

Department of Education

SDE64000

Permanent Full-Time Positions

Fund	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Legislative	
				FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
General Fund	275	284	284	284	285	290	291

Budget Summary

Account	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Legislative	
				FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
Personal Services	13,142,700	14,177,486	20,580,254	17,607,641	17,707,641	18,326,641	18,557,641
Other Expenses	1,917,275	8,558,633	10,075,963	5,250,963	5,250,963	20,086,963	28,295,963
Other Current Expenses							
Admin - Adult Education	544,717	754,634	-	-	-	-	-
Development of Mastery Exams Grades 4, 6, and 8	10,362,489	10,469,130	10,643,533	10,571,192	10,571,192	10,571,192	10,571,192
Primary Mental Health	323,458	303,829	345,288	335,288	335,288	335,288	335,288
Leadership, Education, Athletics in Partnership (LEAP)	312,211	312,211	312,211	-	-	312,211	312,211
Adult Education Action	119,785	159,958	194,534	169,534	169,534	169,534	169,534
Connecticut Writing Project	20,250	47,608	95,250	-	-	95,250	95,250
CT Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs	613,866	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
Sheff Settlement	11,737,364	18,041,772	18,684,967	23,714,911	18,721,292	23,714,911	18,721,292
Admin - After School Programs	-	57,207	-	-	-	-	-
Parent Trust Fund Program	266,330	267,193	267,193	-	-	267,193	350,000
Commissioner's Network	9,943,504	9,791,557	9,869,398	9,869,398	9,869,398	9,869,398	9,869,398
Local Charter Schools	855,000	885,000	957,000	957,000	957,000	957,000	957,000
Bridges to Success	27,000	27,000	27,000	-	-	27,000	27,000
Talent Development	1,992,278	1,902,567	2,257,823	2,568,449	2,568,449	2,068,449	2,068,449
School-Based Diversion Initiative	760,326	887,426	900,000	-	-	900,000	900,000
EdSight	1,134,400	1,126,070	1,133,236	1,140,690	1,140,690	1,140,690	1,140,690
Sheff Transportation	53,424,053	67,676,250	75,465,173	77,661,541	80,326,212	77,661,541	80,326,212
Curriculum and Standards	1,919,665	2,215,773	2,215,782	2,215,782	2,615,782	4,215,782	4,215,782
Non-Sheff Transportation	8,079,897	13,476,380	15,675,787	15,675,787	15,675,787	14,275,787	14,275,787
Aspiring Educators Scholarship Program	-	255,000	10,000,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	6,000,000	6,000,000
Education Finance Reform	-	-	150,000,000	-	-	-	-
Assistance to Paraeducators	-	-	5,000,000	-	-	-	-
Dual Credit	-	-	-	-	7,500,000	-	6,000,000
Student Support Grants	-	-	-	12,639,668	12,639,668	-	-
Local Food for Local Schools Incentive Program	-	-	-	-	-	1,500,000	3,430,000
Office of Dyslexia	-	-	-	-	-	680,000	680,000
Other Than Payments to Local Governments							
American School For The Deaf	9,157,514	10,757,514	11,557,514	11,557,514	11,557,514	12,357,514	12,357,514
Regional Education Services	253,676	196,875	262,500	262,500	262,500	262,500	262,500
Family Resource Centers	5,802,625	6,662,824	6,352,710	-	-	6,352,710	7,000,000
Charter Schools	129,203,384	131,251,382	137,514,785	140,303,548	141,622,548	142,803,548	144,122,548
Child Nutrition State Match	2,354,000	2,354,000	2,354,000	2,875,000	2,875,000	2,354,000	2,354,000
Health Foods Initiative	4,151,463	4,151,463	4,151,463	4,151,463	4,151,463	4,151,463	4,151,463
Rose City Learning	-	-	-	-	-	159,000	159,000
Grant Payments to Local Governments							

Account	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Legislative	
				FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
Vocational Agriculture	18,824,200	19,583,200	18,824,200	26,295,732	26,295,732	26,295,732	26,295,732
Adult Education	21,620,796	22,537,660	23,386,642	23,396,661	23,396,661	21,694,983	25,953,382
Health and Welfare Services							
Pupils Private Schools	3,438,415	3,438,415	3,438,415	3,438,415	3,438,415	3,438,415	6,447,702
Education Equalization Grants	2,176,723,012	2,231,164,150	2,287,900,235	2,446,615,527	2,437,882,849	2,456,768,109	2,456,935,081
Bilingual Education	3,788,467	3,783,024	3,832,260	3,832,260	3,832,260	3,832,260	3,832,260
Priority School Districts	30,818,778	30,816,420	30,818,778	30,818,778	30,818,778	30,818,778	30,818,778
Interdistrict Cooperation	2,035,290	1,682,967	1,537,500	1,537,500	1,537,500	1,537,500	1,537,500
School Breakfast Program	2,158,900	2,158,900	2,158,900	2,337,900	14,758,900	2,158,900	2,158,900
Excess Cost - Student Based	156,148,491	181,152,455	181,119,782	181,119,782	221,119,782	221,119,782	221,119,782
Open Choice Program	30,383,406	30,741,927	31,472,503	31,472,503	31,472,503	31,472,503	31,472,503
Magnet Schools	277,398,994	279,195,021	287,484,265	336,925,940	346,345,603	322,925,940	344,345,603
After School Program	5,478,959	5,308,884	5,750,695	-	-	5,750,695	5,750,695
Extended School Hours	2,919,883	2,918,405	2,919,883	2,919,883	2,919,883	2,919,883	2,919,883
School Accountability	3,412,207	3,412,207	3,412,207	3,412,207	3,412,207	3,412,207	3,412,207
High Dosage Tutoring Grants	-	-	-	-	5,000,000	-	5,000,000
Personal Technology Grants	-	-	-	-	100,000	-	-
Special Education and Expansion							
Development	-	-	-	-	-	30,000,000	30,000,000
High Quality Special Ed							
Incentives	-	-	-	-	9,900,000	-	9,900,000
Learner Engagement and							
Attendance Program	-	-	-	-	9,900,000	-	7,000,000
Agency Total - General Fund	3,003,569,028	3,125,660,377	3,381,949,629	3,437,150,957	3,522,148,994	3,526,761,252	3,593,605,722

