



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Appropriations Committee Elementary and Secondary Education Subcommittee Workgroup March 3, 2026

Follow up questions
CSDE Responses

School Meals

- How much would it cost to reimburse districts for actual costs associated with providing free universal breakfast and free lunch for students who qualify for reduced price meals, rather than to cover the federal reimbursement amount only? Please provide estimates for the five largest districts, 5 medium sized districts, and 5 small districts
 - Largest: New Haven, Hartford, Stamford, Waterbury, Bridgeport
 - Medium: Norwich, New London, Manchester, New Britain, and other
 - Small: Sprague, Franklin, other small districts
 - If possible, look at how much a high-quality meal program would cost (i.e., providing nutritious food that students want to eat).

The Department does not collect the granular fiscal detail necessary to reliably estimate the per district cost of providing breakfast. The documents below represent an attempt to provide some responsive summary information including information on the size, per-breakfast costs and participation rates in various school breakfast programs. It should be noted that most districts surveyed report that they do not rely on board of education contributions to operate their meal programs, meaning that federal support, current state support, and revenue from meal charges is sufficient to operate their programs. The Governor's Budget proposes replacing the revenue from meal charges shouldered by families. Additionally, increased participation results in increased revenue, increased purchasing power and lower costs for menu items. With this additional state support, most districts will still be operating school meals programs without inflicting additional costs on local budgets.

Responsive documents:

Appendix 1 – Connecticut School Breakfast Funding Survey Summary

Appendix 2 - Connecticut School Breakfast Program Funding Survey Raw Results

Appendix 3 - FY25 State Funded Child Nutrition Programs Excel Spreadsheet

Additional Information:

- 1. Districts are provided school meal funding on a reimbursement basis from the CSDE according to federally (USDA) set reimbursement rates for Free, Reduced-price, and Paid breakfast and lunch.**
- 2. The USDA sets such reimbursement rates on July 1st of each year and rates increased an average of \$.08 per breakfast and an average of \$.16 per lunch per year over the past seven school years.**
 - a. From 2025 to 2026, the reimbursement rate for Free breakfasts increased by \$.09 per breakfast. Subsequently the Reduced-price reimbursement rate also increased by \$.09 per breakfast.**
 - b. From 2025 to 2026, the reimbursement rate for Reduced-price lunch increase by \$.17 per lunch.**

Adult Education

- What would it cost to fund Adult Education without the cap in FY 27?

Based on current year data and the FY27 state support percentages, the estimated required appropriation needed if state adult education is uncapped is approximately \$24,950,000

Student Enrollment and Demographics

- Please bring the population and demographic update information Ajit shared during the presentation, and any other updates about student enrollment/demographics.

Appendix 4 - Statewide K-12 Demographics

Sources:

- [EdSight Enrollment Report/Export \(Legacy\)](#)
- [EdSight Enrollment Dashboard](#)
- **Total Enrollment in Oct 2025: 497,764**
 - **Total enrollment declined over 10,600 students from 2024-25 (or 2.1% single-year decline). This is the second largest single-year decline we've seen since 2007-08. The only other time we had a larger single-year decline was in 2020-21 (Oct 2020) when enrollment declined 2.8% from 2019-20 (Oct 2019).**
 - **This is the first time since 2006-07 () that our K-12 public school enrollment has declined below 500,000.**
- **Student Groups**
 - **Students eligible for "Free meals" show the largest single-year decline of 4.8% (over 9500 fewer students, down to ~187K). However, we still have an**

increase when compared to 2021-22 (Oct 2021) when we had ~177K free meal eligible students.

- The group with the next largest single year decline is English learners -- down a little over 2000 students to 55,385, which is 3.7% single year decline. However, we still have an increase when compared to 2021-22 (Oct 2021) when we had ~45K ELs.
- Students with disabilities PK-12 is the one student group that increased with around 800 more students to 94,960 -- a 0.8% increase from last year.
- **Closer Look at Alliance Districts**
 - All but 2 ADs (Vernon, Winchester) declined.
 - The following 6 ADs had a 5% or greater single year decline: Bloomfield, Derby, East Hartford, Hartford, New Haven, and Stamford.
 - The following 5 ADs had the largest declines statewide (greater than 500 students in a single year): New Haven (-980), Hartford (-871), Stamford (-843), Bridgeport (-642), and Danbury (-506).
 - The AD decline was greater than the state as a whole; ADs declined 3.2% in a single year to 218K students, while state overall declined 2.1%.
- **In terms of grade:**
 - Public PK in public schools remains strong at 20,604 (158 or 0.8% fewer than last year but still the 2nd highest ever)
 - K enrollment grew to 31,302 (a 3.3% or 1,004 student increase)

