

On June 3, 2025, the Connecticut General Assembly passed a new state budget for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.<sup>1</sup> Contained in the new budget are policy changes that impact K-12 public education for students and districts throughout the state. This document provides a high-level overview of the school funding provisions for FYs 2026 and 2027 that impact Connecticut's interdistrict magnet schools operated by boards of education (often referred to as BOE magnet schools).<sup>2</sup>

### Overview

- The new state budget largely maintains current funding levels outlined in statute for BOE magnet school operators.
- A total of \$322,925,940 is appropriated to fund all magnet schools in FY 2026, and \$344,345,603 is appropriated in FY 2027.<sup>3</sup>
  - This represents a \$49,441,675 increase in FY 2026 and a \$70,861,338 increase in FY 2027 compared to FY 2025 funding levels. This increase is due to the transfer of funding from the Education Finance Reform line item that was in the state budget for FY 2025.<sup>4</sup>
- There are no policy changes to the calculation of general education tuition for out-of-district students, nor are there changes to the phase-in of state grants.
  - General education tuition remains capped at 58% of the per-student amount charged in FY 2024 by BOE magnet school operators.
  - The budget maintains the phase-in of student-centered funding at 42% of the difference between the sending town's full weighted per-student funding amount and the operator's FY 2024 per-student state grant.
  - BOE magnet school operators will continue to receive no less than their FY 2024 state aid, plus tuition, per student.
- BOE magnet school operators can now receive funding for minor capital improvement projects through the new District Repair and Improvement Project (DRIP) program<sup>5</sup> that passed as part of the biennial state bonding bill.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> H.B. 7287: An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027, and Making Appropriations Therefor, and Provisions Related to Revenue and Other Items Implementing the State Budget (as amended by House Amendment A). Gen. Assembly. (Ct. 2025).

<sup>2</sup> For more information, please see: School and State Finance Project. (2025). *Budget Snapshot: K-12 Education Funding in Adopted State Budget for FYs 2026-27*. Southington, CT: Author. Retrieved from <https://files.schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Reports/Adopted%20Budget%20for%20FYs%202026%20and%202027%20%20Education%20Funding%20Snapshot.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> The figures represent the sums of the appropriated amounts to fund BOE-operated and RESC-operated magnet schools, as well as magnet schools operated by Goodwin University Magnet School System.

<sup>4</sup> Connecticut General Assembly, Office of Fiscal Analysis. (2025). *OFA Expenditure Detail: May 28, 2025*. Hartford, CT. Retrieved from [https://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa/Documents/year/PROJ/2025PROJ-20250528\\_May 28, 2025 Expenditure Detail.pdf](https://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa/Documents/year/PROJ/2025PROJ-20250528_May%2028,%202025%20Expenditure%20Detail.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> For more information on the DRIP program, please visit <https://linktr.ee/DRIPprogram>.

<sup>6</sup> H.B. 7288: An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State and Concerning Grant Programs, State Grant Commitments for School Building Projects, Revisions to the School Building Projects Statutes and Various Provisions Revising and Implementing the Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027. Gen. Assembly. (Ct. 2025).

## How were BOE magnet schools funded in FY 2025?

For FY 2025, BOE magnet schools were provided partial weighted funding for each student attending the school. Additionally, a hold-harmless provision was also in place to ensure no operator of a BOE magnet school received less for each out-of-district student than the operator received in FY 2024.<sup>7</sup>

### ***In-District Funding Formula***

- BOE magnet school operators outside of the *Sheff* region received \$3,060 per student for each in-district (resident) student attending their magnet school(s).
- BOE magnet school operators in the *Sheff* region do not receive any per-student state grant funding for in-district students attending their magnet school(s).

### ***Out-of-District Funding Formula***

- For each out-of-district student they educated, BOE magnet school operators received their partial weighted funding amount in addition to 58% of the per-student tuition amount the operator charged in FY 2024 to districts sending students to the operator's magnet school(s).
  - This means for each non-resident student enrolled in FY 2025, BOE magnet school operators received 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.

