

School Construction Grant Reimbursement Rates

A More Equitable School Construction Grant Program

- Connecticut students would benefit from a **more equitable school construction grant program** that better accounts for district needs.
- The current program offers reimbursement rates between **10% and 85%**, divided into **standard, bonus, and reduced** categories.
- Schools can receive **bonus reimbursements of 5-10%**, but total reimbursement cannot exceed **95%** of project costs.

How the State Determines Reimbursement Rate

- Reimbursement rates are based on a municipality's **Adjusted Equalized Grand List per Capita (AEGLC)** from the past two, three, and four years.
- The lowest-wealth municipality receives the highest reimbursement rate, with each subsequent municipality receiving a slightly lower rate.
- Projects approved after **July 1, 2024** will follow an updated range of standard reimbursements.
- **Bonus rates (5-10%)** are available for specific eligible projects.
- **Reduced rates (50% of the district's standard rate)** apply to non-instructional areas like athletic facilities and auditorium seating.

Current Flaws in the School Construction Grant Program

- The current method **only considers municipal wealth** and does not account for student needs.
- Districts with **higher numbers of low-income students, students with disabilities, and multilingual learners** face increased costs but receive no additional state facilities support.
- This results in **fewer resources available for school construction projects** in high-need districts.

How Connecticut Can Improve School Facilities Funding

- Connecticut should **adopt bonus reimbursement rates for districts with high numbers** of:
 - Students from low-income households;
 - Students with disabilities; and

- Multilingual Learners.
- **Massachusetts has a similar program** that provides additional bonuses based on student poverty levels.
- Under the proposed model, **districts would receive bonus points based on their ranking within each need category**, ensuring funding better reflects student and community needs.

Current Law: Reimbursement Rates for Projects Approved on or After July 1, 2024

Project Type	Reimbursement Rate Range
New construction or building replacement	10% - 80%
Renovations, extensions, code violations, roof replacements	20% - 80%

Proposed Bonus Rates

Student Need Category	Quartile 1	Quartile 2	Quartile 3	Quartile 4
Free or Reduced-Price Lunch	1 percentage point	2 percentage points	3 percentage points	4 percentage points
Multilingual Learners	1 percentage point	2 percentage points	3 percentage points	4 percentage points
Students with Disabilities	1 percentage point	2 percentage points	3 percentage points	4 percentage points

School Construction Grant Program Eligibility

Challenges in Current Law

- The school construction grant program funds **most** public school operators, but **charter schools are ineligible** unless the legislature makes special exceptions.
- Charter schools have only received funding through **one-time legislative approvals** that modify specific projects.
- Charter schools mainly rely on the **Charter School Facilities Grant** instead.
- This grant is funded through **bonds authorized by the General Assembly** and administered by the **State Department of Education**.
- Unlike other public schools, charter schools must wait for **State Bond Commission approval**, delaying access to critical funding.

Expanded Eligibility for the School Construction Grant Program

- **All public school districts**, including charter schools, **should be eligible** for the school construction grant program.
- Expanded eligibility ensures **equitable access to funding** for all Connecticut students, regardless of school type.
- Charter schools should **receive funding at the same reimbursement rates** as their host communities.
- Expanding eligibility ensures **ALL students** benefit from safe, modern, and well-equipped school facilities.
- This change would allow school construction projects to move forward **fairly and efficiently** once approved by the legislature.

Appendices

Appendix A: School Construction Grant Program Reimbursement Rates

The table below displays: 1) the current law reimbursements to districts under the school construction grant program for projects that qualify for the renovation project rates; 2) the increase districts could receive with a more equitable reimbursement rate; and 3) the percentage change from the old rates to the new ones.