ECS

- [If there were no hold harmless, what is the total loss towns would experience?](#)

The term “hold harmless” is used in various ways when referencing the ECS Formula. The table below measures the value of the hold harmless as the difference between projected FY 27 ECS Entitlements under current law, as proposed in the Governor’s Budget, and FY 27 ECS Entitlements removing all protections for overfunded municipalities. This would include 1)-Accelerating the Phase Down for overfunded municipalities to completion in FY 27, rather than implementing the Phase Down gradually from FY 28 through FY 34 and 2)-eliminating the statutorily permanent hold harmless for alliance districts. As shown in the table below, the total value of the “hold harmless”, as defined here, is roughly \$230 million.

The term “hold harmless” has also been used to describe the temporary pauses of the phase down for overfunded municipalities first enacted in FY 22, and extended in each biennial budget since then. This phase down is currently scheduled for FY 28 through FY 34. Restarting the phase down in FY 27, would cost districts roughly \$15.2 million.

Appendix 5 - ECS Simplified PowerPoint

Town Code	Town Name	FY 27 ECS Entitlement (No Hold Harmless)	FY 27 ECS Entitlement (with Hold Harmless)	Difference
1	Andover	1,409,903	2,004,782	594,879
2	Ansonia	19,611,965	21,332,353	1,720,388
3	Ashford	2,270,035	3,459,062	1,189,027
4	Avon	1,278,869	1,278,869	0
5	Barkhamsted	1,354,472	1,494,242	139,770
6	Beacon Falls	3,923,644	4,080,374	156,730
7	Berlin	6,885,633	7,237,662	352,029
8	Bethany	1,228,256	1,764,574	536,318
9	Bethel	9,003,762	10,047,664	1,043,902
10	Bethlehem	1,219,752	1,219,752	0
11	Bloomfield	6,895,502	8,047,852	1,152,350
12	Bolton	2,315,290	2,683,216	367,926
13	Bozrah	641,082	1,190,095	549,013
14	Branford	2,030,182	3,772,866	1,742,684
15	Bridgeport	200,593,988	212,796,357	12,202,369
16	Bridgewater	220,742	220,742	0
17	Bristol	52,500,305	55,102,941	2,602,636
18	Brookfield	369,467	1,379,178	1,009,711
19	Brooklyn	6,050,506	6,969,690	919,184
20	Burlington	4,604,631	4,699,203	94,572
21	Canaan	24,193	125,752	101,559
22	Canterbury	2,903,574	4,004,835	1,101,261
23	Canton	2,908,446	4,068,515	1,160,069
24	Chaplin	1,203,714	1,652,147	448,433
25	Cheshire	9,061,378	9,439,993	378,615
26	Chester	1,020,517	1,020,517	0
27	Clinton	1,610,696	5,192,084	3,581,388
28	Colchester	8,069,534	12,040,218	3,970,684
29	Colebrook	200,196	403,912	203,716
30	Columbia	1,853,430	2,316,189	462,759
31	Cornwall	29,385	32,190	2,805
32	Coventry	6,593,307	7,952,911	1,359,604
33	Cromwell	5,898,532	6,177,563	279,031
34	Danbury	57,524,807	62,336,919	4,812,112
35	Darien	526,071	540,833	14,762
36	Deep River	1,240,767	1,676,105	435,338
37	Derby	9,122,013	10,990,454	1,868,441
38	Durham	2,869,140	3,293,232	424,092

