

Providing a safe and healthy learning environment is essential for ensuring students can succeed in the classroom and beyond. Research consistently shows a safe learning environment can help improve student learning outcomes. Students' overall health and ability to perform academically can be negatively impacted by environmental exposure to mold, poorly ventilated air, uncomfortable temperatures, and inadequate lighting or noise in school buildings.¹ Research has also shown that students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds are less likely to attend school in a building that is in "good" or "excellent" condition.²

During the 2025 legislative session, Connecticut made strides toward providing safer, healthier learning environments for students and educators by establishing the District Repair and Improvement Project (DRIP) program. Section 131 of Public Act 25-174 authorizes \$60 million in state general obligation bonds for the DRIP program — \$30 million in both fiscal years 2026 and 2027.³

This frequently asked questions document addresses high-level questions pertaining to the establishment of the DRIP program and its impact on public school districts across Connecticut.

What is the District Repair and Improvement Project (DRIP) program?⁴

The District Repair and Improvement Project (DRIP) program is a new program that provides reimbursement grants to school districts for minor capital repairs and improvements to public school buildings, grounds, and infrastructure.

Who is responsible for oversight of the DRIP program?⁵

The secretary of Connecticut's Office of Policy and Management (OPM) provides primary oversight of the DRIP program and is responsible for distributing funds, managing reports and record keeping, and overseeing accountability.

Who is eligible for funding from the DRIP program?⁶

The DRIP program will provide funding to Public School Operators (PSOs) for minor capital repairs, improvements, and maintenance. PSOs are defined as local and regional public school districts, Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs), the Goodwin University Magnet School System (GUMSS), endowed academies, and state charter schools.

How is the DRIP program funded?

Similarly to Connecticut's school construction grant program, funding for the DRIP program is sourced from general obligation (GO) bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission. Section 131 of Public Act 25-174 allocates \$60 million in GO bonds for the DRIP program, with \$30 million allocated in both FY 2026 and FY 2027.⁷

What is the formula used to allocate DRIP funding to eligible PSOs?⁸

DRIP program funding dispersed by the OPM secretary to PSOs is determined by the following formula.

- **50% – Based on the Proportion of Need Students in a District:** 50% of DRIP program funding is allocated proportionally by dividing the need student count (from the prior fiscal year) of the PSO receiving funding by the sum of all PSO need student counts for the same prior fiscal year.
 - **A PSO's yearly need student count is defined as the:**
 - Total number of students enrolled in the PSO; **plus**
 - 30% of the number of students enrolled in the PSO who are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals or free milk; **plus**
 - For PSOs with over 60% of their enrolled students eligible for free or reduced-price meals or free milk, an additional 15% of the number of eligible students above the 60% threshold; **plus**
 - 25% of the number of students enrolled in the PSO who are multilingual learners; **plus**
 - 30% of the number of students enrolled in the PSO who require special education services.
- **20% – Evenly Distributed for All Districts:** 20% of DRIP program funding is evenly distributed among all PSOs.
- **30% – Based on District Wealth:** 30% of DRIP program funding is allocated proportionally based on the total number of students enrolled in the PSO during the prior fiscal year, multiplied by the inverse of the adjusted equalized net grand list per capita (AENGLC) of the PSO, divided by the sum of all PSO products resulting from their inverse.^A

What is the timeline for the distribution of DRIP program funding?⁹

The timeline for distribution of DRIP program funding is as follows:

1. Each year on February 1st, the OPM secretary allocates DRIP program funds to each PSO's subaccount. The secretary then maintains records of the funds credited to the account and the actual amount allocated to each PSO during that fiscal year.
2. On March 1st for each year, the OPM secretary is required to notify each PSO of the allocation amounts to their subaccounts and publicly post the allocation and calculation amounts on the OPM website.
3. The allocation amounts credited to each PSO's subaccount must be issued as grants by June 30th of each fiscal year.

^A Estimates of the DRIP program grant allocation amounts by PSO can be found in the Appendix.

What are the eligible uses for DRIP program funding?¹⁰

DRIP program funds must assist in at least one of the following areas approved by the PSO:

1. Construction, renovation, repair, or expansion of public school buildings, grounds, and infrastructure;
2. The improvement of school facilities for health, safety, or code compliance; or
3. The purchase, installation, maintenance, or enhancement of fixed infrastructure, which includes, but is not limited to heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC); plumbing; electrical systems; and roofing.

