

Rural Aid Advocacy

A Message from CBRSD Superintendent Michael Henault

Central Berkshire Regional Schools, more so than other Berkshire districts, relies on Rural Aid in order to fully fund our operational budget. We currently rely on **1.2 million dollars** from this revenue source to keep our schools running. This money is not guaranteed and is dependent on yearly appropriation by the state. We need your advocacy to help keep our rural schools funded!

Please take some time to read the sample letter, which can be updated with personalized language, anecdotes or other information. It can be sent to the Governor by using the link at the bottom of the page.

Thank you for your advocacy!

Governor Healey:

I respectfully urge you to fully fund Rural Aid at the recommended level of \$60 million, to fund Regional Transportation reimbursement at 100%, and fully fund the Circuit Breaker and Charter School line items in your FY27 budget. These commitments are critical to sustaining rural schools and upholding the Commonwealth's promise of educational equity for all students.

Fixed costs inherent to operating schools (like having buses pick up our students, or having principals run our schools) and our lack of access to economies of scale make our per-student costs 20% higher than our non-rural, non-regional counterparts.

Here is our reality: we can not simply deflect rising costs by eliminating positions. We are already stripped down. The loss of a single teacher in a small district results in a meaningful impact to class sizes or can force us to reduce or eliminate entire programs. We have lost most of our foreign languages, limited electives, increased class sizes K-12, eliminated most after school transportation, have scaled back intervention services, and are wondering how to afford the high quality curriculum resources our teachers and students need every day. Even given these reductions, the current Chapter 70 formula, when applied to our low-wealth, low-enrollment towns fuels a growing equity gap between rural and nonrural districts. Until this formula is fixed to include rural funding, we need Rural Aid to continue to operate.

Help sustain our rural schools and fund them in a way that ensures our students have equitable access to high quality educational experiences.

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to Massachusetts public education.

Sincerely,

For another sample letter, generated by Rural Schools Advocacy in Massachusetts please click here: [Sample H2 letter to Governor 2025](#)

Also please see this website for more information about MA Rural Schools Advocacy:
<https://www.ruralschoolsma.org/>