

On June 3, 2025, the Connecticut General Assembly passed a new state budget for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.¹ 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 impacting Connecticut's state charter schools for FYs 2026 and 2027.²

Overview

- The new state budget maintains partial need-based funding for state charter schools with charter schools receiving the Education Cost Sharing foundation amount (\$11,525) plus 56.7% of their full weighted funding amount per student.
 - Adjustments are made in FYs 2026 and 2027 to reflect changes in enrollment.
- An additional \$2.5 million is appropriated in FY 2026 and FY 2027 to fund two new charter schools.
- A total of \$142,803,548 is appropriated to fund state charter schools in FY 2026, and \$144,122,548 is appropriated in FY 2027.
 - This represents a \$5,288,763 increase in FY 2026, and a \$6,607,763 increase in FY 2027, compared to FY 2025 funding levels³
- There are no policy changes to the weighted student funding formula in FY 2026 and FY 2027.
 - The phase-in schedule for charter schools remains at 56.7% of the difference between the full weighted per-student entitlement and the ECS foundation amount.
- Charter schools can now receive funding for minor capital improvement projects through the new District Repair and Improvement Project (DRIP) program⁴ that passed as part of the biennial state bonding bill.⁵

¹ 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).

² 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>.

³ 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).

⁴ For more information on the DRIP program, please visit <https://linktr.ee/DRIPprogram>.

⁵ 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).

- Charter schools are no longer eligible for HVAC grants.
- The Connecticut State Department of Education must prioritize charter school capital improvement grant applications for schools with accountability index scores at or above the state average.
- The state's Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program is expanded to cover non-certified charter school employees.

How were state charter schools funded in FY 2025?⁶

- For FY 2025, the total appropriation for 21 state charter schools was \$137,514,785.
- The per-student grant entitlements for each state charter school were calculated by adding the ECS foundation amount (\$11,525) and 56.7% of the difference between the charter's weighted per-student entitlement and the ECS foundation amount.
- Each charter school's weighted per-student entitlement was calculated for by multiplying the ECS foundation amount by the charter school's need-student count and dividing this total by the school's approved enrollment.
 - Need student counts include: students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (FRPL) eligible students, multilingual learners, and students attending school in a district with concentrated poverty.
 - Each school's per-student entitlement was multiplied by its approved enrollment to produce the total grant amount.

How will state charter schools be funded in FYs 2026 and 2027?

- For FYs 2026 and 2027, charter school grant entitlements will be calculated the same way as in FY 2025.⁷
- The FY 2026 and FY 2027 appropriations for charter schools includes \$2.5 million each year to fund two new state charter schools: Stamford Big Picture Learning Academy and Taino Co-LAB New Haven.
- The total appropriation for 23 state charter schools in FY 2026 and FY 2027 is \$142,803,548 and \$144,122,548, respectively.
 - For FY 2026, this is an increase of \$5,288,763 compared to FY 2025 funding levels. For FY 2027, this is an increase of \$1,319,000 compared to FY 2026 funding levels.

⁶ For more information on how state charter schools were funded in FY 2025, please visit <https://schoolstatefinance.org/reports/faqs-fy-2025-funding-by-public-school-type>.

⁷ Adjustments to funding levels are made based on updated need-student count data.