District	Current Law	Proposed Rate with Bonuses	Proposed Percentage Point Change
Achievement First Bridgeport Academy	0.0%	87.6%	9.0%
Achievement First Hartford Academy	0.0%	87.6%	8.0%
Amistad Academy	0.0%	86.9%	9.0%
Andover School District	60.4%	64.4%	4.0%
Ansonia School District	77.1%	88.1%	11.0%
ACES	65.0%	75.0%	10.0%
Ashford School District	67.5%	72.5%	5.0%
Avon School District	27.9%	31.9%	4.0%
Barkhamsted School District	51.4%	58.4%	7.0%
Berlin School District	40.4%	47.4%	7.0%
Bethany School District	37.1%	44.1%	7.0%
Bethel School District	47.9%	55.9%	8.0%
Bloomfield School District	49.6%	60.6%	11.0%
Bolton School District	52.5%	56.5%	4.0%
Booker T. Washington Academy	0.0%	85.9%	8.0%
Bozrah School District	60.7%	67.7%	7.0%
Branford School District	34.6%	42.6%	8.0%
Brass City Charter School	0.0%	88.9%	10.0%
Bridgeport School District	78.6%	90.6%	12.0%
Bristol School District	72.1%	83.1%	11.0%
Brookfield School District	33.9%	40.9%	7.0%
Brooklyn School District	68.9%	77.9%	9.0%
Canaan School District	30.0%	36.0%	6.0%
Canterbury School District	65.7%	70.7%	5.0%
Canton School District	41.8%	46.8%	5.0%
Capital Preparatory Harbor School	0.0%	87.6%	9.0%
CREC	59.3%	71.3%	12.0%
Chaplin School District	64.3%	71.3%	7.0%
Cheshire School District	50.0%	54.0%	4.0%
Chester School District	48.9%	52.9%	4.0%
Clinton School District	42.9%	51.9%	9.0%
Colchester School District	61.1%	68.1%	7.0%
Colebrook School District	42.5%	50.5%	8.0%

District	Current Law	Proposed Rate with Bonuses	Proposed Percentage Point Change
Columbia School District	48.6%	52.6%	4.0%
Common Ground High School	0.0%	88.9%	11.0%
C.E.S.	40.0%	50.0%	10.0%
Cornwall School District	23.6%	28.6%	5.0%
Coventry School District	59.6%	64.6%	5.0%
Cromwell School District	44.6%	50.6%	6.0%
Danbury School District	63.9%	71.9%	8.0%
Darien School District	20.7%	27.7%	7.0%
Deep River School District	42.1%	50.1%	8.0%
Derby School District	75.0%	86.0%	11.0%
East Granby School District	46.4%	50.4%	4.0%
East Haddam School District	52.1%	56.1%	4.0%
East Hampton School District	57.1%	63.1%	6.0%
East Hartford School District	76.4%	88.4%	12.0%
East Haven School District	71.4%	82.4%	11.0%
East Lyme School District	40.7%	48.7%	8.0%
East Windsor School District	63.2%	74.2%	11.0%
EASTCONN	65.7%	74.7%	9.0%
Eastford School District	58.6%	63.6%	5.0%
Easton School District	26.8%	31.8%	5.0%
EdAdvance	52.1%	61.1%	9.0%
Ellington School District	53.6%	60.6%	7.0%
Elm City College Preparatory School	0.0%	86.9%	9.0%
Elm City Montessori School	0.0%	83.9%	6.0%
Enfield School District	71.8%	81.8%	10.0%
Essex School District	28.9%	37.9%	9.0%
Explorations	0.0%	81.9%	9.0%
Fairfield School District	26.1%	33.1%	7.0%
Farmington School District	30.7%	35.7%	5.0%
Franklin School District	43.2%	47.2%	4.0%
Glastonbury School District	32.9%	37.9%	5.0%
Granby School District	45.7%	49.7%	4.0%
Great Oaks Charter School	0.0%	88.6%	10.0%
Greenwich School District	20.0%	26.0%	6.0%
Griswold School District	73.2%	83.2%	10.0%
Groton School District	57.5%	67.5%	10.0%
Guilford School District	30.4%	35.4%	5.0%
Hamden School District	69.6%	80.6%	11.0%
Hampton School District	62.9%	70.9%	8.0%
Hartford School District	79.6%	91.6%	12.0%
Hartland School District	51.8%	57.8%	6.0%
Hebron School District	55.4%	58.4%	3.0%