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Policy Revisions

Provide Additional Funding for the Excess Cost Grant

Excess Cost - Student Based	-	40,000,000	40,000,000	40,000,000	40,000,000	-
Total - General Fund	-	40,000,000	40,000,000	40,000,000	40,000,000	-

Background

The Excess Cost grant partially reimburses local and regional school districts for special education costs per student in excess of four-and-a-half times each district's prior year net current expenditures per pupil (a way of measuring the district's per pupil spending). When the appropriation is insufficient to fully fund the grant, payments are reduced, with lower wealth towns receiving higher percentages of their fully funded amounts than higher wealth towns. Wealth is determined by Adjusted Equalized Net Grant List Per Capita, a measure of property wealth and income.

In recent years, school districts' special education spending for high-cost students has increased significantly. In FY 24, the total Excess Cost uncapped entitlement increased 25% over FY 23. The FY 25 uncapped entitlement increased 14.8% over the prior year.

SA 25-1 provided \$40 million in FY 25 funding for the same purpose and distribution method as Excess Cost, within a special education emergency municipal assistance account.

Governor

Provide additional funding of \$40 million in FY 27 for Excess Cost.

Legislative

Provide additional funding of \$40 million in both FY 26 and FY 27 for Excess Cost. This maintains funding at the same level as in FY 25 when funding from SA 25-1 is included.

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Provide Funding for the Special Education and Expansion Development Grant

Special Education and Expansion Development	-	-	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000

Background

Section 7 of PA 25-67 establishes a Special Education and Expansion Development (SEED) grant based on the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula. The amount awarded to a board of education is dependent on each town's number of special education students, the ECS foundation amount (currently \$11,525), and each town's ECS state aid percentage (i.e., base aid ratio), along with the amount appropriated.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$30 million in both FY 26 and FY 27 for the SEED grant. Funding will be distributed proportionately.

Provide Funding for Special Education Enhancement

Other Expenses	-	-	4,295,000	9,164,000	4,295,000	9,164,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	4,295,000	9,164,000	4,295,000	9,164,000

Background

PA 25-93 and PA 25-67 establish: (1) a special education training, education and testing competitive grant program for special education educators and paraeducators; (2) a grant for support services for special education students who have experienced trauma or have behavioral health needs; and (3) reporting and other requirements the Department of Education must meet relating to special education.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$4,295,000 in FY 26 and \$9,164,000 for new grants and requirements including:

- \$500,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 for competitive grants for special education educators and paraeducators pursuant to Section 25 of PA 25-93
- \$500,000 in both FY 26 and FY 26 for trauma and behavioral health grants pursuant to Section 26 of PA 25-93
- \$250,000 in FY 27 for quarterly trainings for instructional support partners pursuant to Section 29 of PA 25-93
- \$250,000 in FY 26 to develop licensure standards for private special education providers pursuant to Section 8 of PA 25-67
- \$500,000 in FY 26 to disaggregate and report certain data from boards of education on CT-SEDS (state special education data system) pursuant to Section 12 of PA 25-67
- \$250,000 in FY 26 to develop a state-wide special education workload analysis model pursuant to Section 16 of PA 25-67
- \$200,000 in FY 26 to develop a comprehensive report on the CT-SEDS system pursuant to Section 17 of PA 25-67
- \$50,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to collect new data and report it on SDE's website pursuant to Section 22 of PA 25-67

Provide Funding for High Quality Special Education Incentives Grant

Personal Services	-	100,000	-	100,000	-	-
High Quality Special Ed Incentives	-	9,900,000	-	9,900,000	-	-
Total - General Fund	-	10,000,000	-	10,000,000	-	-
Positions - General Fund	-	1	-	1	-	-

Background

The Governor's Recommended Budget establishes a new High Quality Special Education Incentives Grant. Its purpose is to allow school districts to develop and expand in-district or multi-district special education programs and reduce outplacements. Section 19 of PA 25-93 establishes a competitive grant program for local and regional boards of education to support in-district or regional special education programming and services for students with disabilities.

