

On May 7, 2024, the Connecticut General Assembly passed a budget stabilization bill (Public Act 24-81) that appropriates funds for fiscal year 2025 and makes a number of different policy changes to K-12 education and other areas. Along with maintaining an additional \$150 million in funding for K-12 education in FY 2025, which was allotted as part of the biennial state budget passed in 2023, Public Act 24-81 overhauls how Connecticut distributes state education funding to school districts.

This frequently asked questions document provides more information on FY 2025 funding for Agricultural Science and Technology Education (ASTE), also referred to as AgriScience, programs. Additionally, this document details how state grants and tuition will be calculated for ASTE programs in FY 2025.

How were ASTE programs funded previously?

- Previously, ASTE program operators received a state grant of \$5,200 for each student they educated, plus supplemental support per student if the amount appropriated by the Connecticut General Assembly for ASTE programs exceeded the amount necessary to provide the \$5,200 per-student grant to operators.¹
- In the event the appropriation by the General Assembly for ASTE programs was not sufficient to fund the full \$5,200 per-student grant, ASTE program operators received a per-student grant less than \$5,200 that was pro-rated equally across operators.
 - This occurred in FY 2024 when the per-student grant was reduced below the \$5,200 statutory level to an increase in ASTE enrollment that was beyond what the General Assembly's appropriation could support.
 - However, Public Act 24-81 removed language that would reduce the ASTE statutory per-student grant in the future, should a similar situation arise, and provided ASTE program operators the funding for FY 2024 that was cut.
- ASTE program operators were permitted to charge tuition to sending districts for out-of-district students who attended the program, which was capped at 59.2% of the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula's foundation amount (\$11,525), or \$6,823 per student.

¹ For more information on prior law ASTE program funding, please visit <https://schoolstatefinance.org/reports/connecticuts-agricultural-science-and-technology-education-vo-ag-program>

In-District Students:

State Grant
(\$5,200)

Out-of-District Students:

State Grant
(\$5,200)

+

Maximum Tuition
(\$6,823)

=

Total Revenue
\$12,023 per student

How will ASTE programs be funded in FY 2025?

In FY 2025, ASTE program operators will still receive the \$5,200 state grant per student for each in-district student they educate. For each out-of-district student they educate, ASTE operators will receive 58% of their FY 2024 per-student tuition amount from sending towns, in addition to a state grant equal to the FY 2024 state grant (\$5,200) plus 42% of the difference between the weighted funding amount (based on the ECS formula) of the ASTE student's resident town (also known as the sending town) and the FY 2024 state grant. An example calculation is detailed below.

In-District Students:

State Grant
(\$5,200)

Out-of-District Students:

The below example uses a student from **Stratford** attending an ASTE program as an out-of-district student. Stratford's weighted funding per-student, according to the ECS formula, is **\$13,415**.

FY 2024 State
Per-Student Grant
\$5,200

+

42% of the Difference between the
**Sending Town's Weighted Funding
Amount** and the FY 2024 Per-Student
State Grant
 $42\% * (\$13,415 - \$5,200)$
 $= \$3,450$

+

58% of FY 2024
Per-Student
Tuition
 $58\% * \$6,823 =$
 $\$3,997$

=

FY 2025 Total
Per-Student Funding
\$12,147

There is also a per-student hold harmless in place for FY 2025 to ensure no ASTE program operator receives less for each out-of-district student than the operator received in FY 2024 (state grant of \$5,200 plus maximum tuition of \$6,823 = \$12,023 per-student minimum for out of district students).

What are the sending town weighted funding amounts for ASTE program operators?

As seen above, ASTE program operators will receive state grants based **partially** on the weighted funding amounts of each ASTE student's resident town (also known as the sending town). These weighted funding amounts are different for each town and are calculated using the ECS formula. The method for calculating these amounts is detailed below.

Out-of-District Sending Town Weighted Funding Amount

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Foundation} \\ \text{(\$11,525)} \\ \hline \end{array} & \times & \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Sending Town Need} \\ \text{Student Count} \\ \text{(based on town} \\ \text{demographics)} \\ \hline \end{array} \\
 \\
 \hline & & \\
 \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Sending Town Resident Student Count} \\ \hline \end{array} & = & \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Sending Town} \\ \text{Weighted Funding} \\ \text{Per Student} \\ \hline \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

Appendix A on the following page contains the estimated weighted funding amounts for each sending town. Please note these figures are not the FY 2025 per-student state grant amounts for students from each town, as these amounts will be phased-in above the current state grant amount as seen earlier in this document.

How will ASTE programs be funded in FY 2026 and beyond?

Future state funding for ASTE programs is unclear, as there is no funding formula in law for FY 2026 and beyond. Accordingly, the legislature will need to make further changes to the state's school finance policy. Public Act 24-81 does not contain any ECS-based weighted student funding for ASTE program operators in FY 2026 or beyond. However, for FY 2026 and future years, tuition remains capped at 58% of the amount operators charged in FY 2024.

