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PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release

National Home Education Legal Defense, LLC, (NHELD) has filed a Complaint and Request with the Connecticut State Auditors for an immediate investigation and Audit of what is known as the State's "School Fund" to determine if the money is being used improperly for "double funding" of the public schools or for tracking of parents and students no longer enrolled in the public school system.

Apparently, the term "double funding" is a term used to describe the funneling of monies to public schools to pay for students no longer enrolled in the public school system, "in case" those students return to the public school system at some later time.

If true, NHELD wants to know if such "double funding" is a legally appropriate use of those public funds.

We also want to know if the proposed use of public school money under SB6 or HB5468, (the "homeschooling bills"), would be used appropriately to hire additional staff to implement the bill's regulatory framework, which includes processing forms received by boards of education for families no longer enrolled in the public schools, contact with families no longer enrolled in the public schools, reports to various State agencies about families no longer enrolled in the public schools, data tracking of them, records checks about them with DCF, and more, which results in upwards of \$400,000 per year according to the fiscal notes attached to the bills.

NHELD wants to know if "School Fund" monies includes the use of ECS monies specifically designated for per pupil expenditures.

NHELD wants to know if any of the funds specifically designated, by law, for use only for the support of public schools in the State are being improperly used to pay for those who are no longer enrolled in the public schools.

NHELD wants to know that the public school money is being used appropriately.

The public schools need to be funded by all the public school funding that is necessary. Those enrolled in the public schools depend on it.

No money designated by law for the public schools should be used for anything else.

The public needs to know if taxpayer money is being spent appropriately.

The State Auditors are designated with the authority to investigate and to report whether their money is being used properly. We are asking them to do that now.

Because the Connecticut State Constitution says that there shall be a "School Fund", held in perpetuity, for the sole support of public schools, that no law shall be adopted to "divert" that fund for purposes other than the support of public schools, and because NHELD has become aware of the apparent practice of "double funding", and the use of public school funds in proposed bills SB6 and HB5468 for other than support of public schools to process, search, and data track students no longer enrolled in the public schools, NHELD believes an immediate audit of the "School Fund", the ECS funds, and any other funds designated by law for the sole purpose of supporting public schools, is absolutely and immediately necessary.

Therefore, NHELD has appropriately filed such a request with the State Auditors. The public needs to know the truth and deserves complete fiscal accountability.

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FORMAL REQUEST FOR AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION AND AUDIT TO DETERMINE WHETHER "SCHOOL FUND" MONIES HAVE BEEN IMPROPERLY SPENT

April 20, 2026

I, attorney Deborah G. Stevenson, on behalf of Connecticut based National Home Education Legal Defense, LLC, and taxpaying parents of the State of Connecticut, do hereby respectfully request the State Auditors, pursuant to the duties of the State Auditors under CGS §2-90 and 4-61dd, to accept this complaint, and request, to undertake **an immediate investigation and audit of the State's "School Fund" and ECS monies**, to determine whether they are being distributed improperly in violation of the provisions of the Connecticut Constitution and State statutes.

We make this request because we have reason to believe that **certain monies in the "School Fund" have been used to pay public school districts per pupil funding for students who are no longer enrolled in the public school system.**

We believe the payments for students no longer enrolled in the public school system, euphemistically called **"double funding"**, has been ongoing in the past, is going on currently, and is planned to continue in the future, as well, due to pending legislation in at least two bills about which we are aware - **SB6 and HB5468.**

Regarding SB6 and HB5468, we have reason to believe that the "School Fund" monies will be improperly used, in violation of the Connecticut Constitution's provision that monies from the "School Fund" **are to be inviolably appropriated only to support public schools**, to pay public schools for costs incurred in implementing the directives in those bills to process, track, and collect data, relating to parents who have **withdrawn from the public schools to enroll in nonpublic schools or to otherwise instruct their own children.**

We respectfully urge the State Auditors to immediately conduct an investigation and audit to determine if the **"School Fund" monies, including but not limited to, ECS funds**, are being properly used, and to issue a report with recommendations for the proper use of those funds. Further explanation regarding this request is below.