These funds will also help prevent more expensive repairs in the future and improve access to safe and well-maintained facilities.

What are the reporting requirements for the DRIP program?¹¹

The creation of the DRIP program introduces several new reporting and record-keeping requirements. Starting September 1, 2027, each PSO that receives a DRIP program grant must submit an annual report to the OPM secretary. This report must confirm that any repairs and improvements funded by the DRIP program have been approved by a PSO, board, council, or other governing body responsible for overseeing the project. Additionally, any DRIP program funds used for reimbursement and costs associated with approved projects cannot be used to fulfill local matching requirements for other state programs or for school building projects eligible under the state's school construction grant program.

Each PSO must also keep detailed accounting records of all expenses related to the DRIP program grant for three years, subject to review by the OPM secretary. If, upon review, the secretary finds records were not properly maintained or a portion of the DRIP program aid was used for ineligible purposes as defined in law, the PSO may be required to repay the full grant amount or have future grant funding reduced.

Appendix

Estimated DRIP Program Grants by PSO^B

The table below displays an example of the potential funding by PSO that could be allocated through the DRIP program. Columns 2-4 represent the grant amounts attributable to each formula component outlined above.

Note: Projected grants may differ from final grant amounts made by the OPM to PSOs as final grant calculations may utilize more up-to-date data. Therefore, school districts should wait for final grant amounts to be released by the OPM before finalizing these amounts in their budgets.

Public School Operator	Need Student Portion of Proposed Grant	Flat Grant Portion of Proposed Grant	Wealth Portion of Proposed Grant	Total Proposed Grant
ACES	\$54,513	\$30,769	\$26,111	\$111,393
Achievement First Bridgeport Academy	\$35,276	\$30,769	\$37,181	\$103,226
Achievement First Hartford Academy	\$31,084	\$30,769	\$69,987	\$131,840
Amistad Academy	\$36,619	\$30,769	\$34,236	\$101,624
Andover School District	\$5,640	\$30,769	\$2,798	\$39,208
Ansonia School District	\$74,629	\$30,769	\$53,733	\$159,132
Ashford School District	\$10,028	\$30,769	\$5,825	\$46,623
Avon School District	\$83,462	\$30,769	\$14,624	\$128,855
Barkhamsted School District	\$6,168	\$30,769	\$2,081	\$39,019
Berlin School District	\$74,639	\$30,769	\$23,817	\$129,225

^B The Goodwin University Magnet School System (GUMSS) would be eligible for grant funding through the DRIP program and its grant calculation would align to the calculation for RESCs. However, an estimated DRIP program grant for GUMSS cannot be calculated at this time as the Connecticut State Department of Education does not currently publish an AENGLC for GUMSS.

Public School Operator	Need Student Portion of Proposed Grant	Flat Grant Portion of Proposed Grant	Wealth Portion of Proposed Grant	Total Proposed Grant
Bethany School District	\$12,277	\$30,769	\$3,163	\$46,209
Bethel School District	\$93,203	\$30,769	\$30,576	\$154,549
Bloomfield School District	\$60,685	\$30,769	\$21,180	\$112,634
Bolton School District	\$19,185	\$30,769	\$7,986	\$57,941
Booker T. Washington Academy	\$12,775	\$30,769	\$11,686	\$55,230
Bozrah School District	\$4,881	\$30,769	\$1,748	\$37,397
Branford School District	\$75,804	\$30,769	\$16,341	\$122,914
Brass City Charter School	\$11,413	\$30,769	\$14,864	\$57,047
Bridgeport School District	\$690,732	\$30,769	\$663,406	\$1,384,907
Bristol School District	\$240,549	\$30,769	\$145,989	\$417,307
Brookfield School District	\$71,905	\$30,769	\$18,644	\$121,318
Brooklyn School District	\$25,693	\$30,769	\$15,680	\$72,143
C.E.S.	\$25,623	\$30,769	\$6,704	\$63,096
Canaan School District	\$2,276	\$30,769	\$447	\$33,493
Canterbury School District	\$13,710	\$30,769	\$6,939	\$51,418
Canton School District	\$41,268	\$30,769	\$12,902	\$84,939