39	Eastford	622,592	947,176	324,584
40	East Granby	2,023,505	2,044,159	20,654
41	East Haddam	3,012,939	3,555,957	543,018
42	East Hampton	5,499,642	6,960,947	1,461,305
43	East Hartford	68,439,549	70,969,366	2,529,817
44	East Haven	18,073,895	20,005,957	1,932,062
45	East Lyme	3,514,503	6,076,507	2,562,004
46	Easton	291,047	302,113	11,066
47	East Windsor	4,783,671	5,669,122	885,451
48	Ellington	8,697,250	10,341,646	1,644,396
49	Enfield	26,987,582	29,823,645	2,836,063
50	Essex	211,153	215,553	4,400
51	Fairfield	1,103,844	1,131,021	27,177
52	Farmington	2,339,985	3,707,985	1,368,000
53	Franklin	605,655	736,256	130,601
54	Glastonbury	5,129,329	6,717,318	1,587,989
55	Goshen	403,249	403,249	0
56	Granby	5,374,411	5,447,238	72,827
57	Greenwich	993,221	1,019,227	26,006
58	Griswold	10,269,098	10,925,151	656,053
59	Groton	14,685,917	25,040,045	10,354,128
60	Guilford	357,952	1,766,084	1,408,132
61	Haddam	3,766,683	3,942,046	175,363
62	Hamden	39,588,053	42,723,021	3,134,968
63	Hampton	411,958	1,058,408	646,450
64	Hartford	217,063,843	226,674,245	9,610,402
65	Hartland	389,316	1,071,722	682,406
66	Harwinton	2,873,191	2,889,911	16,720
67	Hebron	4,055,590	5,997,693	1,942,103
68	Kent	39,931	41,751	1,820
69	Killingly	9,363,764	15,574,402	6,210,638
70	Killingworth	1,992,257	2,207,225	214,968
71	Lebanon	2,631,327	4,578,589	1,947,262
72	Ledyard	10,143,915	12,032,619	1,888,704
73	Lisbon	2,290,008	2,899,516	609,508
74	Litchfield	1,931,508	1,931,508	0
75	Lyme	297,360	321,391	24,031
76	Madison	288,547	395,466	106,919
77	Manchester	50,119,109	51,701,477	1,582,368
78	Mansfield	5,674,240	13,112,190	7,437,950
79	Marlborough	2,317,086	2,952,086	635,000
80	Meriden	80,547,341	83,706,615	3,159,274
81	Middlebury	2,440,122	2,744,963	304,841

82	Middlefield	1,842,347	2,100,359	258,012
83	Middletown	27,059,619	28,184,338	1,124,719
84	Milford	7,707,883	9,673,235	1,965,352
85	Monroe	2,158,826	5,272,935	3,114,109
86	Montville	11,452,129	12,802,864	1,350,735
87	Morris	311,263	311,263	0
88	Naugatuck	30,838,925	34,096,586	3,257,661
89	New Britain	121,240,384	124,491,915	3,251,531
90	New Canaan	469,289	473,399	4,110
91	New Fairfield	252,021	3,481,120	3,229,099
92	New Hartford	2,830,761	3,011,733	180,972
93	New Haven	157,130,657	170,824,330	13,693,673
94	Newington	15,687,984	16,889,688	1,201,704
95	New London	29,127,137	31,150,657	2,023,520
96	New Milford	10,019,992	11,645,304	1,625,312
97	Newtown	2,242,955	4,495,691	2,252,736
98	Norfolk	52,341	55,415	3,074
99	North Branford	5,277,521	7,331,325	2,053,804
100	North Canaan	1,691,489	1,797,318	105,829
101	North Haven	3,237,671	4,399,467	1,161,796
102	North Stonington	1,155,604	2,660,307	1,504,703
103	Norwalk	16,206,121	16,447,293	241,172
104	Norwich	48,737,255	49,231,266	494,011
105	Old Lyme	1,468,038	1,494,874	26,836
106	Old Saybrook	127,006	132,244	5,238
107	Orange	876,585	1,015,498	138,913
108	Oxford	1,561,211	3,677,011	2,115,800
109	Plainfield	10,998,801	15,364,444	4,365,643
110	Plainville	11,874,743	12,740,359	865,616
111	Plymouth	8,566,840	9,802,121	1,235,281
112	Pomfret	1,723,740	2,670,987	947,247
113	Portland	4,850,406	4,979,837	129,431
114	Preston	2,035,341	2,952,496	917,155
115	Prospect	5,418,188	5,836,389	418,201
116	Putnam	6,518,178	8,340,282	1,822,104
117	Redding	284,590	284,590	0
118	Ridgefield	518,248	568,700	50,452
119	Rocky Hill	9,289,581	9,289,581	0
120	Roxbury	247,549	247,549	0
121	Salem	2,029,876	2,525,078	495,202
122	Salisbury	66,270	72,338	6,068
123	Scotland	742,629	1,274,671	532,042
124	Seymour	10,527,229	11,911,359	1,384,130