Appendix A

Weighted Per-Student Funding by Sending Town

The table below contains **estimated** weighted per-student funding amounts for use in calculating ASTE program state grant for FY 2025. Please note these estimates are not the FY 2025 per-student state grant amounts for students from each town, as these amounts will be phased-in above the current state grant amount as seen earlier in this document.

Note: These amounts are estimates based only on data contained in the most recently available ECS shell. Changes in student demographics or town wealth could result in different amounts.

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
Andover	\$12,430
Ansonia	\$13,957
Ashford	\$12,790
Avon	\$11,956
Barkhamsted	\$12,407
Beacon Falls	\$12,718
Berlin	\$12,458
Bethany	\$12,111
Bethel	\$12,857
Bethlehem	\$12,439
Bloomfield	\$13,619
Bolton	\$12,236
Bozrah	\$12,740
Branford	\$12,972
Bridgeport	\$15,773
Bridgewater	\$11,961
Bristol	\$13,684
Brookfield	\$12,507
Brooklyn	\$12,661
Burlington	\$12,010
Canaan	\$12,626
Canterbury	\$12,556
Canton	\$12,045
Chaplin	\$12,993
Cheshire	\$12,168
Chester	\$12,475
Clinton	\$13,171
Colchester	\$12,463
Colebrook	\$12,619
Columbia	\$12,365
Cornwall	\$12,880

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
Coventry	\$12,467
Cromwell	\$12,576
Danbury	\$14,394
Darien	\$11,621
Deep River	\$12,835
Derby	\$13,588
Durham	\$12,057
Eastford	\$12,359
East Granby	\$12,014
East Haddam	\$12,493
East Hampton	\$12,271
East Hartford	\$14,208
East Haven	\$13,726
East Lyme	\$12,537
Easton	\$11,920
East Windsor	\$13,520
Ellington	\$12,202
Enfield	\$13,277
Essex	\$12,428
Fairfield	\$12,196
Farmington	\$12,286
Franklin	\$12,420
Glastonbury	\$12,067
Goshen	\$12,467
Granby	\$12,019
Greenwich	\$12,372
Griswold	\$13,402
Groton	\$13,544
Guilford	\$12,042
Haddam	\$12,129
Hamden	\$13,387

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
Hampton	\$12,733
Hartford	\$15,703
Hartland	\$12,098
Harwinton	\$12,308
Hebron	\$12,152
Kent	\$12,606
Killingly	\$13,363
Killingworth	\$11,922
Lebanon	\$12,593
Ledyard	\$12,698
Lisbon	\$12,840
Litchfield	\$12,445
Lyme	\$12,016
Madison	\$11,695
Manchester	\$13,786
Mansfield	\$12,725
Marlborough	\$12,145
Meriden	\$15,038
Middlebury	\$12,300
Middlefield	\$12,302
Middletown	\$13,345
Milford	\$12,636
Monroe	\$12,052
Montville	\$13,253
Morris	\$12,669
Naugatuck	\$13,861
New Britain	\$14,833
New Canaan	\$11,551
New Fairfield	\$12,195
New Hartford	\$12,285
New Haven	\$15,258
Newington	\$12,985
New London	\$15,856
New Milford	\$12,938
Newtown	\$12,032
Norfolk	\$12,828
North Branford	\$12,389
North Canaan	\$13,013
North Haven	\$12,543
North Stonington	\$12,247
Norwalk	\$13,871
Norwich	\$14,911
Old Lyme	\$12,030
Old Saybrook	\$12,570

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
Orange	\$12,101
Oxford	\$12,135
Plainfield	\$13,559
Plainville	\$13,080
Plymouth	\$13,311
Pomfret	\$12,123
Portland	\$12,507
Preston	\$12,631
Prospect	\$12,380
Putnam	\$13,699
Redding	\$11,921
Ridgefield	\$11,828
Rocky Hill	\$12,603
Roxbury	\$12,208
Salem	\$12,342
Salisbury	\$12,387
Scotland	\$13,002
Seymour	\$13,331
Sharon	\$13,030
Shelton	\$12,968
Sherman	\$11,765
Simsbury	\$12,025
Somers	\$11,774
Southbury	\$12,048
Southington	\$12,496
South Windsor	\$12,348
Sprague	\$13,507
Stafford	\$12,959
Stamford	\$13,791
Sterling	\$12,823
Stonington	\$12,432
Stratford	\$13,415
Suffield	\$12,118
Thomaston	\$12,845
Thompson	\$13,087
Tolland	\$12,055
Torrington	\$14,323
Trumbull	\$12,237
Union	\$11,911
Vernon	\$13,550
Voluntown	\$12,635
Wallingford	\$12,959
Warren	\$12,377
Washington	\$12,555

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
Waterbury	\$15,253
Waterford	\$12,720
Watertown	\$13,045
Westbrook	\$13,152
West Hartford	\$12,668
West Haven	\$14,089
Weston	\$11,601
Westport	\$11,635
Wethersfield	\$12,774
Willington	\$12,728

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
Wilton	\$11,792
Winchester	\$13,697
Windham	\$15,250
Windsor	\$13,224
Windsor Locks	\$13,102
Wolcott	\$12,876
Woodbridge	\$12,079
Woodbury	\$12,368
Woodstock	\$12,149