Public School Operator	Need Student Portion of Proposed Grant	Flat Grant Portion of Proposed Grant	Wealth Portion of Proposed Grant	Total Proposed Grant
Capital Preparatory Harbor School District	\$24,516	\$30,769	\$26,447	\$81,732
Chaplin School District	\$4,457	\$30,769	\$2,324	\$37,550
Cheshire School District	\$114,768	\$30,769	\$35,046	\$180,583
Chester School District	\$5,712	\$30,769	\$1,946	\$38,427
Clinton School District	\$42,810	\$30,769	\$12,050	\$85,629
Colchester School District	\$60,688	\$30,769	\$30,372	\$121,829
Colebrook School District	\$1,931	\$30,769	\$485	\$33,185
Columbia School District	\$13,044	\$30,769	\$5,839	\$49,652
Common Ground High School	\$7,207	\$30,769	\$6,786	\$44,763
Cornwall School District	\$2,710	\$30,769	\$307	\$33,787
Coventry School District	\$45,364	\$30,769	\$19,792	\$95,925
CREC	\$277,269	\$30,769	\$112,233	\$420,271
Cromwell School District	\$53,731	\$30,769	\$17,564	\$102,064
Danbury School District	\$385,991	\$30,769	\$166,382	\$583,143
Darien School District	\$123,519	\$30,769	\$4,416	\$158,704
Deep River School District	\$5,597	\$30,769	\$1,761	\$38,128

Public School Operator	Need Student Portion of Proposed Grant	Flat Grant Portion of Proposed Grant	Wealth Portion of Proposed Grant	Total Proposed Grant
Derby School District	\$41,503	\$30,769	\$27,406	\$99,679
East Granby School District	\$22,236	\$30,769	\$8,074	\$61,079
East Haddam School District	\$27,797	\$30,769	\$8,837	\$67,404
East Hampton School District	\$47,974	\$30,769	\$20,466	\$99,209
East Hartford School District	\$205,585	\$30,769	\$208,447	\$444,801
East Haven School District	\$89,100	\$30,769	\$58,912	\$178,780
East Lyme School District	\$70,642	\$30,769	\$22,273	\$123,684
East Windsor School District	\$32,388	\$30,769	\$12,468	\$75,625
EASTCONN	\$11,582	\$30,769	\$6,039	\$48,390
Eastford School District	\$4,839	\$30,769	\$2,108	\$37,716
Easton School District	\$24,104	\$30,769	\$4,080	\$58,953
EdAdvance	\$9,479	\$30,769	\$2,969	\$43,217
Ellington School District	\$70,324	\$30,769	\$28,082	\$129,175
Elm City College Preparatory School	\$25,147	\$30,769	\$23,585	\$79,501
Elm City Montessori School	\$8,726	\$30,769	\$9,282	\$48,777
Enfield School District	\$144,896	\$30,769	\$93,597	\$269,262

Public School Operator	Need Student Portion of Proposed Grant	Flat Grant Portion of Proposed Grant	Wealth Portion of Proposed Grant	Total Proposed Grant
Essex School District	\$8,526	\$30,769	\$1,438	\$40,733
Explorations	\$2,811	\$30,769	\$1,548	\$35,128
Fairfield School District	\$257,616	\$30,769	\$37,291	\$325,677
Farmington School District	\$115,061	\$30,769	\$26,527	\$172,357
Franklin School District	\$5,246	\$30,769	\$1,886	\$37,901
Glastonbury School District	\$152,035	\$30,769	\$36,456	\$219,260
Granby School District	\$47,277	\$30,769	\$16,234	\$94,280
Great Oaks Charter School	\$20,305	\$30,769	\$22,316	\$73,389
Greenwich School District	\$236,902	\$30,769	\$9,111	\$276,782
Griswold School District	\$53,682	\$30,769	\$41,396	\$125,847
Groton School District	\$124,601	\$30,769	\$51,597	\$206,968
Guilford School District	\$84,087	\$30,769	\$16,650	\$131,507
Hamden School District	\$164,496	\$30,769	\$98,142	\$293,407
Hampton School District	\$2,195	\$30,769	\$767	\$33,731
Hartford School District	\$576,118	\$30,769	\$1,226,334	\$1,833,221
Hartland School District	\$2,962	\$30,769	\$948	\$34,679
Hebron School District	\$18,968	\$30,769	\$7,650	\$57,388

