

**CITY COUNCIL AND BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL BUDGET AD HOC COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING**

Thursday, June 5 , 2025 at 6:30 PM
Kelly Middle School Community Room
Mahan Drive, Norwich, CT

Present: City Council: President Pro Tem Joseph DeLucia; Alderwoman Stacy Gould, Alderman Swarnjit Singh

Board of Education (BOE): John Iovino, Kevin Saythany, Mark Kulos (non-voting)

Ex-Officio Members: Susan Lessard - SOS, Jamie Bender - Asst. SOS, Dr. Lisa Hughes - NPS Director of Pupil Services, Bob Sirpenski - NPS Business Manager, Josh Pothier - Comptroller City of Norwich

Absent: Ella Myles, BOE; Christine Distasio, BOE; John Salomone, City of Norwich

1. Call to Order. Pres. Pro Tem DeLucia called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.
2. Public Comment Period. None was given.
3. New Business.
 - a. Discussion and Possible Action - Recommendation to the City Council regarding FY 2025-2026 School Budget

Pres. Pro Tem DeLucia turned the meeting over to Superintendent Lessard to bring the committee up-to-date on the status of the proposed school budget and information regarding the State of Connecticut education budget.

Ms. Lessard distributed copies of four new slides (Attachment A).

Slides page numbered 25 and 26, which provided details about the Special Education and expansion Development Grant (SEED) were discussed in detail by Ms. Lessard and Mr. Sirpenski, who stressed that while some information is available, there has been details provided to them as to how the SEED funds can be used. Discussion followed.

Pres. Pro Tem DeLucia extended an invitation to the BOE members to attend the City Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, June 9th at 7:30 PM.

Ms. Lessard described the plan in place in the event one School Resource Officer position would be eliminated as shown on the second slide. Discussion followed.

Ms. Lessard then reviewed the staffing restoration proposal outlined on slide page number 27, which would be enacted due to an unexpected increase in Alliance Funding (ECS Entitlements). Discussion followed.

Mr. Sirpenski handed out copies of an Education Cost Sharing (ECS) presentation that was made to CASBO. (Attachment B). Discussion followed.

Mr. Sirpenski informed the committee that Norwich will not receive funding for a Pre-K program, but using endowment funds for Pre-K will be considered.

Ms. Lessard reviewed the information on slide page number 28, which showed how the BOE is planning to align their budget assumptions with the funding received from the State of Connecticut. Discussion followed.

Mr. Sirpenski distributed a document that included key information about HB 7287, SP 1, HP 5001, and bond bill HB 7288. (Attachment C). Discussion followed, which included the plan for the reduction of school resource officers (SROs), and the use of SEED funds for restored staffing instead of budgeted funds.

Mr. Sirpenski also explained the assumption for using the bonded funds from the DRIP grant, which can be used for capital improvements; however the rules for using the funds have not been provided yet. It is their hope that these funds will help reduce some budget costs earmarked for maintenance. Discussion followed.

Other topics discussed were the billing standards for school transportation, rates for out of district special education and that Norwich has been chosen for a performance audit to take place at a future date.

Ms. Lessard recapped the efforts made to bring the budget to the mandated 1%, and the impact the lower than expected funding from the State will have on the budget. She will prepare a final slide showing the calculation of funds received after the cost of rehiring some staff.

Alderwoman Gould made a motion to send a favorable recommendation to the City Council to fund the Norwich Public Schools to the level currently appropriated in the preliminary adopted budget for FY 2025-26 (\$96,637,707). Alderman Singh seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Pres. Pro Tem called for a vote:

Pres. Pro Tem DeLucia - Yes
Alderwoman Gould - Yes
Aderman Singh - Yes
BOE Member Iovino - Yes
BOE Member Saythany -Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Singh thanked the Norwich Public Schools staff for the work they did to prepare the budget.

Pres. Pro Tem DeLucia thanked all who participated on the committee worked on the budget, stating their efforts are greatly appreciated by the Council.

4. Adjournment. Motion made by Alderwoman Gould, seconded by Alderman Singh, to adjourn the meeting. It was unanimously approved and the meeting ended at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanne Kurasz – Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENT A

Slides 25 - 28

NORWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Special Education and Expansion Development Grant

SEED-FY 2026-2027

(added for Ad Hoc Meeting #3: 6/5/25)

- Allocation for Norwich is \$599,793 per year-Passed in House Bill 5001
- Effective July 1, 2025 and "each fiscal year thereafter"
- Paid in installments: 25% in October, 25% in January, and the balance in April
- Budgeted appropriation for special education for any Board receiving funds shall not be less than the amount appropriated for special education for the prior year plus such increase in funds
- Qualifying special education purposes include direct provision of special education and related services to students:

Tier 2 interventions, academic and behavioral interventions, the hiring and salaries of special education teachers, para educators, and behavioral and reading specialists who work directly with students, equipment purchases and maintenance and curriculum materials

Does not include any administrative functions or operating expenses related to the provision of special education and related services

Does not include special education and related services provided by any third party contractor



NORWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Special Education and Expansion Development Grant
SEED-FY 2026-2027 (continued)
(added for Ad Hoc Meeting #3: 6/5/25)

- Non-compliance penalty of two times the amount that was not expended for special education purposes as defined
- Annual compliance report due no later than July 15, 2026 and annually thereafter
 - Summary and itemization of how grant funds were expended
 - Detail of new positions hired
- Grant may be reduced proportionately if the total of such grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for such grants each year



**NORWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STAFFING RESTORATION PROPOSAL**

(added for Ad Hoc Meeting #3: 6/5/25)

Staffing Restoration Proposal:

- If the Governor approves the adopted budget with the increase in ECS funding:

As previously discussed, we propose to:



Rehire 1 Social Worker (Salary: \$63,709 for FY25-26)



Rehire 2 School Counselors (Salaries: \$160,279 for FY25-26)

Total with Payroll Taxes (\$3,248)=\$227,236

Goal: Strengthen student support services to enhance the overall school climate & promote student well-being.



NORWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SPECIAL EDUCATION EXCESS COST REIMBURSEMENT UPDATE:

Aligning Budget Assumptions with State Funding Realities

(added for Ad Hoc Meeting #3: 6/5/25)

Aligning Budget Assumptions with State Funding Realities

Proposed Adjustment:

- Revert the Special Education Excess Cost Reimbursement to the original budgeted level of 76.8%
- Adjusting due to updated information on state funding

Rationale: Why the adjustment?

- No significant increase in the state budget
- State is retaining \$40 million allocated for this purpose
- **No additional funding** is currently proposed

Impact: What this means?

- Aligns district projections with actual state allocations
- Reduces risk of overestimated revenue
- Supports more accurate financial planning



12/23/2024

Connecticut State Department of Education
Breakout of ECS Entitlements between Alliance and Non-Alliance
Data will be updated in February

District Code	District Name	Total ECS Entitlement 2024-2025	Alliance Portion 2024-2025	Education Diversity Portion 2024-2025	Non- Alliance Portion 2024-2025	Preliminary Total ECS Entitlement 2025-2026	Preliminary Alliance Portion 2025-2026	Preliminary Education Diversity Portion 2025-2026	Preliminary Non- Alliance Portion 2025-2026
104	Norwich	46,690,778	14,249,784	124,451	32,316,543	48,765,203	16,324,209	124,451	32,316,543



**Committees' Proposed FY 26 State Budget
Municipal Aid for: Norwich**

	Est. FY 25	Gov. Prop. FY 26	Comm. Prop. FY 26	Comm. FY 26 v. Est. FY 25		Comm. FY 26 v. Gov. FY 26	
				\$ Change	% Change	\$ Change	% Change
Adult Education	411,303	393,292	393,292	(18,011)	-4.4%	0	0.0%
ECS	46,690,778	48,754,930	48,754,930	2,064,152	4.4%	0	0.0%
LoCIP	517,432	517,432	517,432	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Pequot-Mohegan	2,360,229	2,360,229	2,360,229	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
PILOT	3,036,798	2,467,867	2,467,867	(568,931)	-18.7%	0	0.0%
Town Aid Road	495,258	495,258	660,179	164,921	33.3%	164,921	33.3%
Municipal Grants-in-Aid	187,132	187,132	187,132	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Motor Vehicle Reimbursement	2,985,545	158,317	158,317	(2,827,228)	-94.7%	0	0.0%
Supplemental Revenue Sharing	210,834	210,834	210,834	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	56,895,309	55,545,290	55,710,211	(1,185,098)	-2.1%	164,921	0.3%



Adopted FY 26 State Budget Adjustments
Municipal Aid for: Norwich

6/3/2025

	Est. FY 25	Adopt. FY 26	\$ Change Adopt. FY 26 v. FY 25	% Change Adopt. FY 26 v. FY 25
Adult Education	411,303	363,076	(48,227)	-11.7%
ECS	46,690,778	49,231,266	2,540,488	5.4%
LoCIP	517,432	517,432	0	0.0%
Pequot-Mohegan	2,360,229	2,360,229	0	0.0%
Tiered PILOT	3,036,798	2,467,867	(568,931)	-18.7%
Town Aid Road	495,258	660,344	165,086	33.3%
Municipal Grants-in-Aid	187,132	187,132	0	0.0%
Motor Vehicle Reimbursement	2,985,545	158,317	(2,827,228)	-94.7%
Supplemental Revenue Sharing	210,834	210,834	0	0.0%
Special Education and Expansion Development	0	599,793	599,793	
TOTAL	56,895,309	56,756,290	(139,019)	-0.2%

ATTACHMENT C

Bill Summaries

Budget Bill

HB 7287 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS IMPLEMENTING THE STATE BUDGET.

§ 323 — CHANGES TO ECS GRANT PHASE-IN SCHEDULE Delays by two years the start of an ECS schedule to phase-in grant reductions for overfunded towns; holds these towns harmless for FYs 26 and 27.

§ 325 — RETIRED TEACHERS' HEALTH INSURANCE Reduces the state's share of TRB retired teacher health insurance costs for FY 26 to 25%.

§§ 326-330 — REQUIREMENT TO PROPORTIONATELY REDUCE SPECIFIED EDUCATION GRANTS Extends the requirement that certain education grants be proportionately reduced if the amount appropriated for them does not fully fund them according to their statutory formulas, including: Adult education programs (CGS § 10-71), Health services for private school students (CGS § 10-217a), School transportation (CGS § 10-266m), Permanent RESC operations (CGS § 10-66j), Bilingual education (CGS § 10-17g).

§§ 331 & 332 — CHOICE PROGRAM GRANTS FOR MAGNET SCHOOLS AND VO-AG CENTERS Makes permanent the choice program grants for interdistrict magnet schools and vo-ag centers, which are set to expire at the end of FY 25; adds a new method to determine FY 24 grants for newly established magnet schools that begin operating on or after July 1, 2024.

§ 333 — ADVANCED AND DUAL CREDIT COURSES Charges SDE with administering funds for two programs to support advanced and dual credit courses and programs within available appropriations.

§ 336 — MAGNET SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION GRANTS Changes the (1) calculation for certain Sheff magnet school transportation grants by eliminating the per-pupil calculation and the supplemental grants structure, instead basing the grants on actual costs of transportation services and (2) payment schedule for all magnet school transportation grants.

