



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
PRESS CONTACT:**

June 17, 2024  
Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools  
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## **Ellington Public Schools Continues to Improve School Security at High School with State Bonding for East Windsor Radio Tower**

**ELLINGTON, CT** - On June 7, 2024, the State Bond Commission approved funding allocations including \$8 million for the North Central CT Police and Public Safety Infrastructure project, which will provide better communication resources for East Windsor, Ellington, and Windsor.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Scott Nicol stated, *"It is my understanding that approximately \$150K or more will be needed to address some areas of Ellington High School where poor radio signals exist. School security is certainly an appropriate area for the State to partner with local municipalities to improve infrastructure."*

Representative Jaime Foster was a strong advocate for securing the funding.

*"I'm proud of the team for its collaborative effort to submit the state bond proposal,"* said Rep. Foster. *"This funding will benefit East Windsor and Ellington, as both towns are about to get major public safety upgrades. The bond funding includes improvements to Ellington High School's police radio system by adding a repeater to allow the police radios to work within and beyond the walls of EHS. East Windsor will overhaul its entire public safety communication infrastructure, linking into the state system, and bolstering the network all our state police use in the region. I'm proud to have played a significant role in making this funding a reality for two of our 5<sup>th</sup> District towns."*

Over the past decade the Ellington Board of Education—partnering with the Town of Ellington—has prioritized school security in terms of funding, policy, and staffing. Walter Lee, Emergency & Risk Management Director for both the town and school district, was the former chief of the Connecticut State Capitol Police. Town Administrator Matthew Reed was the former chief of the South Windsor Police Department and this year's new addition, School Security Officer, John Kelley, was the former chief of the Vernon Police Department.

EPS is one of a handful of school districts in the State of Connecticut that employ armed School Security Officers (SSO), having three in total, all of whom are retired police officers. Additionally, the EPS security department includes a School Resource Officer (SRO) who is an active police officer for the Town of Ellington with the primary duty of servicing the school system.

*"Ellington is proud of the Board's long-standing bi-partisan focus on school security with the latest improvement to our communication with the State police. In addition, Board Vice-Chair, Kerry Socha has been a strong advocate for the addition of armed security officers—who are retired police officers—as critical to the safety of our staff and students."*

**—Board of Education Chair, Jennifer Dzen**

A press conference with Lt. Governor Bysiewicz will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 18th at the East Windsor Police Department to further highlight the North Central CT Police and Public Safety Infrastructure project for East Windsor, Ellington, and Windsor.

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