

# SCHOOL + STATE FINANCE PROJECT



## **GUIDE TO CONNECTICUT'S MAGNET SCHOOLS**

An extensive look into the administration, funding, and history of Connecticut's interdistrict and intradistrict magnet schools

---

**October 2024**

[www.schoolstatefinance.org](http://www.schoolstatefinance.org)

## Contents<sup>A</sup>

Timeline of Connecticut Magnet School History.....	3
Frequently Asked Questions .....	5
Interdistrict Magnet Schools .....	9
Program Administration .....	9
Program Eligibility .....	9
Student Eligibility .....	11
Interdistrict Magnet School Funding .....	11
Local Funding & Tuition .....	17
 Intradistrict Magnet Schools .....	 19
District Participation .....	19
Student Eligibility .....	19
Funding .....	19
School Construction .....	19
 Appendix .....	 20
<i>Sheff v. O’Neill</i> Stipulated Agreements .....	20
Magnet School Enrollment by Operator and Operator Type .....	24
Interdistrict Magnet School State Grant Payments by Type.....	25
Enrollment by Magnet School Type .....	26
Student Demographics .....	27
 Endnotes .....	 28

---

<sup>A</sup> Originally published in November 2018, and revised in February 2021, December 2021, and October 2024, this report has been updated with statutory and policy changes.

## Timeline of Connecticut Magnet School History

**1989:** Led by Elizabeth Horton Sheff, a group of city and suburban parents file suit on behalf of their 18 children against Governor William O'Neill. The plaintiffs argue that public schools in Hartford are segregated, underfunded, and deny students in the Hartford area their constitutional right to an adequate and equal education due to the disparities in the distribution of funding and resources between communities of color in Hartford and the adjacent, majority white, suburbs.<sup>1</sup>

**1996:** Connecticut Supreme Court rules in *Sheff v. O'Neill* and finds Hartford's public schools are racially segregated and in violation of the state constitution's anti-segregation provision. The Court finds the racial segregation — regardless of whether or not it is the result of intentional State action — deprives the plaintiff's children of their right to substantially equal educational opportunity. The Court orders the State to take remedial measures but defers to the legislature to develop a constitutional remedy.<sup>2</sup>

**1997:** General Assembly responds to *Sheff v. O'Neill* decision by passing 3-part legislation that includes: 1) a 5-year state takeover of the Hartford school system; 2) a major new commitment to early childhood education throughout the state; and 3) the basic structure of a two-way, voluntary integration program, including a new regional magnet school system and an expanded inter-district transfer program to be known as "Project Concern" and, eventually, "Open Choice."<sup>3</sup>

**2002:** Dissatisfied with the rate of school integration since the Connecticut Supreme Court's 1996 ruling, the *Sheff v. O'Neill* plaintiffs return to court.<sup>4</sup>

**2003:** After two evidentiary hearings, the *Sheff* plaintiffs and Gov. Rowland come to a mediated agreement as to the implementation of a number of voluntary, inter-district programs designed to reduce the racial and ethnic isolation of Hartford students. This temporary, 4-year settlement — approved by both the General Assembly and the trial court — is known as the Phase I stipulated agreement and requires, among other things, the State to spend \$45 million over four years to establish eight additional magnet schools in the Hartford area. The out-of-court settlement also requires the State to increase the percentage of Hartford students attending integrated schools to 30 percent by 2007.<sup>5</sup>

**2007:** *Sheff* plaintiffs return to court again claiming the State has failed to increase the percentage of Hartford students attending integrated schools to 30 percent by the designated time under the 2003 settlement.<sup>6</sup>

**2008:** *Sheff* plaintiffs and the State agree to new five-year Phase II settlement that calls for building more magnet schools in the Hartford suburbs and expanding the number of openings available for Hartford children through Project Choice (formerly Project Concern). The Phase II settlement also includes state-run technical and agricultural high schools.<sup>7</sup>

