs. I'm very proud to represent a community that has really met the moment with regard to the shelter. There are, of course, other ongoing challenges, and I look forward to working with Dr. Hunter and others to ensure that the state does its part to help us make this work for everyone in our community.*

*Thanks as always, too, for your service and leadership.*

*Sincerely,*

*State Representative Simon Cataldo*

We wanted to include this back and forth to demonstrate the district's commitment to tireless advocacy on behalf of our students, as well as the tireless advocacy of our state representative. We can accomplish significant things when we work together for the good of our students and community.