§ 337 — EARLY START AND OEC GRANTS FOR FACILITY REPAIRS Modifies the eligible programs for which OEC can use bond funding for certain facility related grants by adding Early Start CT and removing Even Start; increases the maximum grant amount from \$75,000 to \$100,000 per classroom.

§ 340 — HIGH-DOSAGE TUTORING MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM Requires SDE to establish a competitive high-dosage tutoring matching grant program to award two-year grants to programs that provide high-dosage tutoring.

§ 341 — SPECIAL EDUCATION GRANT PROPORTIONAL REDUCTION
 Extends the provision requiring grants to be reduced proportionally for all fiscal years, rather than only FY 26.

§§ 342-344 — MAGNET SCHOOL TUITION CHARGES Sets a new method for determining tuition rates for magnet school programs that began operating on or after July 1, 2024, based on average tuition charged in the same region.

§§ 345-347 — SCHOOL AND PUBLIC LIBRARY POLICIES Requires school boards and public library governing bodies to adopt policies on collection development and maintenance, displays and programs, and material review; specifies criteria the policies must meet.

Department of Education	2025-2026	2026-2027
Education Equalization Grants	2,456,768,109	2,456,935,081
Excess Cost - Student Based	221,119,782	221,119,782
Magnet Schools	322,925,940	344,345,603
Bilingual Education	3,832,260	3,832,260
Vocational Agriculture	26,295,732	26,295,732
Special Education Expansion & Development Grant	30,000,000	30,000,000
High Quality Special Ed Incentives	_____	9,900,000
Learner Engagement & Attendance Program	_____	7,000,000
Commissioner's Network	9,869,398	9,869,398
Local Charter Schools	957,000	957,000

Aspiring Educators Scholarship Program	6,000,000	6,000,000
Dual Credit	_____	6,000,000
Charter Schools	142,803,548	144,122,548

House and Senate Adopt 2 Major Special Education Bills

SB 1 AN ACT INCREASING RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS, SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL EDUCATION.

Among other provisions, the bill provides:

- **NEW COMPETITIVE GRANT TO SUPPORT IN-DISTRICT OR REGIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS** Starting in FY 27, creates a new \$10 million competitive grant program to support in-district and regional special education programs and services; allows school boards to use funds to, among other things, improve existing in-district programs or create new in-district or regional programs for students currently enrolled with private special education providers

- **SPECIAL EDUCATION TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND TESTING GRANT PROGRAM** Establishes, and requires SDE to annually administer beginning in FY 27, the special education training, education, and testing competitive grant program to give grants to educators and paraeducators who commit to working in an alliance district school for three years

- **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM** Requires SDE to establish a grant program to help school boards provide support services for special education students that have experienced trauma or have behavioral health needs beginning in FY 26

- **MODEL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION OUTPLACEMENTS** Requires SDE to establish a special education transportation service model contract by July 1, 2026

- **STAFFING CHANGES NOTIFICATIONS** Requires RESCs and private special education providers to notify parents or legal guardians, school boards, and SDE about certain special education staffing changes, including vacancies and absences beyond 10 days

- **TRANSPORTATION ROUTE MAPPING** Requires SDE to conduct an RFI for contractors to create and annually update bus routes for special education students traveling to and from outplacements in the state by July 1, 2027

- **STUDY ON OVER-IDENTIFICATION OF MINORITY STUDENTS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES** Requires SDE to conduct a study on the disproportionate or over-identification of minority students for special education services by January 1, 2027

- **INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PARTNERS** Requires school boards to hire or designate an instructional support partner in every school or school building beginning in the 2026-27 school year; gives instructional support partners various responsibilities to support teaching staff and students with disabilities and requires them to spend at least 50% of their time performing this position's duties; requires SDE to host quarterly instructional support partner trainings

- **OFFICE OF THE EDUCATIONAL OMBUDSPERSON** Establishes the Office of the Educational Ombudsperson to serve students and families from early childhood to adult education; places the office under the direction of an ombudsperson appointed by the Governor and requires it, among other duties, to receive, review, and attempt to resolve any complaints from students and their families

- **SUPERINTENDENTS' ANNUAL REPORT TO BOARD OF EDUCATION** Requires all superintendents to submit information on the district's contracts, students, staff, and savings annually to the BOE

- **UNSPENT FUND ACCOUNT AND EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURES RESERVE FUND UPDATES** Requires local and regional BOEs to create a report beginning for FY 26 on nonlapsing, unspent funds and submit the report to SDE and the exclusive bargaining representative for certified staff

- **CONTACTING LOCAL HOMELESS EDUCATION LIAISONS BEFORE EXPULSION AND SUSPENSION HEARINGS** Requires districts to contact their local homeless education liaisons prior to an expulsion or suspension hearing to determine if the student is homeless
- **PHASE-OUT OF COMMISSIONER'S NETWORK OF SCHOOLS** Sunsets the education commissioner's network of schools program by prohibiting the commissioner from adding any more schools to the program after July 1, 2025; permits schools already participating to finish their three-year terms without any extensions

HB 5001 AN ACT CONCERNING THE QUALITY AND DELIVERY OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.

