

ISAAC Parents Corner

...by parents ... for parents ...

Transportation to ISAAC

School officials in Region 18 School District (Lyme and Old Lyme) considered transportation for ISAAC students this month. We raised the issue with the School Superintendent in a September meeting. The Superintendent declined our request for transportation for our children, Hugh and Abigail. We then sent a letter to the Region 18 School Board. The Board heard our request on October 15, 2008. The Board requested more information from school district administrators. At the Board meeting on November 5, 2008, the school business manager reported the cost for transporting Hugh and Abigail to ISAAC for the school year was \$6,130. The Board voted 4-2 against providing transportation to ISAAC students. Board members opposing transportation for ISAAC students said that if the Board provided transportation to ISAAC students it would have to provide transportation to other students attending public schools outside the District (specifically the Science & Technology School in New London). There is only 1 student in the District going to the Science & Technology School and we contend that the District has a legal obligation to provide transportation to that interdistrict public school as well as ISAAC.

The next steps entails tackling this issue on several fronts. First, we must start a campaign to convince our local legislators to change the law to require the school districts to transport ISAAC students and/or provide more state funding for transportation to charter schools. Second, we need to initiate discussions with the Boards of Education of Montville, Salem, East Lyme and Waterford. Third, we will investigate the merits of appealing the adverse decision of the Region 18 School Board to the State Board of Education pursuant to Section 10-4b of the Connecticut General Statutes.

We need your help! We will contact families about how they can help -- through letters to legislators, seeking transportation from local school boards denying transportation to ISAAC students, and talking to reporters about this issue. Thank you to those who have already expressed their willingness to help. This issue is crucial for ISAAC!

11/11/08

Submitted by Ellen Calkins and Joe Cipparone (parents of Hugh and Abigail Cipparone, 6th graders)