125	Sharon	26,420	29,987	3,567
126	Shelton	8,282,303	9,087,506	805,203
127	Sherman	39,013	46,995	7,982
128	Simsbury	6,793,765	8,273,772	1,480,007
129	Somers	4,771,300	5,692,630	921,330
130	Southbury	8,380,512	8,380,512	0
131	Southington	17,239,717	20,848,374	3,608,657
132	South Windsor	9,971,358	11,408,078	1,436,720
133	Sprague	2,558,139	2,706,745	148,606
134	Stafford	6,847,903	9,551,487	2,703,584
135	Stamford	20,646,542	22,003,161	1,356,619
136	Sterling	2,160,643	3,174,585	1,013,942
137	Stonington	208,612	1,073,011	864,399
138	Stratford	27,628,330	30,304,368	2,676,038
139	Suffield	6,040,068	6,163,712	123,644
140	Thomaston	4,037,026	5,481,226	1,444,200
141	Thompson	4,036,902	7,534,704	3,497,802
142	Tolland	7,072,303	9,105,528	2,033,225
143	Torrington	32,979,262	34,701,422	1,722,160
144	Trumbull	2,954,902	3,417,049	462,147
145	Union	272,335	272,335	0
146	Vernon	24,165,559	24,165,559	0
147	Voluntown	1,112,413	2,117,243	1,004,830
148	Wallingford	18,453,808	21,286,162	2,832,354
149	Warren	173,650	173,740	90
150	Washington	370,058	370,058	0
151	Waterbury	189,602,981	201,118,542	11,515,561
152	Waterford	301,204	326,444	25,240
153	Watertown	12,722,036	12,991,496	269,460
154	Westbrook	74,160	80,365	6,205
155	West Hartford	25,183,965	25,567,009	383,044
156	West Haven	56,304,388	59,004,684	2,700,296
157	Weston	232,548	263,792	31,244
158	Westport	609,343	610,400	1,057
159	Wethersfield	13,855,143	14,726,361	871,218
160	Willington	2,824,451	3,456,594	632,143
161	Wilton	429,528	461,796	32,268
162	Winchester	7,090,200	8,024,957	934,757
163	Windham	33,102,152	33,829,263	727,111
164	Windsor	10,281,888	12,130,392	1,848,504
165	Windsor Locks	4,798,112	5,225,299	427,187
166	Wolcott	10,294,232	12,387,171	2,092,939
167	Woodbridge	656,633	656,633	0

168	Woodbury	3,040,652	3,040,652	0
169	Woodstock	3,960,896	4,990,532	1,029,636
		2,227,755,402	2,458,678,956	230,923,554

Special Education

- How much would it cost to fully fund the Excess Cost grant in FY 27?

Excess Cost FY26-FY27 Projections

FY	Approp	Uncapped Entitlement	% Change	Difference
2019	140,619,782	191,016,625		50,396,843
2020	140,619,782	197,834,955	4%	57,215,173
2021	140,619,782	175,626,041	-11%	35,006,259
2022	140,619,782	175,733,825	0%	35,114,043
2023	156,119,782	203,882,252	16%	47,762,470
2024	181,119,782	260,551,988	28%	79,432,206
2025	221,119,782	299,122,947	15%	78,003,165
2026*	221,119,782	311,994,667	4%	90,874,885
2027**	221,119,782	361,071,182	16%	139,951,400

Section 8 of PA 23-1 caps the grant in perpetuity using a tiered cap and overall cap if the grant exceeds appropriations.

* 2026 uncapped entitlement is based on the December 1 collection, which will be updated in the March 1 collection.

** 2027 projected uncapped entitlement is based on the 4 year average percent change. Actual uncapped entitlements will be determined by actual data collections for the 2026-27 school year.

- Who is involved in special education evaluations, how often are students and providers evaluated?

**Appendix 6 - Programming and Oversight Responsibilities for Students Placed in CSDE
 APSEP Table
 Appendix 7 - APSEP 2025–26 Cycle Schedule as of 1-9-26
 Appendix 8 – Special Education Outcomes Bergin Jan2026**

- Please bring a breakdown of the special education initiatives that are funded in the budget and how the reduction related to those items was determined.

Align Appropriation for New Special Education Items with Legislative Direction		
Budget	9,164,000	
FY27 Initiatives		
	500,000	Competitive Grants for SpEd Educators & Paraeducators (PA 25-93)
	250,000	Quarterly trainings for instructional support partners (PA 25-93, section 29)
	500,000	Trauma & Behavioral Health Grants (PA 25-93, section 26)
	50,000	Data collection and reporting (PA 25-67)
	500,000	Disaggregate and report certain data from BoEs on CT-SEDS
Total FY27 Initiatives	1,800,000	
Funding Overage	7,364,000	Funding not tied to any specific special education initiatives

Legislatively Driven Grants

- Why is the Family Resource Centers account/grant program included in the 20% reductions of legislative grants?