- Entitles each school board to a new special education and expansion development grant beginning in FY 26. The grant is calculated using the ECS formula, with a 50% weight for special education students. The funds can be used for new expenditures such as teachers, paras, behavioral and reading specialists; Tier 2 targeted intervention; equipment; curriculum materials. The bill requires school boards to annually report on how grant funds are spent. \$30 million allocation
- Exempts the special education and expansion development grant from a district's minimum budget requirement calculation
- Allows children with developmental delays to qualify for special education through age eight without falling under a specific disability category
- Generally provides special education providers, including transportation providers, from increasing costs to a school board for special education services beginning with the 2025-26 school year; permits increases in certain situations if approved by SDE
- Requires SDE by January 1, 2028 to set rates that special education and related services providers can charge to school boards for services; sets separate paths to set rates for (1) private special education providers and (2) public special education providers and any provider of related services
- Requires SDE to develop and update billing standards for the costs that special education transportation providers charge; beginning with the 2027-28 school year, requires all costs that transportation

service providers charge for special education transportation services to align with SDE's billing standards

- Provides that, beginning July 1, 2026, "reasonable costs" for special education services are the permitted charges under the rate schedule the bill creates; beginning July 1, 2025, prohibits the presumption that "reasonable costs" are the actual cost incurred by special education providers
- Requires SDE to develop licensure standards for private special education providers and submit them to the Education Committee by January 1, 2026
- Requires SDE to do unannounced on-site visits of RESCs and private special education providers; the education commissioner must notify the providers of the site visit findings and any required corrective actions; providers must show proof of compliance within 30 days after receiving the finding; a provider will be fined up to \$100 a day for each day of noncompliance; SDE must notify school boards of the findings and necessary compliance proof
- Requires SDE to establish model contracts to be used when placing a student with an approved private special education provider or with a RESC to be made available to school boards by July 1, 2026
- Requires school boards to annually report on information related to special education student placements where the board is paying any portion of the cost
- Generally requires school boards to do a functional behavior assessment and develop or update a behavioral intervention plan before placing a student out-of-district
- Creates new study requirements for the BERGIN Commission related to special education; generally extends the commission's end date to July 1, 2030; adds 20 additional members to the commission
- Requires SDE to develop a proposed statewide special education workload analysis model for teachers and school service providers and submit it to the BERGIN Commission and Appropriations and Education committees by July 1, 2026

- Makes several changes on due process hearings, including (1) generally requiring all claims to be disclosed before the start of the hearing, (2) requiring hearing officers to consider all evaluations presented, (3) generally limiting hearings to four days' duration, and (4) requiring hearing officers' written decisions to include specific findings of fact related to educating students with disabilities with their nondisabled peers
- Specifies that the education commissioner supervises approved private special education providers
- Requires SDE to (1) annually make certain disaggregated, student-level, and statewide data available on its website and (2) annually submit excess cost grant projections to the Appropriations and Education committees and the Office of Fiscal Analysis, on January 30 and March 30
- Requires the Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities to report to the Education Committee on recent developments and best practices on dyslexia evaluations, interventions, and student outcomes and on teacher preparation capacity

Bond Bill

HB 7288 AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE AND CONCERNING GRANT PROGRAMS, STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS, REVISIONS TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS STATUTES AND VARIOUS PROVISIONS REVISING AND IMPLEMENTING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027.

§ 58 — SCHOOL AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS Reduces the current bond authorization for funding school air quality improvement grants and consolidates several earmarks into a single, smaller one; allows the funds to be used for additional projects, such as to repair fire damage or correct safety violations

§ 31 — DISTRICT REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (DRIP) Creates the DRIP program to provide financial assistance to local and regional boards of education and other public school operators for constructing, renovating, repairing, and enlarging public school buildings, grounds, and infrastructure; sets allocation requirements and an allocation formula for allocating assistance under the program; authorizes \$60 million in GO bonds for OPM to administer the program

§§ 140 & 144 — HVAC GRANTS Repeals the existing school construction heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems (HVAC) grant and instead merges it with an existing school construction grant law

§§ 140, 144 & 146 — REMOVAL OF CTECS FROM SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM Removes Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) from the school construction grant program

§ 141 — SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PRIORITY LIST GRANT COMMITMENTS Authorizes 8 school construction state grant commitments totaling \$172.4 million toward total project costs of \$265.7 million; reauthorizes one project with an additional estimated cost of \$50.7 million

§§ 142 & 143 — BONUS REIMBURSEMENT RATES Applies the 15-point reimbursement rate bonus for certain elementary and early childhood projects to the entire project, not just the early childhood space; establishes a new 15 percentage point bonus for buildings used exclusively for special education program space

§§ 144 & 145 — REPEALED PROVISIONS Repeals four provisions related to priority-list school construction grants

§ 147 — CHARTER SCHOOL GRANTS PRIORITY Requires the education commissioner to give preference to charter school capital improvements grant applications when the school's accountability index score meets or exceeds the statewide average

§ 148 — INDOOR AIR QUALITY INSPECTIONS Broadens the window, to start July 1, 2022, rather than July 1, 2026, when a school board's school HVAC inspection can count as a state-required inspection

§§ 149-176 — SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT EXEMPTIONS, WAIVERS, AND MODIFICATIONS Exempts school construction projects in 18 towns and one regional school district from statutory and regulatory requirements to allow these projects to, among other things, qualify for state reimbursement grants, receive higher grant reimbursement percentages, or have their projects reauthorized due to a change in scope or cost

§ 205 — INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PARTNERS Allows, rather than requires as under SB 1, school boards to hire or designate a current employee to be an instructional support partner

§ 218 — CHANGES TO ECS GRANT PHASE-IN SCHEDULE Delays by two years the start of an ECS schedule to phase in grant reductions for overfunded towns; holds these towns harmless for FYs 26 and 27

§ 219 — POSTING CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE Requires each school board to post approved curriculum objectives and scope on the board's website

§ 233 — PAID SICK LEAVE INCREMENTS Allows boards of education and municipal employers to require that certain employees use their accrued paid sick leave in the increments set in their applicable collective bargaining agreements, rather than in one-hour increments, as long as they meet certain conditions