District	Current Law	Proposed Rate with Bonuses	Proposed Percentage Point Change
Highville Charter School	0.0%	83.9%	6.0%
Integrated Day Charter School	0.0%	84.5%	7.0%
Interdistrict School for Arts and Comm	0.0%	89.2%	11.0%
Jumoke Academy	0.0%	86.6%	7.0%
Kent School District	28.2%	34.2%	6.0%
Killingly School District	70.4%	79.4%	9.0%
LEARN	50.7%	61.7%	11.0%
Lebanon School District	57.9%	63.9%	6.0%
Ledyard School District	61.8%	68.8%	7.0%
Lisbon School District	56.4%	65.4%	9.0%
Madison School District	29.3%	34.3%	5.0%
Manchester School District	67.9%	78.9%	11.0%
Mansfield School District	76.1%	82.1%	6.0%
Marlborough School District	46.1%	50.1%	4.0%
Meriden School District	75.7%	87.7%	12.0%
Middletown School District	66.1%	75.1%	9.0%
Milford School District	36.8%	43.8%	7.0%
Monroe School District	37.9%	42.9%	5.0%
Montville School District	72.5%	82.5%	10.0%
Naugatuck School District	74.6%	86.6%	12.0%
New Beginnings Family Academy	0.0%	87.6%	9.0%
New Britain School District	79.3%	91.3%	12.0%
New Canaan School District	20.4%	23.4%	3.0%
New Fairfield School District	35.4%	42.4%	7.0%
New Hartford School District	50.4%	57.4%	7.0%
New Haven School District	77.9%	87.9%	10.0%
New London School District	78.2%	90.2%	12.0%
New Milford School District	48.2%	57.2%	9.0%
Newington School District	59.3%	68.3%	9.0%
Newtown School District	35.0%	40.0%	5.0%
Norfolk School District	31.4%	38.4%	7.0%
North Branford School District	53.2%	59.2%	6.0%
North Canaan School District	63.6%	71.6%	8.0%
North Haven School District	37.5%	43.5%	6.0%
North Stonington School District	56.1%	60.1%	4.0%
Norwalk School District	60.0%	70.0%	10.0%
Norwich Free Academy	76.1%	85.1%	9.0%
Norwich School District	77.5%	89.5%	12.0%
Odyssey Community School	0.0%	75.9%	8.0%
Old Saybrook School District	27.1%	35.1%	8.0%
Orange School District	31.1%	36.1%	5.0%
Oxford School District	41.4%	46.4%	5.0%

District	Current Law	Proposed Rate with Bonuses	Proposed Percentage Point Change
Park City Prep Charter School	0.0%	87.6%	9.0%
Plainfield School District	73.9%	83.9%	10.0%
Plainville School District	65.0%	74.0%	9.0%
Plymouth School District	68.6%	78.6%	10.0%
Pomfret School District	55.7%	61.7%	6.0%
Portland School District	51.1%	60.1%	9.0%
Preston School District	58.9%	64.9%	6.0%
Putnam School District	70.0%	81.0%	11.0%
Redding School District	26.4%	31.4%	5.0%
Regional School District 1	43.6%	50.6%	7.0%
Regional School District 4	48.6%	55.6%	7.0%
Regional School District 5	42.9%	46.9%	4.0%
Regional School District 7	57.5%	64.5%	7.0%
Regional School District 8	63.2%	67.2%	4.0%
Regional School District 9	36.8%	40.8%	4.0%
Regional School District 10	55.0%	61.0%	6.0%
Regional School District 11	75.4%	83.4%	8.0%
Regional School District 12	32.5%	36.5%	4.0%
Regional School District 13	53.2%	60.2%	7.0%
Regional School District 14	50.7%	58.7%	8.0%
Regional School District 15	48.9%	54.9%	6.0%
Regional School District 16	70.0%	76.0%	6.0%
Regional School District 17	50.4%	55.4%	5.0%
Regional School District 18	35.7%	39.7%	4.0%
Regional School District 19	81.8%	88.8%	7.0%
Regional School District 20	<i>District is new and data is not available to calculate a proposed rate.</i>		
Ridgefield School District	24.3%	30.3%	6.0%
Rocky Hill School District	45.4%	53.4%	8.0%
Salem School District	47.1%	53.1%	6.0%
Salisbury School District	22.5%	27.5%	5.0%
Scotland School District	69.3%	77.3%	8.0%
Seymour School District	66.8%	74.8%	8.0%
Sharon School District	23.2%	30.2%	7.0%
Shelton School District	38.6%	47.6%	9.0%
Sherman School District	25.4%	28.4%	3.0%
Side By Side Charter School	0.0%	69.0%	9.0%
Simsbury School District	36.1%	42.1%	6.0%
Somers School District	60.0%	64.0%	4.0%
South Windsor School District	44.3%	50.3%	6.0%
Southington School District	54.6%	61.6%	7.0%
Sprague School District	73.6%	83.6%	10.0%