## How will BOE magnet schools be funded in FYs 2026 and 2027?

- The funding formula for BOE magnet school operators remains unchanged for FYs 2026 and 2027.<sup>8</sup>
- A total of \$322,925,940 is appropriated to fund all magnet schools in FY 2026, and \$344,345,603 is appropriated in FY 2027.<sup>9</sup>
- BOE magnet school operators continue to be held harmless to their FY 2024 total funding levels per student.

The per-student calculations on the following page illustrate example calculations for FYs 2026 and 2027 for in-district and out-of-district students attending a BOE-operated magnet school.

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<sup>7</sup> Conn. Acts 24-81.

<sup>8</sup> Calculations are adjusted in each fiscal year to reflect updated student counts and other relevant enrollment data.

<sup>9</sup> The figures represent the sums of the appropriated amounts to fund BOE-operated and RESC-operated magnet schools, as well as magnet schools operated by Goodwin University Magnet School System.

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

As stated earlier, BOE magnet school operators receive \$3,060 per student for every in-district (resident) student enrolled in their school(s). While BOE operators in the *Sheff* region will not receive any per-student state grant funding for in-district students, this example calculation reflects an in-district student attending a BOE magnet school outside the *Sheff* region.

State Grant  
(\$3,060)

**Out-of-District Sending Town Weighted Funding Amount**

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.<sup>10</sup> An example of the formula calculation is provided below.

Foundation (\$11,525)	x	Sending Town Need Student Count (based on town demographics)		Sending Town Weighted Funding Per Student
			=	
Sending Town Resident Student Count				

**Out-of-District Student (Trumbull student attending a Bridgeport magnet school)<sup>11</sup>:**

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 \$12,341.

FY 2024 State Per-Student Grant \$7,227	+	<b>42%</b> of the difference between the <b>Sending Town Weighted Funding Amount</b> and the FY 2024 Per-Student State Grant $42\% * (\$12,341 - \$7,227)$ $= \$2,148$	+	<b>58%</b> of FY 2024 Per-Student Tuition $58\% * \$3,000 =$ $\$1,740$
FY 2026 Total Per-Student Funding \$11,115				

<sup>10</sup> These weighted funding amounts are different for each town and are calculated using the ECS formula.

<sup>11</sup> This calculation is an estimated example. The Connecticut State Department of Education will be responsible for calculating actual grant amounts. Trumbull's weighted student funding amount was calculated using the most recent ECS shell data provided by the Connecticut General Assembly's Office of Fiscal Analysis.

## Appendix

### Weighted Per-Student Funding by Sending Town

The table below contains **estimated** weighted per-student funding amounts for use in calculating BOE magnet school state grants for FY 2026. Please note that these estimates are not the FY 2026 per-student state grant amounts for students from each town, as these amounts will be phased in above the current state grant amount as described earlier in this document.

*Note: These amounts are estimated 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	\$12,563
Ansonia	\$14,011
Ashford	\$12,878
Avon	\$11,988
Barkhamsted	\$12,445
Beacon Falls	\$12,733
Berlin	\$12,408
Bethany	\$12,122
Bethel	\$12,932
Bethlehem	\$12,381
Bloomfield	\$13,508
Bolton	\$12,214
Bozrah	\$12,687
Branford	\$12,992
Bridgeport	\$15,932
Bridgewater	\$12,037
Bristol	\$13,656
Brookfield	\$12,487
Brooklyn	\$12,721
Burlington	\$12,053
Canaan	\$12,745
Canterbury	\$12,665
Canton	\$12,081
Chaplin	\$13,101
Cheshire	\$12,234
Chester	\$12,507
Clinton	\$13,325
Colchester	\$12,450