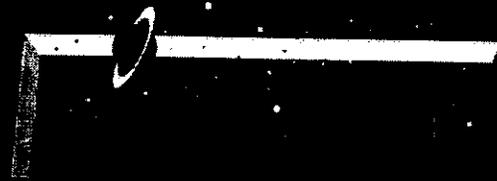
§§ 234-237 — PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE FOR CERTAIN SCHOOL EMPLOYEES Extends the state's Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program to cover school employees whose position does not require a professional certification; correspondingly extends the state's FMLA to cover these employees

ATTACHMENT B

Education Cost Sharing Presentation

Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Presentation to CASBO

February 7, 2025
Connecticut State
Department of Education

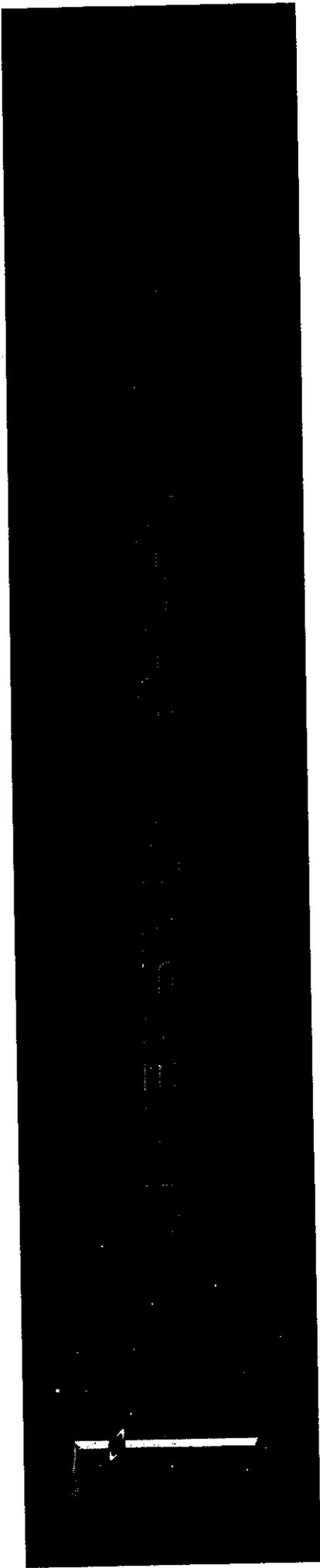


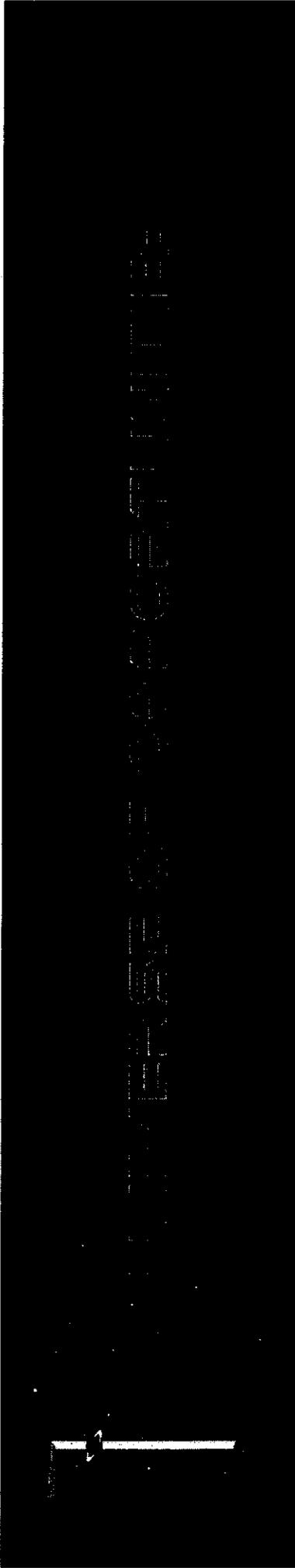
UNIVERSITY OF
CONNECTICUTS



CONNECTICUT
Education

EDUCATION

- 
- **The Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Grant is for most districts the largest form of education aid distributed to Connecticut's towns; The state will distribute approximately \$2.4 billion in 2025-2026.**
 - **It is intended to equalize state education funding to towns, taking into account a town's wealth and ability to raise property taxes to pay for education.**



The ECS Formula

Big Picture - Multiply 3 Components:

Need Students X Foundation (\$11,525) X Base Aid Ratio

**Plus Regional School Districts (RSDs) and Endowed Academies Bonuses
(Alliance & Priority School Districts Held Harmless to grant reductions being
phased in through FY 2031-32)**



Need Students =

Resident Students

(# of students the district is fiscally responsible for, including SpEd, Magnet and ASTE students placed out of district and adjusted for Open Choice, exceeding 180 days and districts that provide free summer school for students. Does not include CTECS or Charter School students)

+

30% Low-Income Students

(# of students eligible for Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL) as reported on Oct 1 PSIS X 30%)

+

15% Excess Low-Income Students

(# of FRPL students that is greater than 60% of Resident Students X 15%)

+

25% ELL Students

(# of English Language Learner (ELL) students as reported on Oct 1 PSIS X 25%)