District	Current Law	Proposed Rate with Bonuses	Proposed Percentage Point Change
Stafford School District	70.7%	78.7%	8.0%
Stamford Charter School for Excellence	0.0%	69.0%	9.0%
Stamford School District	60.0%	69.0%	9.0%
Sterling School District	74.3%	81.3%	7.0%
Stonington School District	32.1%	37.1%	5.0%
Stratford School District	62.1%	72.1%	10.0%
Suffield School District	50.7%	56.7%	6.0%
The Bridge Academy	0.0%	88.6%	10.0%
The Gilbert School	74.6%	82.6%	8.0%
The Woodstock Academy	66.1%	69.1%	3.0%
Thomaston School District	68.2%	75.2%	7.0%
Thompson School District	67.1%	76.1%	9.0%
Tolland School District	50.0%	55.0%	5.0%
Torrington School District	75.4%	86.4%	11.0%
Trumbull School District	34.3%	40.3%	6.0%
Union School District	43.9%	48.9%	5.0%
Vernon School District	71.1%	81.1%	10.0%
Voluntown School District	65.4%	71.4%	6.0%
Wallingford School District	54.3%	64.3%	10.0%
Waterbury School District	78.9%	90.9%	12.0%
Waterford School District	31.8%	39.8%	8.0%
Watertown School District	61.4%	69.4%	8.0%
West Hartford School District	38.2%	47.2%	9.0%
West Haven School District	76.8%	88.8%	12.0%
Westbrook School District	27.5%	36.5%	9.0%
Weston School District	22.1%	27.1%	5.0%
Westport School District	21.1%	24.1%	3.0%
Wethersfield School District	56.8%	64.8%	8.0%
Willington School District	64.6%	72.6%	8.0%
Wilton School District	22.9%	28.9%	6.0%
Winchester School District	72.9%	82.9%	10.0%
Windham School District	80.0%	92.0%	12.0%
Windsor Locks School District	53.9%	62.9%	9.0%
Windsor School District	52.9%	62.9%	10.0%
Wolcott School District	66.4%	74.4%	8.0%
Woodbridge School District	32.5%	37.5%	5.0%
Woodstock School District	55.0%	61.0%	6.0%

Appendix B: Proposed Charter School Rates

The table below displays proposed reimbursement rates for charter schools based on the most recent rates provided to host districts for renovation projects. Proposed rates are subject to change on a yearly basis due to similar fluctuations in host district rates.

Charter School	Proposed Rate
Achievement First Bridgeport Academy	78.60%
Achievement First Hartford Academy	79.60%
Amistad Academy	77.90%
Booker T. Washington Academy	77.90%
Brass City Charter School	78.90%
Capital Preparatory Harbor School	78.60%
Common Ground High School	77.90%
Elm City College Preparatory School	77.90%
Elm City Montessori School	77.90%
Explorations	72.90%
Great Oaks Charter School	78.60%
Highville Charter School	77.90%
Integrated Day Charter School	77.50%
Interdistrict School for Arts and Comm	78.20%
Jumoke Academy	79.60%
New Beginnings Family Academy	78.60%
Odyssey Community School	67.90%
Park City Prep Charter School	78.60%
Side By Side Charter School	60.00%
Stamford Charter School for Excellence	60.00%
The Bridge Academy	78.60%