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
Colebrook	\$12,529
Columbia	\$12,335
Cornwall	\$13,038
Coventry	\$12,496
Cromwell	\$12,598
Danbury	\$14,569
Darien	\$11,649
Deep River	\$12,737
Derby	\$13,614
Durham	\$12,114
Eastford	\$12,388
East Granby	\$12,152
East Haddam	\$12,470
East Hampton	\$12,362
East Hartford	\$14,269
East Haven	\$13,949
East Lyme	\$12,555
Easton	\$11,895
East Windsor	\$13,551
Ellington	\$12,291
Enfield	\$13,361
Essex	\$12,366
Fairfield	\$12,234
Farmington	\$12,313
Franklin	\$12,442
Glastonbury	\$12,152
Goshen	\$12,400
Granby	\$11,997

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
Greenwich	\$12,389
Griswold	\$13,405
Groton	\$14,092
Guilford	\$12,081
Haddam	\$12,156
Hamden	\$13,372
Hampton	\$13,003
Hartford	\$15,743
Hartland	\$12,109
Harwinton	\$12,338
Hebron	\$12,164
Kent	\$12,582
Killingly	\$13,423
Killingworth	\$12,030
Lebanon	\$12,521
Ledyard	\$12,567
Lisbon	\$12,835
Litchfield	\$12,446
Lyme	\$12,077
Madison	\$11,724
Manchester	\$13,876
Mansfield	\$12,764
Marlborough	\$12,171
Meriden	\$15,069
Middlebury	\$12,165
Middlefield	\$12,252
Middletown	\$13,497
Milford	\$12,663
Monroe	\$12,047
Montville	\$13,208
Morris	\$12,669
Naugatuck	\$13,870
New Britain	\$14,922
New Canaan	\$11,544
New Fairfield	\$12,320
New Hartford	\$12,231
New Haven	\$15,265
Newington	\$13,010
New London	\$15,865
New Milford	\$12,896
Newtown	\$12,102

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
Norfolk	\$12,711
North Branford	\$12,430
North Canaan	\$13,119
North Haven	\$12,502
North Stonington	\$12,148
Norwalk	\$13,929
Norwich	\$15,065
Old Lyme	\$12,131
Old Saybrook	\$12,583
Orange	\$12,198
Oxford	\$12,205
Plainfield	\$13,464
Plainville	\$13,150
Plymouth	\$13,377
Pomfret	\$12,139
Portland	\$12,501
Preston	\$12,600
Prospect	\$12,382
Putnam	\$13,699
Redding	\$11,915
Ridgefield	\$11,865
Rocky Hill	\$12,657
Roxbury	\$12,314
Salem	\$12,349
Salisbury	\$12,390
Scotland	\$13,085
Seymour	\$13,478
Sharon	\$12,864
Shelton	\$13,003
Sherman	\$11,836
Simsbury	\$12,068
Somers	\$11,744
Southbury	\$12,006
Southington	\$12,535
South Windsor	\$12,373
Sprague	\$13,500
Stafford	\$12,953
Stamford	\$13,978
Sterling	\$12,942
Stonington	\$12,456

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
Stratford	\$13,573
Suffield	\$12,070
Thomaston	\$12,883
Thompson	\$13,147
Tolland	\$12,160
Torrington	\$14,306
Trumbull	\$12,341
Union	\$12,345
Vernon	\$13,617
Voluntown	\$12,824
Wallingford	\$12,972
Warren	\$12,342
Washington	\$12,651
Waterbury	\$15,227
Waterford	\$12,864
Watertown	\$13,085

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
Westbrook	\$13,379
West Hartford	\$12,705
West Haven	\$14,176
Weston	\$11,625
Westport	\$11,631
Wethersfield	\$12,674
Willington	\$12,720
Wilton	\$11,784
Winchester	\$13,666
Windham	\$15,291
Windsor	\$13,355
Windsor Locks	\$13,346
Wolcott	\$12,873
Woodbridge	\$12,128
Woodbury	\$12,248
Woodstock	\$12,185