**April 2013:** Parties in *Sheff v. O'Neill* adopt one-year, court-ordered stipulation allowing State of Connecticut an additional year to reach the 2012-13 goal of 41 percent of Hartford's minority students being in "reduced isolation settings."<sup>8</sup>

**December 2013:** Parties in *Sheff v. O'Neill* announce a one-year Phase III settlement, which increases the number of magnet school seats, expands Open Choice, and allocates funds to strengthen a Hartford neighborhood “Lighthouse School.”<sup>9</sup>

**2015:** Parties in *Sheff v. O'Neill* adopt one-year extension to the case's Phase III settlement.<sup>10</sup>

**2017:** Hartford Superior Court Judge Marshall Berger rules the State of Connecticut cannot raise, for the 2017-18 school year, the percentage of racial minority enrollment a *Sheff* magnet school may have for the school to be considered racially integrated.<sup>11</sup> Under the rules worked out for implementing the decision in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, a school is deemed desegregated if students who are racial minorities (specifically Black and Hispanic students) make up no more than 75 percent of the school's total enrollment. The State had planned to raise the limit to 80 percent, but the *Sheff* plaintiffs filed for an injunction, which was granted by Berger.<sup>12</sup>

**2020:** On January 10, 2020, the parties in the *Sheff v. O'Neill* case agreed to a new stipulated agreement that runs through June 30, 2022 and provides a pathway for potentially ending the litigation and judicial oversight of the case. Under the stipulated agreement, the State is expected to: increase the number of magnet school seats available, including increasing the amount reserved for Hartford resident students; change the Regional School Choice student assignment protocols so student lottery selection is based solely on socioeconomic status; and provide more than \$2 million in additional funding to diversify student bodies.<sup>13</sup>

**2022:** On March 21, 2022, a 10-year permanent injunction and settlement was finalized in the *Sheff v. O'Neill* case. The agreement marked the end of the decades-long case and requires the State of Connecticut to comply with the terms of a Comprehensive School Choice Plan.<sup>14</sup>

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is a magnet school and how does it differ from a traditional public school?**

Magnet schools are one of several public school choice programs offered in Connecticut that students can attend in lieu of their local public school district. Other public school choice programs include technical high schools, vocational agricultural centers, charter schools, endowed private schools,<sup>B</sup> designated high schools,<sup>C</sup> and the Open Choice program.<sup>15</sup> The purpose of magnet schools in Connecticut is to promote racial, ethnic, and economic diversity as well as offer students a specialized and high-quality curriculum.<sup>16</sup>

### **What entities are allowed to establish magnet schools in Connecticut?**

Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs), local or regional boards of education, the board of regents for the Connecticut State Colleges & Universities system, the board of trustees for the University of Connecticut, the board of governors for an independent institution of higher education, and any third party not-for-profit organization approved by the commissioner of the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) are allowed to establish a magnet program in Connecticut.<sup>17</sup> Currently, all of Connecticut's magnet schools are operated by RESCs, Goodwin University Educational Services (GUES), or local or regional boards of education.<sup>18</sup>

### **How many magnet schools does Connecticut have and where are they located?**

During the 2023-24 school year, Connecticut had 86 interdistrict magnet schools in operation enrolling a total of 38,091 students. There were also 41 intradistrict magnet schools in operation that enrolled 17,898 students.<sup>19</sup> Four part-time magnet programs were also in operation, however, separate enrollment is not reported for these programs.<sup>20</sup> Connecticut's magnet schools are located across the state, but the majority are operated by Connecticut's various RESCs, Hartford Public Schools, and New Haven Public Schools.<sup>21</sup>

### **How are interdistrict magnet schools different than intradistrict magnet schools?**

Interdistrict magnet schools can serve students across district lines in addition to students residing in the district in which the school is located.<sup>22</sup> Currently, RESCs, GUES, and local or regional boards of education operate interdistrict magnet schools. In addition to local and federal funds, interdistrict magnet schools are eligible to receive state grants appropriated by the Connecticut General Assembly and distributed by the CSDE for the costs of operating the school. Intradistrict magnet schools are operated only by local

---

<sup>B</sup> Connecticut has three endowed academies currently in operation (Gilbert School, Norwich Free Academy, and Woodstock Academy). With state approval, an endowed academy may serve as a town's public high school with the sending town's board of education paying the tuition costs for its students to attend the academy.

Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 164, § 10-34.

Sullivan, M. (2016). *Models of Public High School Education in Connecticut* (2016-R-0155). Hartford, CT: Connecticut General Assembly, Office of Legislative Research. Retrieved from <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2016/rpt/pdf/2016-R-0155.pdf>.

<sup>C</sup> "Designated high schools" are high schools that a Connecticut local public school district allows its high school age students to attend if the district does not maintain a high school. The sending district's board of education pays the tuition costs for their resident students attending the designated high schools.

Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 164, § 10-33.

public school districts and act as a school of choice only for students who reside in the district in which the school is located.<sup>23</sup> Because they do not enroll students residing outside of the district in which they are located, intradistrict magnet schools are not eligible to receive state magnet school grant funding and are funded almost entirely through local funds by the district in which the school is located.<sup>24</sup>

### **Why did Connecticut establish interdistrict magnet schools?**

The Connecticut interdistrict magnet school system was created as a result of the *Sheff v. O'Neill* court case in which the Connecticut Supreme Court, in 1996, ruled that Hartford's public schools were racially segregated and in violation of the Connecticut Constitution's anti-segregation provision. The Court found the racial segregation — regardless of whether or not it was the result of intentional State action — deprived Hartford's children of their right to substantially equal educational opportunity.<sup>25</sup>

Although the Court ordered the State to take remedial measures following the *Sheff* ruling, it deferred the responsibility of developing a constitutional remedy to the General Assembly.<sup>26</sup> The legislature's solution was to develop voluntary school choice programs to reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation for students in urban areas, the centerpiece of which was the interdistrict magnet school program.<sup>27</sup>

### **What is *Sheff v. O'Neill*?**

The *Sheff v. O'Neill* court case was filed on behalf of Hartford students in 1989. The plaintiffs in the case argued that public schools in Hartford were segregated and did not provide students with an adequate and equal education under Connecticut's Constitution due to the presence of disparities in funding and resources between communities of color in Hartford and the adjacent, majority white suburbs.<sup>28</sup> This case resulted in a 1996 Connecticut Supreme Court ruling that required the State of Connecticut to address the racial, ethnic, and economic isolation of Hartford Public Schools.<sup>29</sup>

### **What is the difference between a *Sheff* magnet school and a non-*Sheff* magnet school?**

A *Sheff* magnet school refers to an interdistrict magnet school located in the *Sheff* region,<sup>Ⓛ</sup> which includes Hartford and surrounding suburban towns. Interdistrict magnet schools were established in the *Sheff* region in an effort to help the State comply with the Connecticut Supreme Court's 1996 ruling in *Sheff v. O'Neill* and are subject to the court case's stipulated agreements. Through state statute, the Connecticut General Assembly provides interdistrict magnet schools in the *Sheff* region with higher per-student operating grant amounts than interdistrict magnet schools located elsewhere in the state (known as non-*Sheff* magnet schools). Non-*Sheff* magnet schools are interdistrict magnet schools not located in the *Sheff* region and are not directly tied to the State of Connecticut's obligations under the 1996 *Sheff v. O'Neill* ruling and the case's subsequent stipulated agreements.<sup>30</sup>

---

<sup>Ⓛ</sup> The *Sheff* region consists of the towns of Avon, Bloomfield, Canton, East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor, Ellington, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Hartford, Manchester, Newington, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, South Windsor, Suffield, Vernon, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor, and Windsor Locks. Stipulation and Order, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, Superior Court, judicial district of New Britain, Docket No. X03-89-042119S (January 22, 2003).