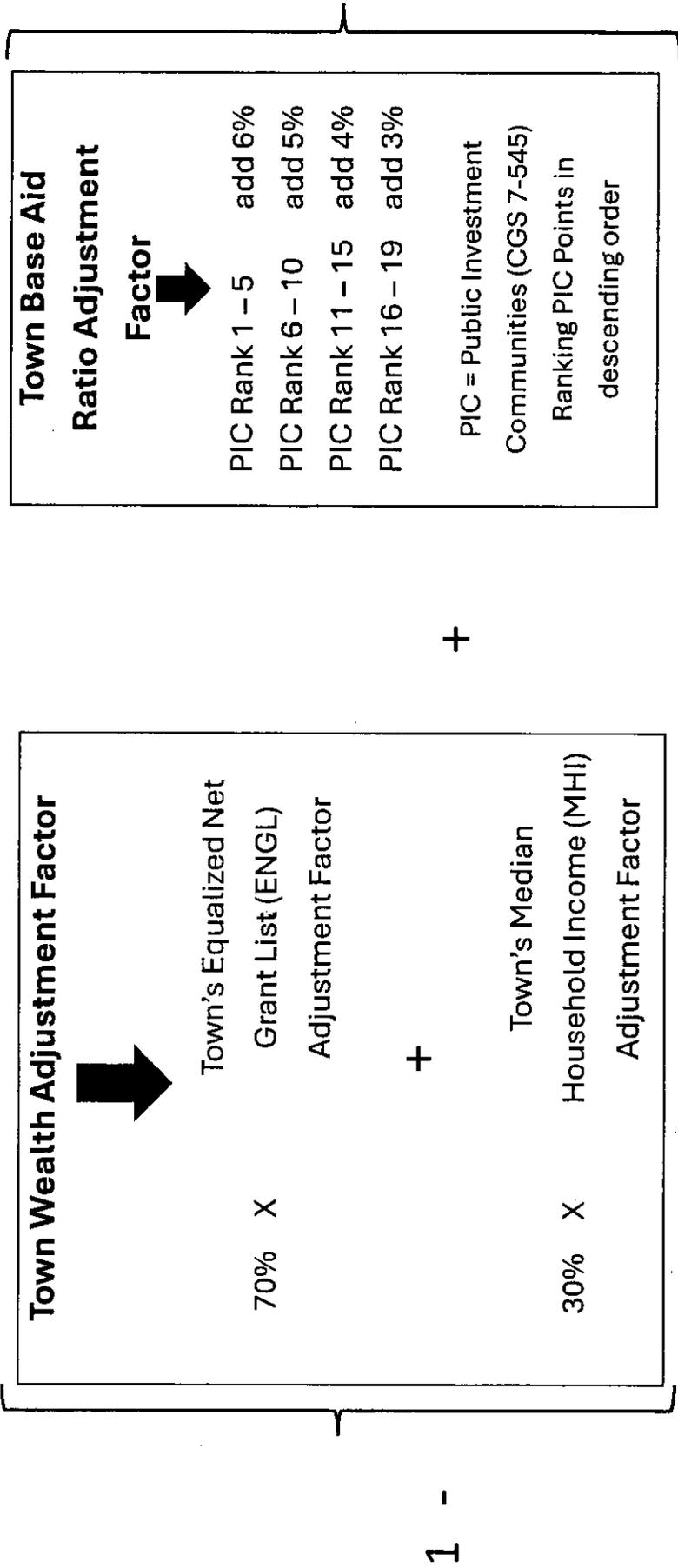


ECS Need Students Calculation



CONNECTICUT
Education

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Town Name	Preliminary Resident Students 10/2024	FRPL Eligibility 10/2024	Low-Income Portion (Col 2 x 30%)	60% of Resident Students (Col 1 x 60%)	Excess Low-Income Students # FRPL Sts Above 60% of Resident Students (Gtr of Col 2 - Col 4 or 0)	Excess Low-Income Students Portion (Col 5 x 15%)	ELL Students 10/2024	ELL Portion (Col 7 x 25%)	Need Students (Col 1 + Col 3 + Col 6 + Col 8)
Town A	19747.25	17170	5,151.00	11,848.35	5,321.65	798.25	6248	1,562.00	27,258.50
Town B	144.68	42	12.60	86.81	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	157.28
Town C	7980.81	5021	1,506.30	4,788.49	232.51	34.88	1421	355.25	9,877.24
Town D	8227.02	1672	501.60	4,936.21	0.00	0.00	460	115.00	8,843.62
Town E	854	241	72.30	512.40	0.00	0.00	6	1.50	927.80
Town F	4520	2323	696.90	2,712.00	0.00	0.00	299	74.75	5,291.65
Town G	16944	13172	3,951.60	10,166.40	3,005.60	450.84	4376	1,094.00	22,440.44
Town H	4879	3687	1,106.10	2,927.40	759.60	113.94	1103	275.75	6,374.79
Town I	1185.67	120	36.00	711.40	0.00	0.00	15	3.75	1,225.42
Town J	15741.79	8588	2,576.40	9,445.07	0.00	0.00	3098	774.50	19,092.69



Note: For Alliance and Priority School Districts Base Aid Ratio cannot be less than 10%, for all others it cannot be less than 1% PICs are some of the state's most fiscally and economically distressed municipalities. A list is prepared annually by OPM.



