GET BACK TO THE TABLE

The school funding debate must find resolution by end of July; therefore, we are strongly urging all parties to return to the table for further negotiations.

The budget, SB6, is law. It requires money allocated to schools be distributed through a formula based on evidence and research. "OK", you say." No problem because didn't SB 1, the evidence-based model, pass both chambers on May 31st?

Yes! However:
- To date, the Senate has not yet sent the bill to the Governor.
- The Governor has expressed his intent to veto or amendatory veto the bill.
- SB 1 is not on track to become law before the new school year begins.
- There is, currently, no vehicle for distribution of school funds.

CALL YOUR SENATORS and REPRESENTATIVES NOW and ask them to:

- Urge Senators to release SB1 to the Governor and expedite action by the Governor on the legislation.
- Urge the Governor and members of the General Assembly to **Get Back to The Table**;
- Urge the Governor and members of the General Assembly to take appropriate action and negotiate an Evidence Based Model (EBM) that includes the following:

  o Adequacy Target for every school based on its unique student needs (27 elements),
  o Base Funding Mechanism (hold harmless) that is a permanent component of any Evidence Based formula.
  o Moves to a per-student distribution following an agreed-upon number of years. (1-4 have been discussed).
  o Regional Cost index
  o Poverty
  o Consistency

An Evidence Based Funding Model should not include the following language:

  o Property Tax Freeze
  o Pensions

We do not support a property tax freeze, property taxes are the primary source of income for many school districts, therefore should there be legislative interest to deal with either of these topics, it should be done so outside of school funding formula legislation.

The first General State Aid payment is due to school districts **on August 10th**. The Legislature and the Governor must act by the **end of the month to ensure all schools are able to open and stay opened.**