### **What is a Regional Educational Service Center (RESC)? Do all RESCs operate magnet schools?**

A RESC is a public education authority that represents boards of education for a particular region in Connecticut and delivers programs and services to students in its given region.<sup>31</sup> Connecticut has six RESCs.<sup>E</sup> Currently, EdAdvance is the only RESC that does not operate any interdistrict magnet schools.<sup>32</sup>

### **What are the differences between a host district magnet school, a RESC-operated magnet school, and a magnet school operated by Goodwin University Educational Services (GUES)?**

Host district magnet schools are operated by local or regional boards of education, while RESC-operated magnet schools are operated by RESCs, and GUES-operated magnet schools are operated by Goodwin University. RESC-operated, GUES-operated, and host district magnet schools are interdistrict magnet schools.<sup>33</sup> Each operator type has a different funding mechanism and has different enrollment criteria that must be met in order to be eligible to receive state magnet school operating grants.<sup>34</sup>

### **How are Connecticut's magnet schools funded?**

Interdistrict magnet schools are primarily funded through a mix of state, local, and federal dollars, with the largest source of funding being state-funded magnet school operating grants. For fiscal year 2025, magnet school operators will receive funding partially based on a student-centered funding formula, which extends Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula-based weighted funding to students attending public schools of choice. Magnet school operators will receive the amount previously provided by the State per student, plus 42 percent of the difference from the full weighted per-student funding amount.<sup>35</sup> However, if the per-student grant amount in FY 2024 is greater than the per-student amount in FY 2025, the magnet school operator is held harmless to their FY 2024 amount.<sup>36</sup>

Additionally, beginning in FY 2025, the per-student amount of general education tuition a magnet school operator may charge a sending district is capped. For FY 2025 and future years, the per-student tuition amount an operator of a magnet school may charge a local or regional school district can be no more than 58 percent of the per-student tuition amount the operator charged in FY 2024.<sup>37</sup>

Intradistrict magnet schools are operated only by local or regional boards of education and are funded through the same funding sources as the other schools located in the district (a mix of local, state, and federal funding, which varies by district). Intradistrict magnet school operators do not receive operating, transportation, or supplemental grants from the State of Connecticut for the operation of these schools.<sup>38</sup>

### **Can magnet schools charge tuition to parents or guardians?**

By law, Connecticut's magnet schools cannot charge parents or guardians tuition for K-12 education costs.<sup>39</sup> However, some interdistrict magnet schools can charge tuition for the cost of educating a student to a local or regional board of education (typically the

---

<sup>E</sup> The six RESCs are Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES), Cooperative Educational Services (C.E.S.), Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), EASTCONN, EdAdvance, and LEARN. Towns by RESC can be found at [http://www.crec.org/docs/7056/Map\\_with\\_logos\\_2017.pdf](http://www.crec.org/docs/7056/Map_with_logos_2017.pdf).

local school district for the town in which the student resides).<sup>40</sup> Additionally, RESC-operated interdistrict magnet schools offering preschool programs can charge parents or guardians tuition up to \$4,053. However, parents or guardians with a family income below 75 percent of the state median income are not charged tuition for preschool programs.<sup>41</sup> Beginning in FY 2025, the amount of per-student general education tuition charged by a magnet schools operator to a local school district cannot exceed 58 percent of the per-student tuition amount the operator charged in FY 2024.<sup>42</sup>

#### **How are transportation costs for students attending magnet schools funded?**

The CSDE provides transportation grants on a per-student basis for students attending interdistrict magnet schools in a district other than the district in which they reside. The amount of these grants differs depending on whether or not a magnet school is in the *Sheff* region.<sup>43</sup>

#### **How are special education costs for students attending magnet schools funded?**

If a student attending an interdistrict magnet school requires special education services, the town in which the student resides is responsible for the reasonable cost of educating the student beyond the per-student grant amount received by the interdistrict magnet school, including any transportation costs related to special education.<sup>44</sup>

#### **How are magnet schools different from charter schools?**

Connecticut's magnet schools are operated by local or regional boards of education, RESCs, or GUES, while charter schools in Connecticut are operated by nonprofit governing authorities that are independent of any local or regional board of education.<sup>45</sup> Connecticut's charter schools are also funded differently than magnet schools as all of Connecticut's public school choice programs have different statutory funding mechanisms.<sup>46</sup>