Public School Operator	Need Student Portion of Proposed Grant	Flat Grant Portion of Proposed Grant	Wealth Portion of Proposed Grant	Total Proposed Grant
Highville Charter School	\$15,677	\$30,769	\$15,338	\$61,783
Integrated Day Charter School	\$10,562	\$30,769	\$10,897	\$52,228
Interdistrict School for Arts and Comm	\$9,125	\$30,769	\$8,060	\$47,954
Jumoke Academy	\$20,952	\$30,769	\$45,080	\$96,801
Kent School District	\$5,310	\$30,769	\$722	\$36,801
Killingly School District	\$72,742	\$30,769	\$46,031	\$149,543
LEARN	\$43,051	\$30,769	\$14,018	\$87,838
Lebanon School District	\$28,017	\$30,769	\$10,156	\$68,942
Ledyard School District	\$69,902	\$30,769	\$39,744	\$140,416
Lisbon School District	\$12,868	\$30,769	\$7,295	\$50,932
Madison School District	\$63,785	\$30,769	\$9,277	\$103,831
Manchester School District	\$191,342	\$30,769	\$126,878	\$348,989
Mansfield School District	\$28,512	\$30,769	\$58,002	\$117,284
Marlborough School District	\$12,070	\$30,769	\$4,160	\$46,999
Meriden School District	\$297,583	\$30,769	\$267,540	\$595,893
Middletown School District	\$130,765	\$30,769	\$72,246	\$233,780
Milford School District	\$151,259	\$30,769	\$43,028	\$225,056

Public School Operator	Need Student Portion of Proposed Grant	Flat Grant Portion of Proposed Grant	Wealth Portion of Proposed Grant	Total Proposed Grant
Monroe School District	\$93,570	\$30,769	\$25,688	\$150,027
Montville School District	\$60,412	\$30,769	\$41,396	\$132,577
Naugatuck School District	\$132,222	\$30,769	\$90,248	\$253,239
New Beginnings Family Academy	\$12,882	\$30,769	\$13,274	\$56,925
New Britain School District	\$334,039	\$30,769	\$449,033	\$813,842
New Canaan School District	\$105,672	\$30,769	\$4,581	\$141,021
New Fairfield School District	\$59,105	\$30,769	\$16,100	\$105,975
New Hartford School District	\$12,626	\$30,769	\$3,789	\$47,184
New Haven School District	\$634,981	\$30,769	\$577,167	\$1,242,918
New London School District	\$103,492	\$30,769	\$84,408	\$218,669
New Milford School District	\$104,029	\$30,769	\$39,151	\$173,950
Newington School District	\$113,527	\$30,769	\$48,781	\$193,077
Newtown School District	\$106,313	\$30,769	\$26,597	\$163,679
Norfolk School District	\$1,610	\$30,769	\$298	\$32,677
North Branford School District	\$42,756	\$30,769	\$15,474	\$89,000
North Canaan School District	\$7,134	\$30,769	\$3,597	\$41,500
North Haven School District	\$90,499	\$30,769	\$23,855	\$145,124

Public School Operator	Need Student Portion of Proposed Grant	Flat Grant Portion of Proposed Grant	Wealth Portion of Proposed Grant	Total Proposed Grant
North Stonington School District	\$20,184	\$30,769	\$7,050	\$58,003
Norwalk School District	\$357,612	\$30,769	\$74,179	\$462,560
Norwich Free Academy	\$63,188	\$30,769	\$41,069	\$135,027
Norwich School District	\$112,963	\$30,769	\$100,423	\$244,156
Odyssey Community School	\$10,902	\$30,769	\$7,612	\$49,284
Old Saybrook School District	\$28,896	\$30,769	\$3,676	\$63,341
Orange School District	\$34,371	\$30,769	\$7,431	\$72,571
Oxford School District	\$45,266	\$30,769	\$12,752	\$88,787
Park City Prep Charter School	\$13,093	\$30,769	\$13,647	\$57,509
Plainfield School District	\$57,951	\$30,769	\$41,140	\$129,860
Plainville School District	\$66,234	\$30,769	\$39,374	\$136,377
Plymouth School District	\$38,824	\$30,769	\$28,984	\$98,577
Pomfret School District	\$9,584	\$30,769	\$4,057	\$44,410
Portland School District	\$35,662	\$30,769	\$18,152	\$84,583
Preston School District	\$12,749	\$30,769	\$5,641	\$49,159
Putnam School District	\$36,285	\$30,769	\$24,158	\$91,212