Governor

Provide funding of \$10 million and one position in FY 27 for the High Quality Special Education Incentives Grant.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Provide Funding for New Positions Regarding Special Education

Personal Services	-	-	524,000	655,000	524,000	655,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	524,000	655,000	524,000	655,000
Positions - General Fund	-	-	5	5	5	5

Background

PA 25-67 and PA 25-93 establish certain requirements related to special education in the state.

Legislative

Provide five positions and funding of \$524,000 in FY 26 and \$655,000 in FY 27 for:

- Four positions and \$393,000 in FY 26 and \$524,000 in FY 27 for four staff members to establish and annually review a rate schedule for special education services and other related activities, pursuant to Sections 2 through 4 of PA 25-67.
- One position and \$131,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 for a staff member to develop and update a list of special education programs and related data and create a report on minority student special education identification, pursuant to Sections 20 and 30 of PA 25-93.

Relatedly, funding for the Office of Educational Ombudsperson is provided within the Office of Governmental Accountability.

Reduce Funding for Magnet Schools to Reflect Historic Lapse

Magnet Schools	-	-	(14,000,000)	(14,000,000)	(14,000,000)	(14,000,000)
Total - General Fund	-	-	(14,000,000)	(14,000,000)	(14,000,000)	(14,000,000)

Background

Magnet schools are operated by local boards of education, regional educational service centers (RESCs), and other entities. They are designed to attract students from different socioeconomic backgrounds and offer themed educational opportunities. Interdistrict magnet schools receive a per student grant that is based on several factors.

Legislative

Reduce funding by \$14 million in both FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect the historic lapse in the Magnet Schools account.

Maintain ECS Funding for Overfunded Towns

Education Equalization Grants	-	-	8,733,988	17,466,666	8,733,988	17,466,666
Total - General Fund	-	-	8,733,988	17,466,666	8,733,988	17,466,666

Background

PA 17-2, JSS, the FY 18 and FY 19 Budget, established a phase-in schedule for full funding of the ECS grant. Underfunded towns are scheduled to receive increases in funding until they reach full funding in FY 26. Overfunded towns, conversely, are scheduled to receive decreases in funding until they reach full funding in FY 34. Decreases for overfunded towns were put on hold from FY 22 to FY 25. Certain hold harmless provisions apply to Alliance Districts. In the FY 26 ECS formula, 96 towns are considered overfunded, of which 16 are Alliance Districts.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$8,733,988 in FY 26 and \$17,466,666 in FY 27 to maintain prior year funding levels for overfunded non-Alliance District towns through the biennium.

Provide Funding for Various COVID-19 Relief Funded Programs and Dyslexia

Personal Services	-	-	(480,000)	(480,000)	(480,000)	(480,000)
Curriculum and Standards	-	400,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,600,000
Dual Credit	-	7,500,000	-	6,000,000	-	(1,500,000)
Office of Dyslexia	-	-	680,000	680,000	680,000	680,000
Learner Engagement and Attendance Program	-	9,900,000	-	7,000,000	-	(2,900,000)
Total - General Fund	-	17,800,000	2,200,000	15,200,000	2,200,000	(2,600,000)

Background

The State Department of Education has used federal COVID-19 education relief (ESSER) funding and state-allocated ARPA funding for various new initiatives in recent years.

Curriculum and Standards: The Science of Reading Masterclass provides educators with professional learning and coaching related to literacy instruction. The program has been funded since 2022 via state-level ESSER funding.

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Dual Credit: In both FY 23 and FY 24, \$3.5 million in ARPA funding and a total of \$2 million in state-level ESSER funds were allocated to expand student access to dual enrollment/credit programs. Funding went to both school districts and institutions of higher education for curriculum development, professional development for educators, exam fee waivers, and supports for high-need students. Section 309 of PA 25-168 establishes a fee waiver grant program for high-need high school students to access advanced courses or programs (including dual credit) and authorizes the State Education Resource Center (SERC) as a recipient of up to \$500,000 for programming.

Learner Engagement and Attendance Program: In both FY 23 and FY 24, \$7 million in ARPA funding was allocated for the Learner Attendance and Engagement Program (LEAP). LEAP addresses chronic absenteeism by connecting directly with students and their families, often through home visits, and offering a variety of summer, after school, and learning support programs. This program operates in 25 districts, including two RESCs and an endowed academy. Section 315 of PA 25-168 establishes the LEAP program and requires at least 10 boards of education receive grants in any fiscal year, starting in FY 27.

Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities: PA 21-168 established the Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities. The office is responsible for verifying educator preparation programs and certificates relating to instruction and training for scientifically-based reading, structured literacy, and dyslexia and supporting the implementation of related regulations and policies.

Governor

Provide funding of \$17.8 million in FY 27 to continue or expand various programs that were previously funded with COVID-19 relief funding.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$2.2 million in FY 26 and \$15.2 million in FY 27 to continue or expand various programs that were previously funded with COVID-19 relief funding and provide additional funding of \$200,000 annually for the Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities. Additionally, transfer funding of \$480,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 from Personal Services to the Office of Dyslexia line item. The dyslexia funding was first provided for this purpose in the FY 22 and FY 23 Budget.