## Interdistrict Magnet Schools

### Program Administration

The CSDE administers magnet school operating, transportation, and supplemental grants, and provides oversight for Connecticut's interdistrict magnet school programs.<sup>47</sup> State magnet school operating grants are distributed on a per-student basis and are used to fund the daily activities of the interdistrict magnet school program.<sup>48</sup>

In order to be eligible to receive state magnet school operating grants, all interdistrict magnet schools must maintain certain enrollment percentages as outlined in the Program Eligibility section below.<sup>49</sup> State magnet school operating grant amounts and enrollment requirements vary by the classification of the magnet school and are detailed in Table 2 in the "State Funding" section below.<sup>50</sup> If an operator of an interdistrict magnet school is no longer meeting its eligibility requirements, the CSDE can withhold state magnet school operating grants from the school's operating entity until the operator submits a compliance plan that is approved by the commissioner of the CSDE.<sup>51</sup> Additionally, if enrollment in an interdistrict magnet school drops below the level for which an operating grant was appropriated, the CSDE may withhold the excess funds from the magnet school operator.<sup>52</sup>

### Program Eligibility

In order to be considered eligible to receive magnet school operating grants from the State of Connecticut, interdistrict magnet schools are required to meet certain enrollment criteria based on the percentage of enrolled students from a single district and the percentage of enrolled students that are considered "reduced isolation."<sup>F</sup> Table 1 below details the enrollment and reduced isolation standards per the type of magnet school.

---

<sup>F</sup> Conn. Acts 17-172 requires the commissioner of the CSDE to define the term "reduced-isolation student" and establish a requirement for the minimum percentage of reduced-isolation students who can be enrolled in an interdistrict magnet school. Additionally, the public act gives an interdistrict magnet school the ability to have an enrollment of no greater than one percent under the minimum enrollment percentage, pending the submission of a compliance plan to, and approval by, the commissioner of the CSDE.

In an October 2020 memorandum to operators of interdistrict magnet schools and host districts, the CSDE defined a reduced-isolation student as a student who:

- "[i]dentifies as Native American, Asian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander, and/or White; and
- Does not identify as Black/African American, or Latinx/Hispanic."

Cardona, M. (2020, August 19). *Memorandum to Interdistrict Magnet School Operators and Host Districts RE: Interdistrict Magnet Schools Reduced-Isolation Standards*. Hartford, CT: Connecticut State Department of Education. Retrieved from [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Strategic-Planning/Interdistrict\\_Magnet\\_Schools\\_Reduced-Isolation\\_Standards.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Strategic-Planning/Interdistrict_Magnet_Schools_Reduced-Isolation_Standards.pdf).

Table 1<sup>53,54,55</sup>

Type of Magnet School	Date Magnet Began Operating	Residency Standard	Reduced Isolation (RI) Standard	School Year by Which RI Standards Must Be Met	Allowances for Enrollment Variance
Non-Sheff Magnet School	Prior to July 1, 2005	No more than 75 percent of school enrollment can be from a single district.	The percentage of RI students enrolled must equal at least 20 percent of the school enrollment.	2023-24 school year, and each year following, if the magnet school has at least 20 percent RI students and the school is operating with a compliance plan designed to bring the school in to compliance, the school will meet the RI standard.	A school can be considered compliant with the enrollment standards if it is within one percent of the applicable Residency Standard, <u>or</u> RI Standards, and the school is operating under a compliance plan designed to bring the school into compliance with the standard in question.
Non-Sheff Magnet School	On or after July 1, 2005			Effective immediately. If the magnet school has at least 20 percent RI students and the school is operating with a compliance plan designed to bring the school into compliance, the school will meet the RI standard.	
Sheff Magnet School	Not applicable		The percentage of RI students enrolled must equal at least 25 percent of the school enrollment.	Effective immediately per the stipulated agreement and court order from January 10, 2020.	