The Governor’s Budget reflects various savings targets which would fall to the agency to implement if enacted. Any reductions to family resource centers or other budgeted line items will be the topic of ongoing budget negotiations.

- Please share the list of legislative grants that are receiving reductions under the Governor's Budget.

With regards to the Various Grants account, the Governor's budget doesn't identify which organizations are reduced and by how much, just that the Various Grants account be reduced by 20% in aggregate. Decisions about which organizations receive General Fund Various Grants are made by the legislature and ultimately it is up to the legislature to determine what is funded through that line. The administration is open to the 20% reduction being applied equally to each organization or reducing grants at different rates, as long as the total cuts add up to a 20% total reduction.

Reduce Funding for Legislatively Directed Funds by 20 Percent

	SID	FY27 Funding	Reduction	New Funding
FY27 Earmarks (Detail Attached)	10020	15,361,000	(3,072,200)	12,288,800
Leadership, Education, Athletics in Partnership (LEAP)	12211	312,211	(62,442)	249,769
CT Writing Project	12261	95,250	(19,050)	76,200
CT Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs	12318	1,000,000	(200,000)	800,000
Bridges to Success	12550	27,000	(5,400)	21,600
School Based Diversion Initiative	12587	900,000	(180,000)	720,000
Family Resource Centers*	16110	7,000,000	(1,265,142)	5,734,858
Rose City Learning	16302	159,000	(31,800)	127,200
		24,854,461	(4,836,034)	20,018,427

*Reduced by less than 20%

Sec. 36	OTHER EXPENSES (10020)	2027 Amount Prior to 20% Reduction
PA25-168 Sec. 36 a	EASTCONN	3,000,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 b	EdAdvance	900,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 c	Norwalk MLK Scholarship Fund	20,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 d & PA 25-174 Sec. 179	Robotics	100,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 e	Brother Carl Institute	800,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 f	Artist Collective	150,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 g	Girls on the Run	100,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 h	Big Brothers Big Sisters (Hartford and New Haven)	350,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 i	Middletown Youth Programming	200,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 j	Boys and Girls Club of Lower Naugatuck Valley	100,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 k	Hartford Knights	100,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 l	Hartford Youth Programming	15,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 m	Active City (for youth athletics)	150,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 n	Serving All Vessels Equally - Norwalk	100,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 o	ECE Recruitment and After School K-2 Reading Tutoring - (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	2,000,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 p	EdAdvance School Readiness Council	25,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 q	Stamford Public Education Foundation	210,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 r	Full Circle Youth Empowerment	1,000,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 s	Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse	100,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 t	New Haven Reads	200,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 u	Thompson - Alliance District funds	200,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 v	Big Brothers Big Sisters	200,000.00

PA25-168 Sec. 36 w	Girls on the Run	20,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 x	Effective School Solutions	350,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 z	Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE)	100,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 AA	CT Association of Schools / CIAC (Curriculum Development)	200,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 CC	Martin Luther King Scholarship Committee of Greater Middletown	5,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 DD	VR Sim	175,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 FF	Waterford (School lunch debt)	30,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 GG	Montville (School lunch debt)	36,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 HH	Fairfield River Lab	25,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 II	Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders	200,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 JJ	Elevate Bridgeport	175,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 KK	Bridgeport (Debate League)	75,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 LL	Yellow Mill Scholarship Fund	25,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 MM	Waterbury Promise	1,500,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 NN	Meriden Boys and Girls Club	250,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 OO	Newington (Diverse Library Circulation Materials)	10,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 PP	Boys and Girls Club of Milford (AI Training)	25,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 QQ	New London (Pre-K and early childhood)	500,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 RR	Stamford Public Education Foundation	90,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 SS	Sound Waters Summer Camp	50,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 TT	Windham	250,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 UU	Teacher Residency Program	750,000.00
PA25-168 Sec. 36 VV	SERC (Disconnected Youth Programming)	500,000.00

15,361,000.00

Before and After School Programs

- Please bring a list of before and after school programs that are funded by federal or state funding.
- What is the criteria for receiving state funding for these programs?
- What is the criteria for receiving federal funding for these programs?