Adjust Funding for Various School Meal Programs

Child Nutrition State Match	521,000	521,000	-	-	(521,000)	(521,000)
School Breakfast Program	179,000	12,600,000	-	-	(179,000)	(12,600,000)
Total - General Fund	700,000	13,121,000	-	-	(700,000)	(13,121,000)

Background

Additional funding for school meals has been spent via ARPA since FY 23, as follows:

- **FY 23:** Approximately \$57.8 million for universal free meals
 - **FY 24:** Approximately \$12.9 million for universal free breakfast, and free lunch for students who qualify for reduced price meals
 - **FY 25:** A portion of unspent prior year ARPA school meals allocations for free meals for students who qualify for reduced price meals
- This funding impacts students who do not already receive free meals due to either their school or district's participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program or individual eligibility for free meals in a non-CEP school. Under CEP, schools and districts with at least 25% direct certified students (i.e., students eligible for free meals due to participation in some other assistance program) can choose to provide free meals to all students.

Governor

Provide funding of \$700,000 in FY 26 and \$13,121,000 in FY 27 for school meals. In FY 26, the funding will provide free meals for students who qualify for reduced price meals (continuing the same policy as in FY 25). In FY 27, the funding will provide universal free breakfast, along with free lunch for students who qualify for reduced price meals.

Legislative

Do not provide funding of \$700,000 in FY 26 and \$13,121,000 in FY 27 for school meals.

Provide Operational Support for RESC Magnet Schools

Magnet Schools	-	-	-	12,000,000	-	12,000,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	-	12,000,000	-	12,000,000

Legislative

Provide funding of \$12 million in FY 27 for RESC and other non-local board of education magnet school operators. The funding will be distributed to operators proportionally based on enrollment pursuant to Section 224 of PA 25-174, the FY 26 and FY 27 bond bill.

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Provide Funding for Various Grants

Other Expenses	-	-	6,146,000	9,486,000	6,146,000	9,486,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	6,146,000	9,486,000	6,146,000	9,486,000

Legislative

Provide funding of \$6,146,000 in FY 26 and \$9,486,000 in FY 27 to Other Expenses for various programs and initiatives as listed below and specified in Section 36 of PA 25-168, the FY 26 and FY 27 Budget.

Organization/Purpose	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Athlife	100,000	-
Big Brothers Big Sisters	150,000	200,000
Boys and Girls Club of Milford - AI Training	25,000	25,000
Bridgeport BOE - Bridgeport Public Schools Debate League	75,000	75,000
Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders	200,000	200,000
Cabe - BOE Training	100,000	100,000
CAS/CIAC Curriculum development	400,000	200,000
EASTCONN RESC	-	3,000,000
EdAdvance RESC	-	900,000
Effective School Solutions (ESS)	450,000	350,000
Elevate Bridgeport	175,000	175,000
Fairfield River-Lab	25,000	25,000
Free Agent Now	200,000	-
Girls on the Run Greater Connecticut	20,000	20,000
Greenwich YMCA Scholarship Program	10,000	-
Martin Luther King Scholarship Committee of Greater Middletown	5,000	5,000
Meriden Boys and Girls Club	250,000	250,000
Montville School Lunch Debt	36,000	36,000
New London Public Schools - Pre-K and Early Childhood, Including Transitional K	500,000	500,000
Newington Public Schools - Diverse Library Circulation Materials	10,000	10,000
Norwalk MLK Scholarship Fund	20,000	20,000
Robotics	25,000	25,000
SERC - Disconnected Youth Programming	500,000	500,000
Sound Waters Summer Camp	50,000	50,000
Stamford Public Education Foundation	90,000	90,000
Teacher Residency Program	750,000	750,000
VR Sim	175,000	175,000
Waterbury Promise	1,500,000	1,500,000
Waterford School Lunch Debt	30,000	30,000
Windham Public Schools	250,000	250,000
Yellow Mill Scholarship Fund	25,000	25,000

Adjust Funding for Various Formula Grants

Adult Education	(1,701,678)	(2,556,721)	(1,701,678)	-	-	2,556,721
Health and Welfare Services Pupils						
Private Schools	(2,893,222)	(3,009,287)	-	-	2,893,222	3,009,287
Total - General Fund	(4,594,900)	(5,566,008)	(1,701,678)	-	2,893,222	5,566,008

Background

Adult Education: Towns are reimbursed for their current costs associated with adult education programs on a sliding scale that varies based on town wealth. This grant was uncapped beginning in FY 23 per PA 22-118, the FY 23 Revised Budget.

Health and Welfare Services for Private School Pupils: School districts are required to provide the same health services to nonpublic, nonprofit school students that are provided to public school students in those districts as long as the majority of the nonpublic school's enrollment resides in Connecticut. Towns are reimbursed for these costs on a sliding scale that varies based on town wealth. This grant is traditionally capped.

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Governor

Reduce funding by \$4,594,900 in FY 26 and \$5,566,008 in FY 27 to reflect capped appropriations for Adult Education and Health and Welfare Services for Private School Pupils.

Legislative

Reduce funding by \$1,701,678 in FY 26 for the Adult Education grant to reflect the capped appropriations for one year. (Health and Welfare Services for Private School Pupils is also capped in FY 26; see Current Services adjustment.)