Public School Operator	Need Student Portion of Proposed Grant	Flat Grant Portion of Proposed Grant	Wealth Portion of Proposed Grant	Total Proposed Grant
Redding School District	\$23,039	\$30,769	\$2,998	\$56,806
Regional School District 01	\$8,912	\$30,769	\$2,018	\$41,699
Regional School District 04	\$20,554	\$30,769	\$5,683	\$57,006
Regional School District 05	\$56,571	\$30,769	\$12,397	\$99,737
Regional School District 07	\$23,632	\$30,769	\$7,119	\$61,520
Regional School District 08	\$31,455	\$30,769	\$12,417	\$74,641
Regional School District 09	\$20,056	\$30,769	\$2,855	\$53,680
Regional School District 10	\$57,577	\$30,769	\$19,827	\$108,174
Regional School District 11	\$6,257	\$30,769	\$2,894	\$39,920
Regional School District 12	\$21,715	\$30,769	\$1,804	\$54,288
Regional School District 13	\$37,338	\$30,769	\$12,691	\$80,798
Regional School District 14	\$44,141	\$30,769	\$11,416	\$86,326
Regional School District 15	\$93,888	\$30,769	\$26,276	\$150,934
Regional School District 16	\$53,909	\$30,769	\$23,638	\$108,316
Regional School District 17	\$47,889	\$30,769	\$14,297	\$92,955
Regional School District 18	\$34,662	\$30,769	\$4,355	\$69,786
Regional School District 19	\$30,616	\$30,769	\$32,632	\$94,017

Public School Operator	Need Student Portion of Proposed Grant	Flat Grant Portion of Proposed Grant	Wealth Portion of Proposed Grant	Total Proposed Grant
Regional School District 20	<i>District is new and data is not available to estimate A proposed grant.</i>			
Ridgefield School District	\$119,125	\$30,769	\$14,229	\$164,123
Rocky Hill School District	\$71,033	\$30,769	\$23,781	\$125,583
Salem School District	\$10,726	\$30,769	\$4,867	\$46,362
Salisbury School District	\$8,324	\$30,769	\$788	\$39,880
Scotland School District	\$3,073	\$30,769	\$1,813	\$35,655
Seymour School District	\$62,621	\$30,769	\$31,869	\$125,259
Sharon School District	\$3,088	\$30,769	\$240	\$34,097
Shelton School District	\$130,937	\$30,769	\$42,216	\$203,922
Sherman School District	\$6,370	\$30,769	\$705	\$37,844
Side By Side Charter School	\$7,253	\$30,769	\$1,520	\$39,542
Simsbury School District	\$113,734	\$30,769	\$28,909	\$173,412
Somers School District	\$35,788	\$30,769	\$17,204	\$83,761
South Windsor School District	\$138,372	\$30,769	\$41,419	\$210,560
Southington School District	\$175,186	\$30,769	\$60,923	\$266,878
Sprague School District	\$8,828	\$30,769	\$5,771	\$45,368
Stafford School District	\$38,520	\$30,769	\$23,155	\$92,445