A school and its operating entity are subject to penalties if a school fails to adhere to the enrollment requirements outlined above. If a *Sheff* or non-*Sheff* interdistrict magnet school does not meet the new reduced-isolation standard set by the commissioner of the CSDE, and enrolls greater than 75 percent of students from a single participating district, that school is no longer eligible for state magnet school operating grants (with the exceptions detailed in the table above).<sup>56</sup>

The magnet school may, however, continue to remain eligible for state magnet school operating grants for one or more years if the commissioner of the CSDE determines it is appropriate to award the grant(s) for additional years, and the commissioner approves a plan to ensure the enrollment of the school is in compliance with the reduced-isolation standard.<sup>57</sup> If a magnet school does not meet the new reduced-isolation standard in two or more years consecutively, the commissioner may impose a financial penalty on the operating entity of the school, or take other measures in concert with the operating entity to assist in compliance with the reduced-isolation settings.<sup>58</sup>

## Student Eligibility

All students who are eligible to attend Connecticut public schools are eligible to attend interdistrict magnet schools. Students seeking to attend interdistrict magnet schools do not need to reside in a particular district but must apply through the operating entity in order to be eligible to attend a magnet school.<sup>59,60,G</sup>

After accommodating students from the participating districts, as determined by the approved enrollment agreement,<sup>H</sup> the operator of an interdistrict magnet school may enroll any Connecticut student interested in the program.<sup>61</sup> Students not already participating in an interdistrict magnet program are given preference for these available seats.<sup>62</sup> Interdistrict magnet school operators may limit the number of students who can attend a magnet school or program if there are more applicants for the school or program than there are number of seats available in the school or program.

In the event there are more applicants than seats available, a lottery must be conducted to determine which applicants will be offered seats.<sup>63</sup> Additionally, magnet school operators may establish geographic transportation zones and certain preferences for applicants, such as neighborhood or sibling preference. However, students cannot be "denied placement or enrollment in an interdistrict magnet school or program because of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, genetics, age, religion or any other protected class as defined by federal and state nondiscrimination laws."<sup>64</sup>

It is the responsibility of the operator of the interdistrict magnet program to notify the district a student would otherwise attend of the student's participation in the magnet program.<sup>65</sup> The local or regional board of education that would otherwise be responsible for educating the student must pay the tuition amount that is charged to the participating sending districts (this is only the case if tuition is charged, as not all magnet schools charge tuition to sending districts).<sup>66</sup>

## Interdistrict Magnet School Funding

### **State Magnet School Operating Grants**

The CSDE distributes state magnet school operating grants to interdistrict magnet schools on a per-student basis, which is determined by the percentage of students attending the magnet school from a single school district, whether or not the interdistrict magnet school is operated by a RESC, and whether or not the school is in the *Sheff* region.<sup>67</sup> The state magnet school operating grants are structured to reduce student racial, ethnic, and

---

<sup>G</sup> Students attending private schools are allowed to enroll in part-time magnet school programs as long as the population of these students does not exceed five percent of enrollment in a given magnet school. These students are not counted for the purposes of awarding operating and transportation grants to the operating entity.

Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264l.

<sup>H</sup> An enrollment agreement sets a number or percentage of students from the participating district(s) that must be accommodated by an interdistrict magnet school before students from other resident districts can be enrolled.

Coleman, S. (2008). *Interdistrict Magnet School Students from Nonparticipating Districts* (2008-R-0684) Hartford, CT: Connecticut General Assembly, Office of Legislative Research. Retrieved from <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/rpt/2008-R-0684.htm>.

economic isolation by offering higher grant amounts for schools that maintain a higher percentage of students who do not reside in the district where the interdistrict magnet school is located.<sup>68</sup> In Connecticut's biennial state budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, magnet school per-student grants were increased by two percent,<sup>69</sup> which was the first increase to magnet school funding since 2010.<sup>70</sup> During the 2023 legislative session, Connecticut continued to make more investments in education by infusing an additional \$150 million for FY 2025 for the purposes of reforming state education funding.<sup>71</sup>

