



# Wachusett Regional School

November 12, 2009

Dear Parents:

After much thought and deliberation I have decided to ask you to help bring equitable state funding back to the Wachusett Regional School District. It is time for our parents to speak out against an unjust state practice of cutting regional school transportation reimbursement when the state has a budget shortfall. This historical trend is epitomized by Governor Patrick's recent cut that cost our district more than a million dollars.

It is time that the policymakers on Beacon Hill understand that cuts to regional transportation are cuts that are taken in the classroom. This is the case because the District is legally required to transport students and thus, when transportation is cut, we must find other areas to reduce because the busses must roll by law and as a matter of practicality due to our regional nature. Last spring's crisis is directly attributable to a severe reduction in the transportation reimbursement. As a region, we took all the cuts incurred by municipal districts, and also had to absorb this additional reduction which directly led to the reduction of forty positions in our schools. Last week Governor Patrick announced his 9C cuts and stated right here in Worcester that he had not cut education. Yet earlier in the day our district was informed that our reimbursement had been cut by over a million dollars. This additional cut will threaten our ability to educate your children this year and beyond. It is time that we let the Governor know that regional transportation cuts are educational cuts and that the budget cannot be balanced on the backs of your children any longer.

We all realize that times are tough and that cuts are inevitable. However, we have been singled out for a cut because of our status as a regional school district. This is patently unfair. If you agree, I ask that you contact the Governor and let him know of your concern. I have included his contact information below for your quick reference. If you require more detailed information regarding this cut, please go to our website ([www.wrsd.net](http://www.wrsd.net)) where I have posted a recent letter that was sent to Secretary of Education Paul Reville. The Governor has made a political decision to make a cut to regional schools because there are only 83 regional districts. It is my hope that our district will let him know that he has made a political mistake. A quick call or email from parents may do wonders. Give it some thought.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Pandiscio, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

*To contact Governor Patrick:*  
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