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DOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

October 1, 2012

Dr. Virginia Barry, Commissioner
NH Department of Education
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Commissioner Barry:

On behalf of the Dover School Board, past and present members, and our district staff, we wish to first thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to meet with us on September 18th to discuss the issue of adequacy.

At your recommendation, we are requesting that you initiate a process to rectify the disparity that currently exists between calculated preliminary grant amounts and the adjusted adequacy grant received. This inequity affects 37 communities, in amounts ranging from \$1,023 below the calculated grant to \$4,275,215, for a total sum of \$19,204,226. Specifically Dover is among six communities who receive \$1 million less than the State Department of Education considers being adequate. Dover currently receives \$6,051,542 or \$1.2 million dollars less than the calculated grant of \$7,253,305 (FY13). Conversely, there are 46 municipalities getting over 1 million more than their calculated amount.

In addition, the community of Dover continues to grow and has been identified as the fastest growing community in New Hampshire. We added 50 students to our roster last year alone. Our ADM on FY13 adequacy document is listed as 3417 students and in the 2010-2011 ADM for Dover is 3644, for a discrepancy of 237 students. By using the 2008 Average Daily Membership (ADM) to distribute the adequacy aid, we are penalized again, as our number of students have increased, however many communities whose population have decreased remain at the hold harmless level of adequacy funding. Dover is also ranked third from the bottom in the state with our cost per pupil at \$9,845.

Dover School District Mission Statement

Strengthening our community by educating every child, every day!

Despite the limited resources available to our students, they continue to make substantial progress as defined on the state assessment program. Our middle school students had some of the highest growth in NECAP reading scores in the State.

The Dover School District is seeking repeal of the State imposed cap on 37 underfunded municipalities allowing for full adequacy funding based on the current formula for the FY14/15 State biennium appropriation for education grants. We look forward to working with you and your staff on a satisfactory resolution to this issue of disparity that impacts 37 municipalities and over 43,000 (or 23%) of our New Hampshire youth.

Sincerely,

Jean Briggs Badger, Superintendent

Rocky D'Andrea, Chairperson

Amanda L. Russell, Vice Chair

Betsy Andrews Parker, Secretary

School Board At Large

School Board At Large

School Board At Large

School Board At Large

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