

Under the School and State Finance Project's policy proposal, the foundation amount for the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula would be increased from the current \$11,525 to \$16,000 in fiscal year 2027 and then indexed for inflation each fiscal year afterward. In addition, a new phase-in schedule would begin, with full funding of ECS grants under the new, increased foundation amounts occurring in FY 2033.

This document summarizes how the policy proposal would impact towns that are currently flat-funded (those that have not received any increase in ECS funding for the past three years) and are scheduled to begin receiving gradual decreases to their ECS grants in FY 2028 under current law.

Key Takeaways¹

- **73 towns have not received ECS grant increases in the last three fiscal years.**²
- **38 of these flat-funded towns would see ECS grant increases in FY 2027** under the proposed policy compared to what they received in FY 2026. This represents **roughly 52%** of all flat-funded towns.
- Of the 112 towns expected to receive increased ECS funding in FY 2027 under the policy proposal, **roughly 34% were previously considered flat-funded.**³
- **7 additional flat-funded towns would experience ECS grant increases in FY 2028** compared to what they would receive in FY 2027 under the proposed policy — **bringing the total in FY 2028 to 45 towns** (approximately 62%) that flip from flat-funded to receiving increases.
- **By FY 2035, all 73 previously flat-funded towns would begin seeing year-over-year ECS grant increases**, with 8 towns seeing increases in the final year when the foundation amount is projected to be \$22,099.

Table 1 below on the following page displays the fiscal year each currently flat-funded town would receive an initial increase to its ECS grant under the proposed policy.

¹ This analysis assumes no changes to enrollment, town wealth, or student demographics.

² Two additional towns (Bethlehem and Union) are considered flat-funded. However, these towns are projected to receive ECS grant increases due to changes in their town wealth and student needs in FY 2027. Due to those changes, these two towns have been removed from this analysis because they are anticipated to receive ECS grant increases in FY 2027 regardless of the proposed policy changes.

³ An additional 16 towns are currently expected to receive ECS grant increases in FY 2027 due to changes in their town wealth and student needs. As a result, these towns are not considered in this analysis because they are anticipated to receive ECS grant increases in FY 2027 regardless of the proposed policy changes.

Table 1: Fiscal Year Each Flat-Funded Town Would Receive Initial ECS Grant Increase

FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032	FY 2033	FY 2034	FY 2035
Barkhamsted Bolton Brooklyn Cheshire Columbia Coventry East Haddam East Hampton East Windsor Ellington Enfield Franklin Griswold Lisbon Madison Marlborough Milford Montville Plymouth Putnam Ridgefield Salem Sherman Somers South Windsor Sprague Suffield Thomaston Tolland Waterford Weston Willington Wilton Winchester Windsor Windsor Locks Wolcott Woodstock	Andover Canterbury Chaplin North Branford Plainfield Preston Stafford	Ashford Bethany Colchester Eastford Hebron Orange Sterling	Pomfret	East Lyme Killingly Lebanon Scotland	Bozrah Groton	Newtown Voluntown	Colebrook Monroe North Stonington Oxford	Canaan Clinton Guilford Hampton Hartland New Fairfield Stonington Thompson