



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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MAJORITY
LEADER

Bob Duff

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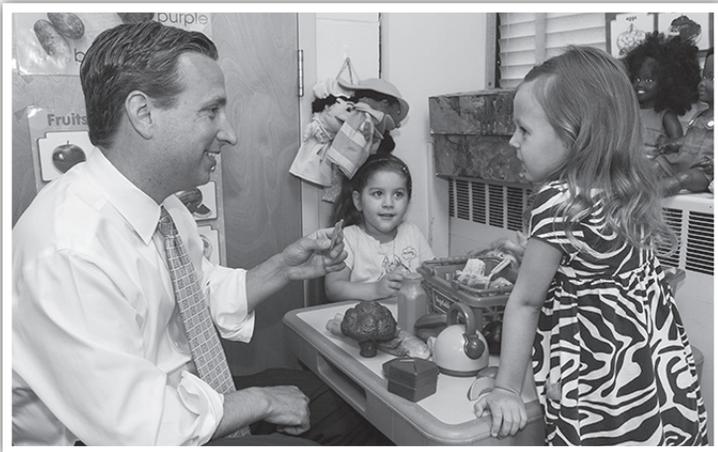
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Improvements at Early Education Sites

I am pleased to announce that five programs in Norwalk have been approved for state grants that fund facility improvements and capital repairs for school readiness programs and state-funded day care centers.

Early childhood education is the foundation of a successful future, and these programs strive to provide that for all of Norwalk's children.

Improvements at Marvin Children's Center, Children's Playhouse, Nathaniel Ely Head Start, Ben Franklin Head Start and Norwalk Community College include security upgrades, playground resurfacing, kitchen renovations and other upgrades.

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Helping Make College More Affordable

Middle-income families are facing a myriad of financial pressures, from caring for aging parents to figuring out how to pay for their child's college. That's why I am supporting proposals capping administrative costs, refinancing student loan debt and expanding access to scholarships and transparency in financial aid.

College costs are an urgent topic of discussion in Connecticut and across our nation. According to the College Board, tuition at public four-year institutions in the U.S. has increased by 17 percent in the past five years.

The priority for state dollars in higher education should be on providing services to students and limiting tuition increases, and we should know exactly where financial aid dollars are being spent.

The Maritime Aquarium

As part of an ongoing effort to promote Connecticut tourism, I have worked with the Governor to secure \$2 million in state assistance for essential renovations and upgrades to the Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk.