Provide Funding for High Dosage Tutoring Matching Grant

High Dosage Tutoring Grants	-	5,000,000	-	5,000,000	-	-
Total - General Fund	-	5,000,000	-	5,000,000	-	-

Background

The State Department of Education allocated \$11.1 million in ESSER funding for high dosage math tutoring in middle and high school in FY 24. Section 316 of PA 25-168, the FY 26 and FY 27 Budget, establishes a high dosage tutoring matching grant program.

Governor

Provide funding of \$5 million in FY 27 for High Dosage Tutoring Matching Grants.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Provide Funding for New Charter Schools

Charter Schools	-	-	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000

Background

The State Board of Education has approved seven charter schools in recent years that have not been funded in the budget.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$2.5 million in both FY 26 and FY 27 for new charter schools that have been approved by the State Board of Education. The distribution is:

- \$2.4 million in FY 26 and \$2.5 million in FY 27 for Stamford Big Picture to open in FY 26
- \$100,000 in FY 26 for Taino CoLAB New Haven for a one-time planning grant

Adjust Funding for Student Support Programs

Leadership, Education, Athletics in Partnership (LEAP)	(312,211)	(312,211)	-	-	312,211	312,211
CT Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	-	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
Parent Trust Fund Program	(267,193)	(267,193)	-	82,807	267,193	350,000
School-Based Diversion Initiative	(900,000)	(900,000)	-	-	900,000	900,000
Student Support Grants	12,639,668	12,639,668	-	-	(12,639,668)	(12,639,668)
Family Resource Centers	(6,352,710)	(6,352,710)	-	647,290	6,352,710	7,000,000
After School Program	(5,750,695)	(5,750,695)	-	-	5,750,695	5,750,695
Total - General Fund	(1,943,141)	(1,943,141)	-	730,097	1,943,141	2,673,238

Background

The State Department of Education administers several programs that provide a range of support services to students and their parents.

Leadership, Education, Athletics in Partnership (LEAP): LEAP provides children, ages seven to 14, from high-poverty neighborhoods in New Haven with mentoring from high school and college counselors.

CT Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs: The Neighborhood Youth Center Program provides support for neighborhood youth centers serving children ages 12 to 17 who live in seven of Connecticut's largest cities (Bridgeport, Hartford, New Britain, New Haven, Norwalk, Stamford, and Waterbury). Centers open evenings and weekends. They offer athletic and recreational opportunities, enrichment or tutoring activities, skills training, and other preventive and intervention services for youth and their families. The CT Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs is the only recipient of funding from this account.

Parent Trust Fund Program: The Parent Trust Fund provides civic leadership skills to parents.

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

School-Based Diversion Initiative: The School-Based Diversion Initiative works with schools and districts to reduce suspensions, expulsions, and arrests among students with behavioral health needs.

Family Resource Centers: Family Resource Centers are administered within schools to provide access to an array of early childhood and family support services to school-age children and their families. This grant was provided for Family Resource Centers in 36 towns in FY 24.

After School Program: The After School Program provides grants to local and regional boards of education, municipalities, and non-profit organizations to model best practices for after school programming with the goals of improving student achievement, school attendance, and behavior in schools. This grant supported programs in 28 towns in FY 24.

Governor

Transfer funding of \$12,639,668 in both FY 26 and FY 27 from six programs to a single Student Support Services grant, reducing the total funding available by \$1,943,141 in both FY 26 and FY 27. Section 15 of HB 6866, the Governor's education implementer, establishes the Student Support Services grant as one competitive grant program, with grants awarded every two years.

Legislative

Do not consolidate six programs into a single Student Support Services grant and do not reduce total funding. Provide additional funding totaling \$730,097 in FY 27 for the Parent Trust Fund Program (\$82,807) and Family Resource Centers (\$647,290).

Provide Funding for the Local Food for Schools Incentive Program

Other Expenses	-	-	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)
Local Food for Local Schools Incentive Program	-	-	1,500,000	3,430,000	1,500,000	3,430,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	-	1,930,000	-	1,930,000

Background

Section 26 of PA 23-167 established the Local Food for Schools Incentive Program. The program provides partial reimbursement to eligible boards of education for the purchase of locally and regionally sourced food for school meals. Section 300 of PA 25-168 moves administration of the program from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Education and expands eligibility to certain childcare providers.

Legislative

Transfer \$1.5 million from the Other Expenses account to a new Local Food for Local Schools Incentive Program account in both FY 26 and FY 27 and provide additional funding of \$1.93 million in FY 27 for the program. The additional funding is provided to supplement reduced federal funding for the program.

Adjust ECS Funding to Reflect Data Adjustment

Education Equalization Grants	(1,418,594)	(1,585,566)	-	-	1,418,594	1,585,566
Total - General Fund	(1,418,594)	(1,585,566)	-	-	1,418,594	1,585,566

Background

The ECS grant is the primary source of state funding to local and regional school districts. Funding is distributed primarily based on enrollment, the number of free and reduced price lunch students and English learners, and town income and property wealth per capita.

The 2022 Census Bureau Vintage Population Estimate artificially inflated the population estimate for the Town of Mansfield due to pandemic-related issues. This impacted Mansfield's FY 25 ECS grant calculation and, without a data adjustment, will continue to affect the calculation in future years. No other towns were impacted for ECS.

