

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 interdistrict magnet schools operated by boards of education (often referred to as BOE magnet schools). Additionally, this document details how state grants and tuition will be calculated for BOE magnets in FY 2025.

How were BOE magnet schools funded previously?

Prior to funding changes included in Public Act 24-81, BOE magnet school operators received flat per-student grants from the State for each student enrolled in the magnet school. Grant amounts ranged between \$3,060 and \$13,315 and differed based on the magnet school's location and whether a student lived in the school district operating the magnet school or resided in another district. Table 1 below outlines grant amounts for BOE magnet schools for FY 2024.¹

Table 1: BOE Magnet School State Grants

Operator Type	Operator District	Per-Student Grant	
		Resident	Non-Resident
<i>Sheff Region</i>	Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford	\$0	\$13,315
<i>Non-Sheff</i>	Bridgeport, Danbury, New Haven, New London, Norwalk, Stamford, Waterbury, Windham	\$3,060	\$7,227

¹ For more information on magnet schools, please visit <https://schoolstatefinance.org/reports/guide-to-connecticuts-magnet-schools>

In addition to receiving per-student grants from the State, school districts operating BOE magnet schools also had the ability to charge tuition to other school districts for each student they sent to attend the magnet school. However, districts operating BOE magnet schools in the Sheff region were prohibited from charging tuition.

The following are examples of per-student funding in FY 2024 for a BOE magnet school operated by Bridgeport Public Schools. Please note, state grants and tuition amounts for BOE magnet schools varied depending on the location of the school.

In-District Student (Bridgeport student attending a Bridgeport magnet school):

State Grant
(\$3,060)

Out-of-District Student (Trumbull student attending Bridgeport magnet school):

State Grant
(\$7,227)

+

Estimated Tuition
(\$3,000)

=

Total Revenue
\$10,227 per student

How will BOE magnet schools be funded in FY 2025?

With the passage of Public Act 24-81, the funding system for BOE magnet schools has been modified to provide partial weighted funding in FY 2025 for each student attending a BOE magnet school. Additionally, for each out-of-district student they educate, BOE magnet school operators will receive 58% of the per-student tuition amount they charged districts sending students to the magnet school in FY 2024.

This means, in FY 2025, for each non-resident student enrolled, BOE magnet school operators will receive a per-student state grant equal to the per-student state grant the operator received in FY 2024, plus 42% of the difference between the weighted funding amount (based on the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula) of the magnet school student's resident town (also known as the sending town) and the FY 2024 per-student state grant.

Funding for resident students (in-district students) attending BOE magnet schools remains unchanged for FY 2025. Example calculations are detailed on the following page.

In-District Student (Bridgeport student attending a Bridgeport magnet school):

State Grant
(\$3,060)

Out-of-District Student (Trumbull student attending Bridgeport magnet school)²:

The below example uses a student from **Trumbull** attending a magnet school, operated by Bridgeport Public Schools, as an out-of-district student. Trumbull's weighted funding per-student, according to the ECS formula, is **\$12,237**.

FY 2024 State Per-Student Grant \$7,227	+	42% of the Difference between the Sending Town Weighted Funding Amount and the FY 2024 Per-Student State Grant $42\% * (\$12,237 - \$7,227)$ $= \$3,450$	+	58% of FY 2024 Per-Student Tuition $58\% * \$3,000 =$ $\$1,740$
=				FY 2025 Total Per-Student Funding \$11,071

There is also a per-student hold harmless in place for FY 2025 to ensure no operator of a BOE magnet school receives less for each out-of-district student than the operator received in FY 2024.

What are the sending town weighed funding amounts for BOE magnet school operators?

As outlined above, BOE magnet school operators will receive state grants based **partially** on the weighted funding amounts of each out-of-district student enrolled in the magnet school. These weighted funding amounts are different for each town and are calculated using the ECS formula. The method for calculating these amounts is detailed on the following page.

² This calculation is only an estimated example, the Connecticut State Department of Education will be responsible for calculating actual grant amounts.

Out of District Sending Town Weighted Funding Amount

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

Appendix A on the following page contains 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 BOE Magnet Schools be funded in FY 2026 and beyond?

Future funding for BOE magnet schools 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 BOE magnet schools 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 FY 2025 state grants for BOE magnet schools. 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

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
Cornwall	\$12,880
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

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
Haddam	\$12,129
Hamden	\$13,387
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

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
Old Lyme	\$12,030
Old Saybrook	\$12,570
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

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
Warren	\$12,377
Washington	\$12,555
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

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
Willington	\$12,728
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