In 2024, the General Assembly passed landmark legislation (Public Act 24-81) that maintained the \$150 million in additional funding for K-12 education for FY 2025, and partially extended student-centered, ECS-based funding to students attending interdistrict magnet schools for FY 2025. Of the additional \$150 million in funding for K-12 education, \$36.8 million was allocated to RESC magnet schools and \$13.5 million was allocated to interdistrict magnet schools operated by local public school districts. As a result, students in interdistrict magnet schools will receive 42 percent of their full weighted funding amount, paving the way for all public school students to be funded based on their individual learning needs for the first time in the state's history. Additionally, Public Act 24-81 provided an additional \$1.2 million to GUES to assist with enrollment expansion and costs associated with the *Sheff v. O'Neill* permanent injunction and stipulated agreements.<sup>72</sup>

Table 2 on the following page details the per-student operating grants that are appropriated and distributed by the State based on the type of magnet school and the enrollment criteria the school must meet. In addition, Table 2 details the tuition amounts and limits on interdistrict magnet school operators. Additional information regarding interdistrict magnet school tuition can be found in the Local Funding & Tuition section below.

Table 2<sup>73</sup>

	Operator	Enrollment Criteria	FY 2025		FY 2026 and each FY thereafter	
			In-district (or dominant district) Per-Student Grant	Out-of-district (or non-dominant district) Per-Student Grant	In-district (or dominant district) Per-Student Grant	Out-of-district (or non-dominant district) Per-Student Grant
Non-Sheff	Local or Regional Board of Education	Between 55 and 75 percent of enrollment from a single district	At least \$3,060	Operators receive phased-in, ECS-based funding from the State based on sending town demographics.  FY 2025 grant equals the school's FY 2024 grant per student + 42% of the difference between FY 2024 and ECS-based weighted funding.	There is no funding formula currently in statute.	There is no funding formula currently in statute.
	RESC	Less than 55 percent of enrollment from a single district	At least \$8,058	Operators receive phased-in, ECS-based funding from the State based on sending town demographics.  FY 2025 grant equals the school's FY 2024 grant per student + 42% of the difference between FY 2024 and ECS-based weighted funding.	There is no funding formula currently in statute.	There is no funding formula currently in statute.
	RESC	At least 55 percent of enrollment from a single district	At least \$3,060	Operators receive phased-in, ECS-based funding	There is no funding formula	There is no funding formula

	Operator	Enrollment Criteria	FY 2025		FY 2026 and each FY thereafter	
			In-district (or dominant district) Per-Student Grant	Out-of-district (or non-dominant district) Per-Student Grant	In-district (or dominant district) Per-Student Grant	Out-of-district (or non-dominant district) Per-Student Grant
				from the State based on sending town demographics.  FY 2025 grant equals the school's FY 2024 grant per student + 42% of the difference between FY 2024 and ECS-based weighted funding.	currently in statute.	currently in statute.
Sheff <sup>1</sup>	Local or Regional Board of Education	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Operators receive phased-in, ECS-based funding from the State based on sending town demographics.  FY 2025 grant equals the school's FY 2024 grant per student + 42% of the difference between FY 2024 and ECS-based weighted funding.	There is no funding formula currently in statute.	There is no funding formula currently in statute.
	RESC (or non-local public school district, or Great Path Academy)	Between 50 and 60 percent of enrollment from Hartford	At least \$10,652	Operators receive phased-in, ECS-based funding from the State based on sending town demographics.	There is no funding formula currently in statute.	There is no funding formula currently in statute.

<sup>1</sup> The information provided in this row also reflects GUES.

	Operator	Enrollment Criteria	FY 2025		FY 2026 and each FY thereafter	
			In-district (or dominant district) Per-Student Grant	Out-of-district (or non-dominant district) Per-Student Grant	In-district (or dominant district) Per-Student Grant	Out-of-district (or non-dominant district) Per-Student Grant
				FY 2025 grant equals the school's FY 2024 grant per student + 42% of the difference between FY 2024 and ECS-based weighted funding.		
	RESC (or non-local public school district, or Great Path Academy) for 2015-16 and later classes	Less than 50 percent of enrollment from Hartford	At least \$10,652	Operators receive phased-in, ECS-based funding from the State based on sending town demographics.  FY 2025 grant equals the school's FY 2024 grant per student + 42% of the difference between FY 2024 and ECS-based weighted funding.	There is no funding formula currently in statute.	There is no funding formula currently in statute.