The Governor's Budget ECS data adjustment to Mansfield's population reduces the town's ECS grant by \$166,997 from FY 25 to FY 26 and an additional \$166,997 from FY 26 to FY 27 (as the Governor's Budget did not hold harmless overfunded towns). Without the data adjustment, Mansfield's ECS grant would be increasing.

Governor

Reduce funding by \$1,418,594 in FY 26 and \$1,585,566 in FY 27 to adjust ECS funding to Mansfield, to correct a pandemic data issue.

Legislative

Do not reduce funding by \$1,418,594 in FY 26 and \$1,585,566 in FY 27, and do not adjust Mansfield's population estimate within the ECS formula.

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Reduce Funding for Non-Sheff Transportation

Non-Sheff Transportation	-	-	(1,400,000)	(1,400,000)	(1,400,000)	(1,400,000)
Total - General Fund	-	-	(1,400,000)	(1,400,000)	(1,400,000)	(1,400,000)

Background

The Non-Sheff Transportation account was created in SA 21-15, FY 22 and FY 23 Budget, for transportation funding associated with magnet programs located outside the Sheff Region.

Legislative

Reduce funding by \$1.4 million in both FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect the FY 25 lapse.

Provide Funding for American School for the Deaf

American School For The Deaf	-	-	800,000	800,000	800,000	800,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	800,000	800,000	800,000	800,000

Legislative

Provide funding of \$800,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 for the American School for the Deaf.

Adjust Funding for Aspiring Educators and Talent Development

Talent Development	500,000	500,000	-	-	(500,000)	(500,000)
Aspiring Educators Scholarship Program	(500,000)	(500,000)	-	-	500,000	500,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-

Background

Talent Development: Talent Development funds support professional development efforts.

Aspiring Educators Scholarship Program: Sections 11 and 18 of PA 23-167 established the Aspiring Educators Scholarship Program. The program provides eligible students with scholarships of up to \$10,000 per year of enrollment in teacher preparation programs. PA 23-204, the FY 24 and FY 25 Budget, provided \$3 million in FY 24 and \$10 million in FY 25 for the program. In FY 25, \$1.1 million has been spent as of mid-June 2025.

Governor

Transfer funding of \$500,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 from the Aspiring Educators Scholarship Program account to the Talent Development account. The Governor recommends using this funding for male educator recruitment.

Legislative

Do not transfer funding from the Aspiring Educators Scholarship Program account to the Talent Development account.

Provide Funding for Rose City Learning

Rose City Learning	-	-	159,000	159,000	159,000	159,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	159,000	159,000	159,000	159,000

Background

Rose City Learning Center in Norwich is a non-profit that provides English classes at all levels.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$159,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to Rose City Learning in Norwich.

Adjust Funding for the Connecticut Writing Project and Bridges to Success

Connecticut Writing Project	(95,250)	(95,250)	-	-	95,250	95,250
Bridges to Success	(27,000)	(27,000)	-	-	27,000	27,000
Total - General Fund	(122,250)	(122,250)	-	-	122,250	122,250

Background

Connecticut Writing Project: The Connecticut Writing Project provides opportunities for growth and professional development for teachers and students in the areas of reading and writing.

Bridges to Success: Bridges to Success provides funding to support at-risk high school students to successfully transition to college.

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Governor

Eliminate funding of \$122,250 in both FY 26 and FY 27 for the Connecticut Writing Project and Bridges to Success.

Legislative

Maintain funding for the Connecticut Writing Project and Bridges to Success.

Adjust Funding for Personal Technology Grant

Personal Technology Grants	-	100,000	-	-	-	(100,000)
Total - General Fund	-	100,000	-	-	-	(100,000)

Governor

Provide funding of \$100,000 in FY 27 for personal technology grants. The grant is intended to assist local and regional school districts in the implementation of policies related to personal technology use in schools.

Legislative

Do not provide funding of \$100,000 in FY 27 for personal technology grants.

Provide Funding for Durational Grant Administrator

Personal Services	-	-	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
Positions - General Fund	-	-	1	1	1	1

Legislative

Provide funding of \$75,000 and one position in both FY 26 and FY 27 for durational grant administration.

Provide Funding for AI Literacy Conference

Other Expenses	-	-	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000

Background

Section 21 of SB 2 would have required SDE to convene an annual statewide conference on AI literacy, which must include an opportunity to share exemplars of AI literacy, provide information on federal law and national frameworks relating to AI, and provide opportunities to build interdistrict learning networks for the integration and application of AI literacy initiatives.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$20,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 for SDE to convene an annual statewide AI literacy conference, beginning in FY 26.

Reallocate Paraeducator Healthcare Funding to OSC

Assistance to Paraeducators	(5,000,000)	(5,000,000)	(5,000,000)	(5,000,000)	-	-
Total - General Fund	(5,000,000)	(5,000,000)	(5,000,000)	(5,000,000)	-	-

Background

PA 23-204 originally allocated \$5 million in carryforward funds in both FY 24 and FY 25 to the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC), and appropriated \$5 million to the State Department of Education (SDE) in FY 25 to establish subsidies to paraeducators for certain health insurance and health care related costs. PA 24-81 expanded this program and required OSC and SDE to enter into an MOU to allow the Comptroller to use the appropriated funds as OSC administers this program.

