

Dear parents,

I hope that you are aware of the fact that for many years, the Winchester school system has had a Family Resource Center operating at the Batcheller Elementary School. This important work has been carried on by Ruthann Horvay and her wonderful staff at little or no cost to the residents of the town. Ruthann has been a tireless advocate for this center. It provides help to parents of children from birth to three. It coordinates with all of the day care providers and Headstart. It provides counseling for young families trying to make ends meet. It provides training in a program called Parents as Teachers. It helps with transitioning of children from birth to school age helping to get youngsters ready for a successful school experience. Research indicates that the early years in a child's life set the stage for a child's success in school. The program is a lynch pin in our efforts to improve student achievement.

This program runs at a very small cost to the district. Ruthann has used grant monies from the State and has coupled this with funding from other grants from the private sector. Her program is well run and has served a model for many others in the State.

Please read her attached letter and send a copy or a similar statement of support in your own word to words to Gov. Rell.

She has proposed elimination of funding to these centers for the next two years. At this time it is just a proposal.

I will be sending you the addresses for both Andrew Roraback and John Rigby our State Senator and Assemblyman. Copies of letters to them would certainly help.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Blaise Salerno, School Superintendent