

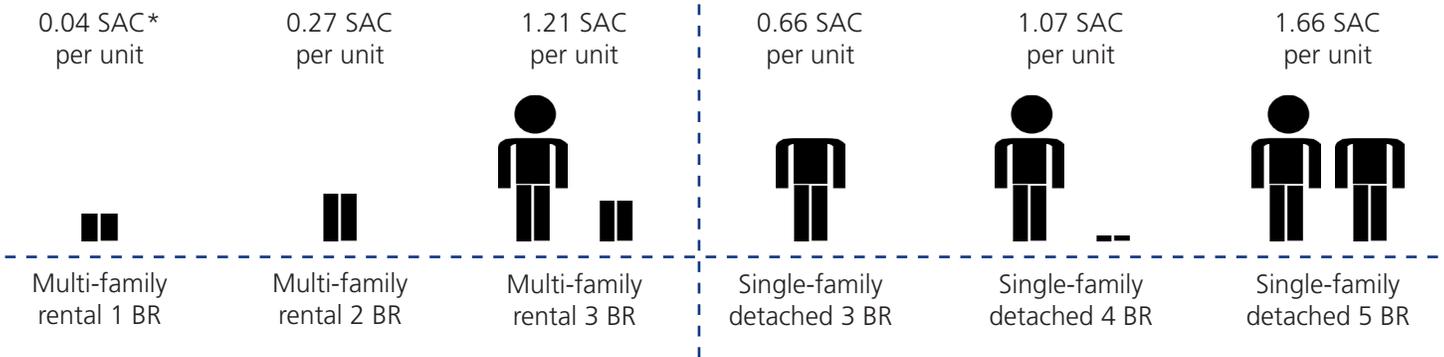


HOMECONNECTICUT
 For Our Economy, Our Families, Our Future
 a campaign of the Partnership for Strong Communities

The School Cost Myth: All Housing **Doesn't** Increase School Costs

Only larger homes bring many school-age children

Rutgers University's Center for Urban Policy Research analysis (June 2006) of Connecticut's number of school age children living in various housing types indicate the following averages:



* SAC = School-Age Children

Plus, school enrollments are falling

Report by the CT State Data Center (June 2008) projected significant declines in CT school enrollment:

From their peak in 2004-05, school enrollments are expected to drop by 17% by 2020. Even if new housing brings additional school children, it is likely that classroom vacancies will be able to absorb them without additional costs.

Most school budget increases are not related to enrollment, or to the number of children in housing

Findings of a University of Massachusetts Donohue Institute study (May 2007) on school cost impact of mixed-income housing:

Studying seven Massachusetts communities with mixed-income housing between 1994 and 2004, they found teaching staff levels and overall expenditures increased independently of changes in enrollment.

During that time period, school enrollments statewide were essentially flat, while employment of full time equivalent (FTE) teaching staff increased by eight percent, and total school expenditures grew by 28.6 percent.

Some school districts studied had costs rise significantly even while their enrollment declined. There are clear fiscal pressures on municipalities due to educational costs, but there is no evidence that student enrollment growth is the cause of the budgetary problems.



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