- ENGL means the average of net grand list for a town two, three, and four years prior to the fiscal year that ECS is being paid
- This is divided by Population (from federal decennial census or current population report series of fiscal year two years prior to grant payment)
- Which yields the ENGL per capita
- The median ENGL of all the towns is calculated
- This is multiplied by the ENGL per Capita Threshold Factor of 1.35 per CGS 10-262f(42)
- Finally, each town's ENGL per Capita is divided by this Threshold



	10	11	12	13
Town Name	Average Equalized Net Grant List (ENGL) (2020/21/22)	Total Population (2022)	ENGL Per Capita (Col 10 / Col 11)	ENGL Adjustment Factor (Col 12 / Threshold Below)
Town A	14,428,521,408.33	148,377	97,242.30	0.379094
Town B	348,296,693.67	1,369	254,416.87	0.991832
Town C	5,311,609,918.67	50,718	104,728.30	0.408278
Town D	55,719,115,818.33	63,638	875,563.59	3.413341
Town E	1,358,019,780.67	7,132	190,412.20	0.742313
Town F	6,665,957,132.33	48,729	136,796.51	0.533294
Town G	14,314,904,628.67	138,915	103,047.94	0.401727
Town H	3,785,281,971.67	40,009	94,610.76	0.368835
Town I	2,799,129,321.67	8,746	320,046.80	1.247687
Town J	40,063,426,892.67	136,188	294,177.36	1.146836
			ENGL Per Capita Threshold (Median X 1.35):	
			Median:	\$256,512.16
			\$190,009.01	



- MHI is enumerated in the federal decennial census or current population report series (per CGS, MHI of the fiscal year two years prior to grant payment is used)
- The median MHI of all the towns is calculated
- This is multiplied by the MHI per Capita Threshold Factor of 1.35 per CGS 10-262f(43)
- Finally, each town's MHI is divided by this Threshold



MHI Adjustment Factor Calculation

	14	15
Town Name	Median Household Income (MHI) (2022)	MHI Adjustment Factor (Col 14 / Threshold Below)
Town A	54,440	0.394679
Town B	120,625	0.874507
Town C	64,244	0.465756
Town D	185,850	1.347375
Town E	107,050	0.776091
Town F	75,120	0.544605
Town G	54,305	0.393700
Town H	62,713	0.454657
Town I	165,391	1.199051
Town J	100,718	0.730185
	Median:	MHI Threshold (Median X 1.35):
	\$102,174.00	\$137,934.90

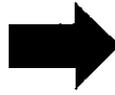




- MHI is enumerated in the federal decennial census or current population report series (per CGS, MHI of the fiscal year two years prior to grant payment is used)
- The median MHI of all the towns is calculated
- This is multiplied by the MHI per Capita Threshold Factor of 1.35 per CGS 10-262f(43)
- Finally, each town's MHI is divided by this Threshold



Town Wealth Adjustment Factor



Town's Equalized Net
Grant List (ENGL)
Adjustment Factor

70% X

+

Town's Median

30% X Household Income (MHI)
Adjustment Factor

1 -

+

**Town Base Aid
Ratio Adjustment**



PIC Rank 1 - 5 add 6%
PIC Rank 6 - 10 add 5%
PIC Rank 11 - 15 add 4%
PIC Rank 16 - 19 add 3%

PIC = Public Investment
Communities (CGS 7-545)
Ranking PIC Points in
descending order

Note: For Alliance and Priority School Districts Base Aid Ratio cannot be less than 10%, for all others it cannot be less than 1%



Base Aid Ratio Calculation

	13	15	16	17	18	19	20
Town Name	ENGL Adjustment Factor (Slide #8 Col 13)	MHI Adjustment Factor (Slide #10 Col 15)	Wealth Adjustment Factor (1 - ((Col 13 x 70%) + (Col 15 x 30%))	Base Aid Ratio (Greater of Col 16 or 10% Alliance/PSD or 1% Others)	PIC Rank (2024)	PIC Add Base Aid Ratio Adjustment Factor	Final Base Aid Ratio (Col 17 + Col 19)
Town A	0.379094	0.394679	0.616231	61.6231%	4	6.0%	67.6231%
Town B	0.991832	0.874507	0.043366	4.3366%	0	0.0%	4.3366%
Town C	0.408278	0.465756	0.574479	57.4479%	8	5.0%	62.4479%
Town D	3.413341	1.347375	(1.793551)	1.0000%	0	0.0%	1.0000%
Town E	0.742313	0.776091	0.247554	24.7554%	0	0.0%	24.7554%
Town F	0.533294	0.544605	0.463313	46.3313%	21	0.0%	46.3313%
Town G	0.401727	0.393700	0.600681	60.0681%	5	6.0%	66.0681%
Town H	0.368835	0.454657	0.605418	60.5418%	7	5.0%	65.5418%
Town I	1.247687	1.199051	(0.233096)	1.0000%	0	0.0%	1.0000%
Town J	1.146836	0.730185	(0.021841)	10.0000%	0	0.0%	10.0000%

RSDs and Endowed Academies Bonuses

Town Name	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Students Sent to RSDs (10/2024)	Number of RSD Grades (10/2024)	RSD Bonus ((Col 21 x Col 22) x \$100)	Students Sent to Endowed Academies (10/2024)	Number of Endowed Academies Grades (10/2024)	Endowed Academies Bonus ((Col 24 x Col 25) x \$100)
Town A	0	0	0	0	0	0
Town B	79	6	47,400	0	0	0
Town C	0	0	0	0	0	0
Town D	0	0	0	0	0	0
Town E	0	0	0	0	0	0
Town F	0	0	0	0	0	0
Town G	0	0	0	0	0	0
Town H	0	0	0	1,530	4	612,000
Town I	351	4	140,400	0	0	0
Town J	0	0	0	0	0	0

Per CGS 10-262f(19) bonus equals number of students sent to RSDs & endowed academies multiplied by the number of grades multiplied by \$100



Fully Funded Grant Calculation



Putting it together: Need Students X Base Aid Ratio X \$11,525 Plus Regional Bonus = Fully Funded Grant