Appendix 9 - Federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grants 2024-26

Appendix 10 - Federal 21st Century Scoring Rubric 2024-26

Appendix 11 - State 2025-27 After-School Grant Scoring Rubric

Appendix 12 - State after school grant scores - funded programs 2025-27

Literacy Coaches and Reading Programs

- How have students' reading scores changed since implementing right to read and other literacy programs?

Appendix 13 - AllDistrictsDataProficientNotProficient24-25

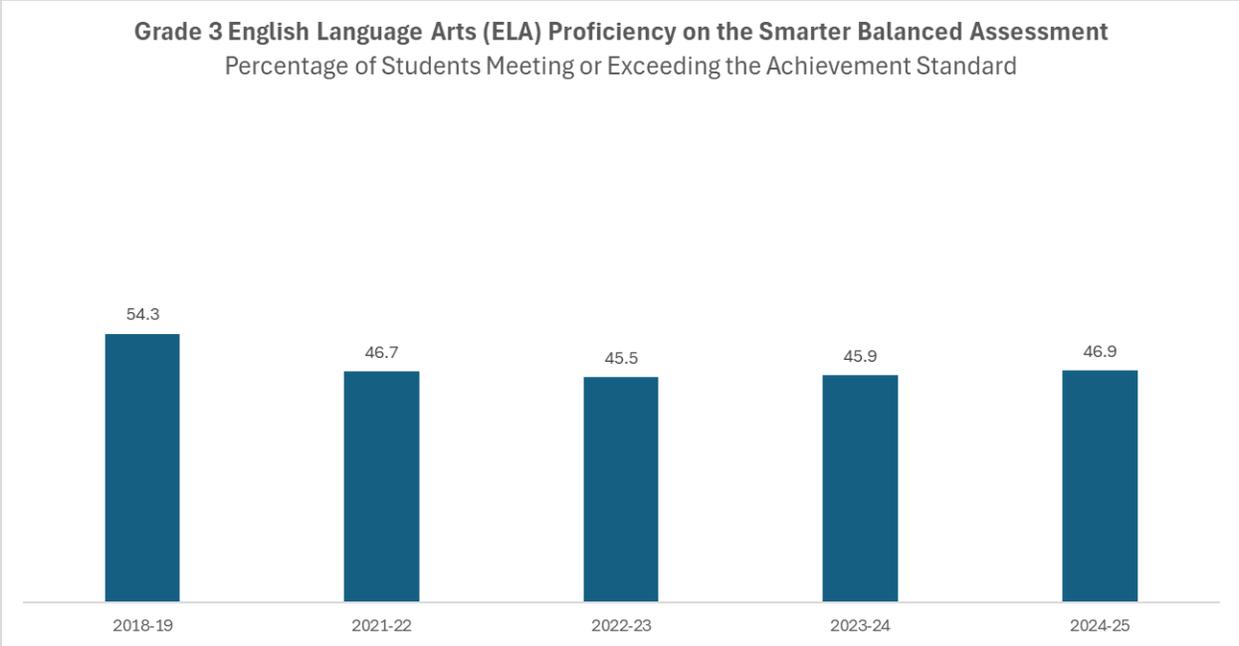
We are in the first school year of full implementation. Contrary to some narratives, the results from 2024-25 showed that progress is indeed happening. School year 2024-25 was the first in the decade since the Smarter Balanced tests were introduced that all student groups have shown improvement at once. See table below that was part of our August press release which highlighted that Connecticut students are seeing gains in test scores and attendance. While there is still work to be done to exceed pre-pandemic levels, it is important to celebrate the “wins” that come from the extremely hard work of our teachers, support personnel, leaders, and school communities.

*Connecticut Performance Index (CPI) Trend in English Language Arts and Mathematics for All Grades and Student Groups
(State Target for the Performance Index is 75.
Improvements are in green)*

Student Group	ELA 2019	ELA 2024	ELA 2025	Math 2019	Math 2024	Math 2025
All Students	67.7	63.9	64.7	63.1	60.2	61.1
High Needs (F/R, EL or SWD)	58.1	54.1	54.9	52.7	49.5	50.6
Grade 3	69.9	66.0	66.5	64.9	63.1	63.6