Public School Operator	Need Student Portion of Proposed Grant	Flat Grant Portion of Proposed Grant	Wealth Portion of Proposed Grant	Total Proposed Grant
Stamford Charter School for Excellence	\$16,064	\$30,769	\$3,170	\$50,003
Stamford School District	\$502,324	\$30,769	\$95,905	\$628,999
Sterling School District	\$9,421	\$30,769	\$6,476	\$46,666
Stonington School District	\$48,940	\$30,769	\$9,036	\$88,746
Stratford School District	\$202,518	\$30,769	\$80,914	\$314,201
Suffield School District	\$55,465	\$30,769	\$19,506	\$105,740
The Bridge Academy	\$9,437	\$30,769	\$9,515	\$49,722
The Gilbert School	\$13,521	\$30,769	\$6,780	\$51,071
The Woodstock Academy	\$24,983	\$30,769	\$13,192	\$68,944
Thomaston School District	\$22,265	\$30,769	\$11,839	\$64,873
Thompson School District	\$26,150	\$30,769	\$13,443	\$70,362
Tolland School District	\$59,770	\$30,769	\$21,348	\$111,887
Torrington School District	\$127,059	\$30,769	\$101,574	\$259,402
Trumbull School District	\$189,622	\$30,769	\$59,921	\$280,312
Union School District	\$1,376	\$30,769	\$446	\$32,592
Vernon School District	\$97,887	\$30,769	\$76,659	\$205,315
Voluntown School District	\$6,716	\$30,769	\$3,196	\$40,681

Public School Operator	Need Student Portion of Proposed Grant	Flat Grant Portion of Proposed Grant	Wealth Portion of Proposed Grant	Total Proposed Grant
Wallingford School District	\$154,159	\$30,769	\$60,792	\$245,721
Waterbury School District	\$645,962	\$30,769	\$776,223	\$1,452,954
Waterford School District	\$66,628	\$30,769	\$15,820	\$113,218
Watertown School District	\$75,226	\$30,769	\$35,221	\$141,216
West Hartford School District	\$264,501	\$30,769	\$76,343	\$371,613
West Haven School District	\$189,588	\$30,769	\$168,145	\$388,503
Westbrook School District	\$17,489	\$30,769	\$3,536	\$51,794
Weston School District	\$56,340	\$30,769	\$4,609	\$91,719
Westport School District	\$138,682	\$30,769	\$5,626	\$175,078
Wethersfield School District	\$102,498	\$30,769	\$43,008	\$176,275
Willington School District	\$11,337	\$30,769	\$6,093	\$48,200
Wilton School District	\$100,962	\$30,769	\$8,698	\$140,430
Winchester School District	\$18,980	\$30,769	\$10,887	\$60,636
Windham School District	\$110,308	\$30,769	\$153,098	\$294,176
Windsor Locks School District	\$44,171	\$30,769	\$17,090	\$92,029
Windsor School District	\$100,072	\$30,769	\$37,099	\$167,940
Wolcott School District	\$61,503	\$30,769	\$34,879	\$127,152

Public School Operator	Need Student Portion of Proposed Grant	Flat Grant Portion of Proposed Grant	Wealth Portion of Proposed Grant	Total Proposed Grant
Woodbridge School District	\$23,722	\$30,769	\$4,457	\$58,948
Woodstock School District	\$21,482	\$30,769	\$8,782	\$61,034

Endnotes

¹ Eitland, E., Klingensmith, L., MacNaughton, P., Cedeno Laurent, J., Spengler, J., Bernstein, A., & Allen, J.G. (2017). *Foundations for Student Success: How School Buildings Influence Student Health, Thinking and Performance*. Boston, MA: Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Center for Health and the Global Environment. Retrieved from https://forhealth.org/Harvard.Schools_For_Health.Foundations_for_Student_Success.pdf.

² Blagg, K, Terrones, F., & Nelson, V. (2023). *Assessing the National Landscape of Capital Expenditures for Public School Districts*. Washington, DC.: Urban Institute. Retrieved from <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/2023-01/Assessing%20the%20National%20Landscape%20of%20Capital%20Expenditures%20for%20Public%20School%20Districts.pdf>.

³ Conn. Acts 25-174 § 131(i).

⁴ Conn. Acts 25-174 § 131(b)(1).

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Conn. Acts 25-174 § 131(a)(1).

⁷ Conn. Acts 25-174 § 131(i).

⁸ Conn. Acts 25-174 § 131(c).

⁹ Conn. Acts 25-174 §§ 131(b)(1), (d)-(e).

¹⁰ Conn. Acts 25-174 §§ 131(a)(2), (b).

¹¹ Conn. Acts 25-174 §§ 131(f)-(g).