

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 magnet schools operated by Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs) and the Goodwin University Magnet School System (GUMS). Additionally, this document details how state grants and tuition amounts will be calculated in FY 2025 for these magnet school operators.

### How were RESC-operated magnet schools funded previously?

- In FY 2024, full-time students who attended RESC-operated magnet schools were funded through the support of a state grant as well as tuition that was billed by the RESC operator to the local school district in the town where the student resides (sending district).
- The amount of state support varied by RESC operator and ranged from \$7,227 to \$10,652 per student.
- The amount of tuition billed by each RESC operator also varied depending on the cost to educate the student minus the amount of state support received.
- For part-time students, RESC operators received a state grant that was equal to 65% of their full-time grant, and then billed the sending district for tuition to support the education of the part-time student.

An example of the FY 2024 per-student funding calculation for RESC magnet schools is detailed below.

<b>State Grant</b> (Varies by Location)	+	<b>Tuition</b> (Varies by School)	=	<b>FY 2024 Total Revenue</b>
---	---	---	---	----------------------------------

### How will RESC-operated magnet schools be funded in FY 2025?

In FY 2025, on a per-student basis, RESC magnets will receive 58% of their FY 2024 tuition amount, plus their FY 2024 state grant amount, and 42% of the difference between their ECS-based, weighted per-student amount and their FY 2024 state grant. The tuition cap also applies to preschool tuition. Preschool students are counted in the district's enrollment for the purposes of calculating the weighted per-student funding amount.

There is also a per-student hold harmless in place for FY 2025 to ensure no operator receives less per student than they received in FY 2024 (state grant plus tuition). Below are example calculations using a hypothetical student attending a non-*Sheff* RESC magnet program and a *Sheff* RESC magnet program.

#### Non-*Sheff* RESC:

FY 2024 State Per-Student Grant \$8,058	+	<b>42%</b> of the Difference between the <b>Weighted Funding Amount</b> and the FY 2024 Per-Student State Grant $42\% * (\$14,550 - \$8,058)$ = \$2,727	+	<b>58%</b> of FY 2024 Per-Student Tuition $58\% * \$5,840 =$ \$3,387
=				
FY 2025 Total Per-Student Funding \$14,172				

#### *Sheff* RESC:

FY 2024 State Per-Student Grant \$10,652	+	<b>42%</b> of the Difference between the <b>Weighted Funding Amount</b> and the FY 2024 Per-Student State Grant $42\% * (\$18,008 - \$10,652)$ = \$3,089	+	<b>58%</b> of FY 2024 Per-Student Tuition $58\% * \$5,840 =$ \$3,387
=				
FY 2025 Total Per-Student Funding \$17,129				

### What are the weighted funding amounts to be received by RESC-operated magnet schools?

RESC magnets will receive weighted per-student funding partially based on the need characteristics of the students enrolled at the RESC. Table 1 below details the calculation for the weighted, per-student amount for a hypothetical RESC that is not operating in the *Sheff* region.<sup>1</sup> RESC magnets in the *Sheff* region will receive an additional 30% weight to their per-student amount to assist them in meeting the obligations of the *Sheff v. O'Neill* permanent injunction.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Conn. Act 24-81.

<sup>2</sup> The RESCs currently in operation in the *Sheff* region are Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) and the Goodwin University Magnet School System (GUMS).

**Table 1: Example Weighted Per-Student Calculation for a Non-Sheff RESC**

Example Non-Sheff RESC	Data	Weighted Students
Enrollment	1,000	1,000
FRPL Count <i>(Weighted at 30%)</i>	700	210
FRPL Percentage <i>(Weighted at 15% for districts with FPRL percentage over 60%)</i>	70%	15
Multilingual Learner Count <i>(Weighted at 25%)</i>	150	37.5
<b>Need Student Count</b>		<b>= 1,263</b>
<b>Weighted Funding</b> <i>(Need Students * Foundation)</i>		<b>= \$14,550,313</b>
<b>Initial Weighted Per Student Grant</b> <i>(Weighted Funding / Enrollment)</i>		<b>= \$14,550</b>
<b>FY 2025 Phased-In Weighted Per-Student Grant</b> <i>(FY 2024 State Grant + 42% of the difference between FY 2024 State Grant and Initial Weighted Per-Student Grant)</i>		<b>= \$8,058 + 42% * (\$14,550 - \$8,058) = \$10,785</b>

**Table 2: Example Weighted Per-Student Calculation for a Sheff RESC**

Example Sheff RESC	Data	Weighted Students
Enrollment	1,000	1,000
FRPL Count <i>(Weighted at 30%)</i>	700	210
FRPL Percentage <i>(Weighted at 15% for districts with FPRL percentage over 60%)</i>	70%	15
Multilingual Learner Count <i>(Weighted at 25%)</i>	150	37.5
<b>Sheff Student Count</b> <i>(Weighted at 30%)</i>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Need Student Count</b>		<b>= 1,563</b>
<b>Weighted Funding</b> <i>(Need Students * Foundation)</i>		<b>= \$18,007,813</b>
<b>Initial Weighted Per Student Grant</b> <i>(Weighted Funding / Enrollment)</i>		<b>= \$18,008</b>
<b>FY 2025 Phased-In Weighted Per-Student Grant</b> <i>(FY 2024 State Grant + 42% of the difference between FY 2024 State Grant and Initial Weighted Per Student Grant)</i>		<b>= \$10,652 + 42% * (\$18,008 - \$10,652) = \$13,741</b>

### How will RESC operated magnet schools be funded in FY 2026 and beyond?

State funding for RESC magnet schools in FY 2026 and beyond will be an action item for the General Assembly in the 2025 legislative session, as there is currently no funding formula in law beyond FY 2025. However, for FY 2026 and future years, general education tuition remains capped at 58% of the amount charged by RESCs in FY 2024.

As a result, in the 2025 legislative session, the General Assembly will need to either enact policy that modifies the state's education finance system to fully fund magnet school students based on their learning needs, or maintain the funding structure enacted for FY 2025 in FY 2026 and thereafter.