Grade 4	72.0	69.3	70.1	68.4	66.6	67.4
Grade 5	69.6	66.4	66.9	67.3	65.2	66.3
Grade 6	70.3	66.9	67.6	63.5	60.7	61.8
Grade 7	68.4	64.1	65.0	62.1	59.3	60.4
Grade 8	65.7	61.5	62.7	60.4	57.1	58.8
Grade 11	57.7	53.7	54.7	55.0	49.9	50.1
Eligible For Free/Reduced Price Meals	58.5	54.2	55.0	52.7	49.1	50.2
Students with Disabilities	47.4	45.2	45.8	41.7	40.4	40.9
English Learners	55.0	49.9	50.8	51.7	48.3	49.4
American Indian or Alaska Native	62.3	58.0	61.0	57.5	55.0	56.9
Asian	79.5	77.0	77.2	79.8	77.9	78.5
Black or African American	56.8	53.6	54.5	49.7	46.6	47.9
Hispanic or Latino	58.1	54.0	55.0	52.4	49.5	50.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	66.2	60.5	62.7	62.8	55.3	59.6
Two or More Races	70.0	67.1	67.9	65.0	62.9	63.9
White	73.6	71.2	72.1	69.6	68.3	69.2

Specifically in Grade 3, achievement in English language arts is also Improving statewide. Moreover, among the 36 Alliance Districts, 7 are meeting or exceeding their pre-pandemic proficiency levels from 2018-19.



An independent [evaluation of Science of Reading masterclass professional learning](#) program showed that participants acquired deep knowledge about the Science of Reading. Positive aspects of this professional learning program include quality of the instructors and materials, appropriate scaffolding of lessons, affinity group experiences, and Highly experienced and supportive coaches.

Preliminary findings from another independent evaluation of the implementation of curriculum aligned to the science of reading showed regular use of newly adopted literacy programs as the primary source for instruction across districts and programs, cohesive professional learning and collaboration, and science of reading-aligned instructional practices in classrooms.

- The Office of Dyslexia was launched four years ago with significant seed money—what happened to the seed money after the resignation of the office chief (i.e., what was it spent on)? Where does the office stand now (in terms of staff and the work it accomplishes)?

Appendix 14 - Agency Update ODRD

Funding for the Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities

	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	Total	Notes
Personal Services	\$ -	\$ 75,042	\$ 524,385	\$ 469,669	\$ -	\$ 1,069,097	Salaries moved to ODRD SID in FY26

Federal ESSER II	\$ 211,490	\$ 1,436,203	\$ 201,163	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,848,856	Reading/Dyslexia Tutoring- actual expenditures not awarded amounts
Federal IDEA	\$ 211,487	\$ 255,291	\$ 254,465	\$ 143,531	\$ 135,225	\$ 1,000,000	Contracted through SERC
ODRD	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 680,000	\$ 680,000	Established in FY26, Approximately \$400k for salaries and \$280k for other expenses/contracts in FY26
	\$ 422,977	\$ 1,766,536	\$ 980,014	\$ 613,201	\$ 815,225	\$ 4,597,953	

- Please bring a breakout of funding in the Other Expenses account.

**Estimated
FY27**

Account	Account Desc	On-Going Budget	Notes
50780	In-State Travel	3,000.00	
50790	Out-Of-State Travel	12,000.00	
50800	Mileage Reimbursement	15,000.00	
51200	Employee Assist Program Srvcs	5,200.00	
51290	Educational Services	1,160,000.00	Impartial Hearing Officers, Legal Affairs Hearing Officers, Contractual Services (e.g. Bridgeport and Hartford TA, Special Ed audit)
51510	Advertising and Marketing	250,000.00	
51540	Board Member Fees	8,000.00	

51580	Collection Agency Services	1,000.00	
51590	Conf/Seminars/Workshop-Hosting	5,000.00	
51620	Fees And Permits	20,000.00	
51672	Court Reporting Services	75,000.00	
51675	Subscriptions	35,000.00	
51762	Express Postage	2,000.00	
51764	Regular Postage	55,000.00	
51780	Membership Dues	300,000.00	
51830	ST-Post Off Box Lease/Rental	3,500.00	
51874	Printing & Binding	20,000.00	
51950	Storage Expenses	20,000.00	Meyer's Storage and Moving
51970	Temporary Services	100,000.00	
52000	Translation & Interpretation	10,000.00	
52080	Sponsorship	15,000.00	
52531	Off Equip Mnt/Rep-Contractual	70,000.00	
53011	ST-Motor Vehicle Lease/Rental	20,000.00	
53012	Motor Vehicle Repairs	5,000.00	
53020	Motor Vehicle Fuel - Gasoline	1,000.00	
53820	Cellular Communication Srvcs	2,000.00	
53830	Internet Services	75,000.00	
53850	Telephone Repair & Maintenance	35,000.00	
53870	Loc/Long Distance Telecomm Sv	4,000.00	
53920	IT Supplies	7,500.00	