Governor

Transfer \$5 million in both FY 26 and FY 27 from SDE to OSC for the paraeducator healthcare subsidy program.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Current Services

Transfer Education Finance Reform Funding to Choice Programs

Other Expenses	-	-	950,000	950,000	950,000	950,000
Sheff Transportation	2,196,368	4,861,039	2,196,368	4,861,039	-	-
Education Finance Reform	(76,331,181)	(76,331,181)	(76,331,181)	(76,331,181)	-	-
Charter Schools	2,788,763	4,107,763	2,788,763	4,107,763	-	-
Vocational Agriculture	7,471,532	7,471,532	7,471,532	7,471,532	-	-
Magnet Schools	45,443,153	54,445,952	45,443,153	54,445,952	-	-
Total - General Fund	(18,431,365)	(5,444,895)	(17,481,365)	(4,494,895)	950,000	950,000

Background

The Education Finance Reform account was established by PA 23-204, the FY 24 and FY 25 Budget. It provided \$150 million in FY 25 for education funding. PA 24-81 directed that the funding be used to:

- Supplement appropriations for ECS (an estimated \$73.7 million) and Charter Schools (approximately \$7.7 million).
- Implement changes in grant formulas for magnet school and vocational agriculture operators (approximately \$58.2 million). Much of this funding replaces tuition that operators lose due to the FY 25 tuition cap.
- Provide funding for a variety of purposes and initiatives (\$10.4 million).

Governor

Transfer funding of \$57,899,816 in FY 26 and \$70,886,286 in FY 27 from the Education Finance Reform account to various choice programs and Sheff Transportation in order to continue the grant and tuition policies established by PA 24-81. A net reduction in funding of \$18,431,365 in FY 26 and \$5,444,895 in FY 27 reflects updated enrollment projections for existing choice school grants and Sheff Transportation, along with the cessation in FY 26 of various other grants provided in FY 25 by the Education Finance Reform account.

The proposal continues current methods for calculating the magnet, vocational agriculture, and state charter school grants. Additionally, it allows magnet and vocational agriculture operators to increase tuition based on inflation every two years beginning in FY 28.

Legislative

Transfer funding of \$58,849,816 in FY 26 and \$49,951,057 in FY 27 from the Education Finance Reform account to various choice programs, Sheff Transportation, and Other Expenses in order to continue the current grant and tuition policies, and maintain some earmark grants established by PA 24-81 (\$800,000 for Brother Carl Institute and \$150,000 for Artists Collective, both within the Other Expenses account as specified in Section 36 of PA 25-168, the FY 26 and FY 27 Budget). A net reduction in funding of \$17,481,365 in FY 26 and \$4,494,895 in FY 27 reflects updated enrollment projections for existing choice school grants and Sheff Transportation, along with the cessation in FY 26 of a portion of various other grants provided in FY 25 by the Education Finance Reform account.

Fund ECS According to Current Law

Education Finance Reform	(73,668,819)	(73,668,819)	(73,668,819)	(73,668,819)	-	-
Education Equalization Grants	160,133,886	151,568,180	160,133,886	151,568,180	-	-
Total - General Fund	86,465,067	77,899,361	86,465,067	77,899,361	-	-

Background

Since FY 19, ECS has been subject to a full funding phase-in schedule for both overfunded and underfunded towns, although overfunded towns were held harmless from losses for FY 22 through FY 25. Under the phase-in schedule prior to the FY 26 and FY 27 Budget: (1) underfunded towns will reach full funding in FY 26, and (2) overfunded towns will resume annual reductions in FY 26, reaching full funding in FY 32.

Governor

Provide funding of \$86,465,067 in FY 26 and \$77,899,361 in FY 27 to fund ECS at the current law requirements. Additionally, transfer \$73,668,819 in both FY 26 and FY 27 from Education Finance Reform to ECS; as noted above, this is the same amount of Education Finance Reform funding that is being used for ECS in FY 25.

Legislative

Same as Governor. See Policy Revisions regarding overfunded towns.

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Annualize FY 25 Holdbacks

Personal Services	(3,600,000)	(3,600,000)	(3,000,000)	(3,000,000)	600,000	600,000
Aspiring Educators Scholarship Program	(6,000,000)	(6,000,000)	(4,000,000)	(4,000,000)	2,000,000	2,000,000
Total - General Fund	(9,600,000)	(9,600,000)	(7,000,000)	(7,000,000)	2,600,000	2,600,000

Governor

Reduce funding by \$9.6 million in both FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect the annualization of FY 25 holdbacks in the Personal Services and Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship accounts.

Legislative

Reduce funding by \$7 million in both FY 26 and FY 27 in the Personal Services and Aspiring Educators Scholarship accounts.

Fund Formula Grants at Statutory Level

Adult Education	1,701,678	2,556,721	-	2,556,721	(1,701,678)	-
Health and Welfare Services Pupils Private Schools	2,893,222	3,009,287	-	3,009,287	(2,893,222)	-
Total - General Fund	4,594,900	5,566,008	-	5,566,008	(4,594,900)	-

Governor

Provide funding of \$4,594,900 in FY 26 and \$5,566,008 in FY 27 to fund two formula grants at statutorily required levels. The Governor recommends capping both grants; see Policy Revisions.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$5,566,008 in FY 27 to fund two formula grants at statutorily required levels. PA 25-168 caps the Adult Education and Health and Welfare grants in FY 26.