I. The relevant law.

The Connecticut Constitution, **Article Eighth, Sections 1 and 4**, provide that there shall be in perpetuity a **"School Fund"**, the interest from which is **precluded from being used or diverted for anything but the support of the public schools.** The exact language is:

"Sec. 1. There shall always be free public elementary and secondary schools in the state. The general assembly shall implement this principle by appropriate legislation."

"Sec. 4. The fund, called the SCHOOL FUND, shall remain a perpetual fund, the interest of which shall be inviolably appropriated to the support and encouragement of the public schools throughout the state, and for the equal benefit of all the people thereof...and no law shall ever be made, authorizing such fund to be diverted to any other use than the encouragement and support of public schools, among the several school societies, as justice and equity shall require."

In other words, the State Constitution requires that the monies contained in the "School Fund" are to remain in the School Fund; the interest earned from that "School Fund" may be used **only** for the support of the public schools; and that **"no law shall ever be made"** that would cause the monies in that fund **"to be diverted"** to **"any other use"** than support of the public schools.

2. Our request.

It is our understanding that **"double funding"**, i.e., per pupil expenditure monies used to pay the public schools for students **who are no longer enrolled in the public schools**, thus have been **"diverted"** to uses other than encouragement and support of public schools. It also is our understanding from the fiscal analysis notes for **SB6 and HB 5468**, that funds would be **"diverted"** to other State agencies for hiring additional staff and for implementation of the directives contained in those bills. ***** (See note below).

Therefore, we respectfully request the State Auditors to conduct **an immediate investigation and audit of the "School Fund"** to determine whether the monies have been **improperly diverted** to uses other than to support the public schools, and to do so with the following questions in mind:

1. Is there a **"School Fund"** that exists in a bank of some kind that can be identified?
 - a. If so, what is the amount that exists in it in perpetuity?
 - b. If so, is the interest from that fund held in a separate account or identified for use separately?
 - c. If so, is the interest from that School Fund being used **solely for the public schools**?
 - d. If so, does the **ECS money** for per pupil spending come from that interest from the School Fund?
2. If there is **no separately identified "School Fund"**, from what account does the money come that is provided to the public schools in the State?
3. Assuming that there is a separately identified "School Fund", given that the interest from that perpetually held **"School Fund"** shall be used **only for the public schools, is the money being properly provided to, and used only for, the public schools or is it being diverted for other purposes?**
4. Are the "School Fund" monies being distributed to the public schools **in a manner that provides funding for students who are no longer enrolled in the public schools, i.e. "in case" those students re-enroll in the public schools, and is that so called "double funding" of the public schools appropriate?**
5. Is it **appropriate to use monies from the "School Fund" to pay for uses relating to students who are no longer enrolled in the public school system, i.e. for hiring staff to identify, process, report to DCF, provide oversight, administration, correspond, communicate, collect and share data etc.?**

Therefore, for all of the above reasons, we respectfully request the State Auditors to accept this complaint and request, to immediately conduct the audit of the "School Fund", and to issue the results in a report to the public; and, if any misuse of the funds is found, to recommend that all who have misused such funds are fully held accountable for their actions as warranted, whether civilly or criminally, such that all public funds may be safeguarded in perpetuity.


Attorney Deborah G. Stevenson

*****Note, for example::

(SB6: "Section 5 requires local and regional boards of education to notify the Department of Education (SDE) when a child is withdrawn from public school and SDE must then notify DCF of the withdrawal, starting in FY 27. Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), SDE is prohibited from sharing certain confidential student data. The requirement to notify DCF may be a violation of federal law which could potentially result in a significant loss of federal funding to SDE. Upon SDE notification, DCF must check if the child has an open case file and note the withdrawal, resulting in a **potential cost to DCF of \$23,400 in FY 27 (and annually thereafter) to hire a Careline processing technician (0.5 FTE) that would support any increase in case search volume associated with the bill's requirements.1**
1 Up to 2,000 students are withdrawn from public school every year.")

(HB 5468: "Sections 1 and 4 result in an annual cost of **\$400,000** to the **State Department of Education (SDE)**, beginning in FY 27, to implement the bill's regulatory framework and develop, distribute, and maintain guidance regarding the bill's provisions. **This funding is required to expand capacity annually as needed."**)