54050	Food And Beverages	10,000.00	Meals for State Board of Education Meetings
54060	General Office Supplies	50,000.00	
54149	Long-term, Non-Capital SBITA	25,000.00	Azure software
54190	Publications	2,000.00	Book Orders
54200	Promotional Supplies	2,000.00	
54850	Other Program Expenses	96,763.00	
55070	State Aid Grants	750,000.00	Chefs to Schools
55120	Trnsfr Grant Expend-St Agency	500,000.00	UCONN
55610	Capital-Office Equipment	1,000.00	
Grand Total		3,770,963.00	

What is the fiscal impact of the change in tuition structure for magnet schools operated by Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs) and college-affiliated operators on sending districts, families, and the state from House Bill 5033?

- **Change in tuition structure for kindergarten through 12th grade student enrollments:** House Bill 5033 adjusts the tuition charged to sending districts for students attending magnet schools operated by RESCs and college-affiliates by applying an inflation-based increase based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), excluding food and energy, beginning in FY28. The existing 58% cap on district tuition remains in place; however, the bill applies the inflationary adjustment to the prior year’s tuition amount within that structure. The adjusted rate remains in effect for FY29 and is recalculated in two-year increments thereafter. As an example, for a RESC-operated magnet school with a FY24 per-pupil tuition of \$6,500, the current statutory cap limits tuition to approximately \$3,770 per student. Applying a two-year core CPI adjustment of roughly 6% would increase the allowable tuition in FY28 to approximately \$4,000 per student.

 - **Impact on sending districts:** The sending district is responsible for payment of the tuition amount for students attending interdistrict magnet schools. Because such students continue to be included in their sending district’s resident enrollment count, the sending districts retain the Education Cost Sharing funds provided by the state which help offset the tuition charged.
 - **Impact on the state:** For the state, the adjustment to the tuition amount does not change the underlying operating grant formula under CGS §10-252a.

The 42% state share in current law continues to be calculated based on the FY24 tuition amount. However, because the bill changes the tuition charged to districts, it may affect magnet operators in the context of the hold harmless provision. If the combined tuition revenue and state calculation under the revised structure fall below the FY24 per-pupil amount, the state provides the difference to ensure operators receive at least the FY24 per-pupil funding level. Because an increase in tuition revenue, without a corresponding decrease in state revenue will increase overall revenue, the state is less likely to have to provide extra funding via the hold harmless.

- **Change in tuition structure for prekindergarten student enrollments:** House Bill 5033 also adjusts the tuition charged to families/the state for prekindergarten students attending magnet schools operated by RESCs and college-affiliates by applying the same inflation-based increase based on CPI.
 - **Impact on families:** Families with income above 75% of the state median income are responsible for payment of the tuition amount for prekindergarten students attending interdistrict magnet schools operated by RESCs and college-affiliates based on a sliding scale.
 - **Impact on the state:** The state is responsible for tuition payments for prekindergarten student enrollments on behalf of families who are not required to pay based on family income.

As helpful context, The first two tables below show actual RESC Magnet School Operating Grants in FY 24, before the new reformed formula and FY 25. Total state support increased by over \$30 Million, roughly 24%. RESC Magnet school enrollment declined slightly from FY 24 to FY 25, so on a per-pupil basis the increase is higher than 24%. Stress on Magnet School Budget’s has been caused by the cap on tuition, which the Governor’s proposes to lift. Any consideration for additional state support should be predicated on actual reported operating shortfalls.

RESC Magnet School Operating Grant	
SY 2023-24	
ACES	\$8,670,030.00
CES	\$ 4,842,108.00
LEARN	\$ 11,297,316.00
EASTCONN	\$ 2,514,096.00
CREC	\$ 98,928,392.00
Great Path Academy at MCC (HPS operated by contract)	\$3,227,556.00
Total	\$129,479,498.00

RESC Magnet School Operating Grant	
SY 2024-25	
ACES	\$ 13,556,227.00
CES	\$ 6,308,758.00
LEARN	\$ 13,572,565.00
EASTCONN	\$ 2,835,160.00
CREC	\$ 121,805,041.00
Great Path Academy at MCC (HPS operated by contract)	\$ 2,704,074.27
Total	\$ 160,781,825.27