Fund the Requirements of the Sheff Settlement

Sheff Settlement	4,993,619	-	4,993,619	-	-	-
Magnet Schools	3,998,522	4,415,386	3,998,522	4,415,386	-	-
Total - General Fund	8,992,141	4,415,386	8,992,141	4,415,386	-	-

Background

In March 2022, the General Assembly approved the Sheff v. O'Neill settlement agreement reached on January 27, 2022, which requires the state to take additional steps to expand educational opportunities for racially isolated students in the City of Hartford. The agreement includes an expansion of Open Choice and Magnet Schools seats over a ten-year period.

Governor

Provide funding of \$8,992,141 in FY 26 and \$4,415,386 in FY 27 for the Sheff Settlement and Magnet Schools to fund the requirements of the Sheff settlement in the biennium. The Magnet School account increase includes funding to support: (1) Public Service Academy of Eastern Connecticut in Colchester (\$833,728 in FY 26 and \$1,250,592 in FY 27); (2) an increase in ECAMP enrollment (\$164,794 in both FY 26 and FY 27); and (3) other funding needed to meet Sheff settlement requirements, such as magnet reformulation grants, summer enrichment programming, and marketing (\$3 million in both FY 26 and FY 27, with additional funding for this purpose in the Sheff Settlement account in FY 26).

Legislative

Same as Governor

Adjust Funding for Various Grants

Other Expenses	(4,825,000)	(4,825,000)	100,000	100,000	4,925,000	4,925,000
Total - General Fund	(4,825,000)	(4,825,000)	100,000	100,000	4,925,000	4,925,000

Governor

Eliminate funding of \$4,825,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 associated with Other Expenses earmarks in PA 23-204, the FY 24 and FY 25 Budget.

Legislative

Maintain funding associated with Other Expenses earmarks and provide additional funding of \$100,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 for various earmark grants below as specified in Section 36 of PA 25-168, the FY 26 and FY 27 Budget, and Section 179 of PA 25-174.

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Organization/Purpose	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Active City	150,000	150,000
Big Brothers and Big Sisters of CT: Hartford and New Haven mentoring	350,000	350,000
Boys and Girls Club of Lower Naugatuck Valley	100,000	100,000
Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse	100,000	100,000
ECE recruitment and after school K-2 reading tutoring	2,000,000	2,000,000
EdAdvance (School Readiness Council)	25,000	25,000
Full Circle Youth Empowerment	1,000,000	1,000,000
Girls on the Run Greater Connecticut	100,000	100,000
Hartford Knights	100,000	100,000
Hartford Youth Programming	15,000	15,000
Middletown Youth Programming	200,000	200,000
New Haven Reads	200,000	200,000
Robotics	75,000	75,000
Serving All Vessels Equally (SAVE) in Norwalk	100,000	100,000
Stamford Public Education Foundation	210,000	210,000
Thompson (Alliance District)	200,000	200,000

Annualize the Cost of Existing Wage Agreements

Personal Services	627,387	627,387	627,387	627,387	-	-
Development of Mastery Exams Grades 4, 6, and 8	47,659	47,659	47,659	47,659	-	-
Sheff Settlement	36,325	36,325	36,325	36,325	-	-
Talent Development	20,626	20,626	20,626	20,626	-	-
EdSight	7,454	7,454	7,454	7,454	-	-
Adult Education	10,019	10,019	10,019	10,019	-	-
Total - General Fund	749,470	749,470	749,470	749,470	-	-

Background

The Governor's Recommended Budget provides funding of \$124.4 million in FY 26 and FY 27, across nine appropriated funds, to reflect current wage-related adjustments resulting from existing wage agreements.

Governor

Provide funding of \$749,470 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect this agency's increased wage costs.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Adjust Funding to Reflect Current Requirements

Development of Mastery Exams Grades 4, 6, and 8	(120,000)	(120,000)	(120,000)	(120,000)	-	-
Primary Mental Health	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	-	-
Adult Education Action	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	-	-
Talent Development	(210,000)	(210,000)	(210,000)	(210,000)	-	-
Total - General Fund	(365,000)	(365,000)	(365,000)	(365,000)	-	-

Governor

Reduce funding by \$365,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect current agency requirements.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Totals

Budget Components	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
FY 25 Appropriation - GF	3,381,949,629	3,381,949,629	3,381,949,629	3,381,949,629	-	-
Policy Revisions	(12,378,885)	71,804,035	73,351,310	134,785,763	85,730,195	62,981,728
Current Services	67,580,213	68,395,330	71,460,313	76,870,330	3,880,100	8,475,000
Total Recommended - GF	3,437,150,957	3,522,148,994	3,526,761,252	3,593,605,722	89,610,295	71,456,728

Positions	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
FY 25 Appropriation - GF	284	284	284	284	-	-
Policy Revisions	-	1	6	7	6	6
Total Recommended - GF	284	285	290	291	6	6