	9	20	23	26	27	28
Town Name	Need Students (Col 1 + Col 3 + Col 6 + Col 8)	Final Base Aid Ratio (Col 17 + Col 19)	RSD Bonus ((Col 21 x Col 22) x \$100)	Endowed Academies Bonus ((Col 24 x Col 25) x \$100)	Base Formula Aid (Col 9 x Col 20 x \$11,525)	Fully Funded Grant (Col 23 + Col 26 + Col 27)
Town A	27,258.50	67.6231%	0	0	212,440,817	212,440,817
Town B	157.28	4.3366%	47,400	0	78,607	126,007
Town C	9,877.24	62.4479%	0	0	71,087,686	71,087,686
Town D	8,843.62	1.0000%	0	0	1,019,227	1,019,227
Town E	927.80	24.7554%	0	0	2,647,069	2,647,069
Town F	5,291.65	46.3313%	0	0	28,255,730	28,255,730
Town G	22,440.44	66.0681%	0	0	170,869,331	170,869,331
Town H	6,374.79	65.5418%	0	612,000	48,153,203	48,765,203
Town I	1,225.42	1.0000%	140,400	0	141,230	281,630
Town J	19,092.69	10.0000%	0	0	22,004,325	22,004,325



- For districts whose Fully Funded Grant > Prior Year Entitlement:
ECS Entitlement equals their Fully Funded Grant
 - For districts whose Fully Funded Grant < Prior Year Entitlement:
ECS Entitlement equals:
Prior Year Entitlement + (Fully Funded Grant – Prior Year Entitlement) X 14.29%
- Phase out percentages per CGS 10-262h(h)-(n):
- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 2025-26 = 14.29% | 2027-28 = 20% | 2029-30 = 33% | 2031-32 = 100% Fully Funded |
| 2026-27 = 16.67% | 2028-29 = 25% | 2030-31 = 50% | |
- Hold Harmless for Alliance and Priority School Districts:
Greater of ECS Entitlement or Prior Year Entitlement or Base (2016-17) Entitlement



Determination of ECS Entitlement and Hold Harmless Provision Calculations



CONNECTICUT
Education

	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
Town Name	Fully Funded Grant (Col 23 + Col 26 + Col 27)	2016-17 Actual ECS	Prior Year ECS Entitlement	Grant Adjustment (Greater of Absolute value of Col 28 - Col 30 or 0)	Fully Funded Greater Than Prior Year (If Col 28 > Col 30, then Yes, else No))	Phase-In/Out Amount (If Col 33 = Yes, then Col 31 x 100%, else Col 3 x 14.29%)	FY26 ECS Entitlement Without Alliance/PSD HH (If Col 32 = Yes, then Col 30 + Col 33, else Col 30 - Col 33)	FY26 ECS Entitlement With Alliance/PSD HH (If 34/PSD, then Max of Col 29 or Col 30 or Col 33, else Col 34)
Town A	212,440,817	181,105,390	201,710,496	10,730,321	Yes	10,730,321	212,440,817	212,440,817
Town B	126,007	491,388	403,912	277,905	No	39,713	364,199	364,199
Town C	71,087,686	49,075,156	66,388,025	4,699,661	Yes	4,699,661	71,087,686	71,087,686
Town D	1,019,227	136,859	869,861	149,366	Yes	149,366	1,019,227	1,019,227
Town E	2,647,069	5,410,404	4,578,589	1,931,520	No	276,014	4,302,575	4,302,575
Town F	28,255,730	19,515,825	25,404,320	2,851,410	Yes	2,851,410	28,255,730	28,255,730
Town G	170,869,331	154,301,977	169,238,796	1,630,535	Yes	1,630,535	170,869,331	170,869,331
Town H	48,765,203	36,209,664	46,690,778	2,074,425	Yes	2,074,425	48,765,203	48,765,203
Town I	281,630	180,135	262,365	19,265	Yes	19,265	281,630	281,630
Town J	22,004,325	10,803,759	19,908,251	2,096,074	Yes	2,096,074	22,004,325	22,004,325

CONNECTICUT





- For districts whose Fully Funded Grant $>$ Prior Year Entitlement:
ECS Entitlement equals their Fully Funded Grant
 - For districts whose Fully Funded Grant $<$ Prior Year Entitlement:
ECS Entitlement equals:
Prior Year Entitlement + (Fully Funded Grant – Prior Year Entitlement) X 14.29%
- Phase out percentages per CGS 10-262h(h)-(n):
- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 2025-26 = 14.29% | 2027-28 = 20% | 2029-30 = 33% | 2031-32 = 100% Fully Funded |
| 2026-27 = 16.67% | 2028-29 = 25% | 2030-31 = 50% | |
- Hold Harmless for Alliance and Priority School Districts:
Greater of ECS Entitlement or Prior Year Entitlement or Base (2016-17) Entitlement



- For districts whose fully funded grant is less than their prior year entitlement, their grant will be phased down to the fully funded level by 2031-32, barring any changes to legislation.
- With entitlements dependent upon updated data each year, estimates provided in a prior year or in the Governor's budget could change significantly when data is updated in the subsequent year



- <https://portal.ct.gov/sde/fiscal-services/education-cost-sharing-grant-ecs-mbr/documents>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following content:

- Browser Address Bar:** <https://portal.ct.gov/sde/fiscal-services/education-cost-sharing-grant-ecs-mbr/documents>
- Page Header:**
 - CT.gov Home / Department of Education / 4-12 Education / Finance / Fiscal Services / Education Cost Sharing ECS / Education Cost Sharing Grant (ECS)/Mbr / Documents/Forms
- Search Bar:** Search Connecticut Government.
- Main Content Area:**
 - Documents/Forms**
 - 2024-28 Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) Worksheet
 - 2023-24 Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) Worksheet
 - 2022-23 Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) Worksheet
 - 2021-22 Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) Worksheet
- Footer:**
 - Provided by: Department of Education