**Table 3<sup>74</sup>**

	Operator	Tuition Amounts and Limits, FY 2025 and Beyond
Non-Sheff	Local or Regional Board of Education	Operators can charge up to a maximum of 58% of any per-student regular education tuition charges in FY 24.
	RESC	Operators can charge up to a maximum of 58% of any per-student regular education tuition charges in FY 24.
Sheff	Local or Regional Board of Education	Operators are prohibited from charging tuition.
	RESC (or non-local public school district, or Great Path Academy)	Operators can charge up to a maximum of 58% of any per-student regular education tuition charges in FY 24.

### **Supplemental State Grants for Sheff Interdistrict Magnet Schools**

The CSDE may make additional grants available to entities in the *Sheff* region operating interdistrict magnet schools for the purposes of running academic support programs and summer school programs.<sup>75</sup> Furthermore, the CSDE may allocate up to \$75,000 to assist with start-up costs associated with developing a new interdistrict magnet school program that assists the State in meeting the permanent injunction and stipulated agreements of the *Sheff v. O'Neill* court case.<sup>76</sup>

### **Magnet School Construction**

Interdistrict magnet school building projects developed for the purposes of increasing diversity are eligible to have up to 80 percent of the costs of construction reimbursed by the State.<sup>77</sup> Prior to 2012, magnet schools built for the purpose of assisting the State in meeting the *Sheff v. O'Neill* stipulated agreements were eligible to be reimbursed for up to 100 percent of the costs associated with the school's construction.<sup>78</sup> The rate for these programs was reduced from 100 percent to 80 percent by Public Act 12-120.<sup>79</sup>

### **State Transportation Grants**

The CSDE provides transportation grants on a per-student basis for students attending interdistrict magnet schools in a district other than the district in which they reside. The amount of these grants differs depending on whether or not a magnet school is in the *Sheff* region.<sup>80</sup> Table 4 on the following page shows the per-student transportation grant amounts that interdistrict magnet school operators are eligible to receive for students who attend an interdistrict magnet school in a district where they do not reside.<sup>81</sup>



**Table 4<sup>82</sup>**

<b>Per-Student Transportation Grants for Interdistrict Magnet Schools</b>	
<b>Operator Type</b>	<b>Per-Student Grant Amounts</b>
Local or Regional Boards of Education and RESCs	\$1,300
Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) and host districts assisting the State in meeting the requirements of the <i>Sheff</i> permanent injunctions and stipulated agreements	\$2,000 plus any additional supplemental grants within available appropriations. All state transportation funding is currently directed to CREC.

## Local Funding & Tuition

### **Local Funding for Interdistrict Magnet Schools Operated by Local or Regional Boards of Education**

Interdistrict magnet schools operated by local or regional boards of education are considered part of those school districts. As a result, those magnet schools also receive funding through the operating budgets of those school districts, including revenue from local property taxes.<sup>83</sup> In this manner, these interdistrict magnet schools are treated similarly to neighborhood schools within a local public school district.

### **Magnet School Tuition Paid by Sending Districts**

Interdistrict magnet schools may not charge tuition to students' parents or guardians for K-12 magnet school programs. However, in some cases, interdistrict magnet schools can charge tuition to students' sending districts (i.e. the local or regional school district in which the student resides).<sup>84</sup> The amount of tuition charged cannot push the total average per-student expenditures of the magnet school operating entity above the maximum allowable threshold, which is 120 percent of the statewide average per-student expenditure.<sup>85</sup>

However, as stated earlier, the per-student amount of general education tuition a magnet school operator may charge a sending district is capped. For FY 2025 and future years, the per-student tuition amount an operator of a magnet school may charge a local or regional school district can be no more than 58 percent of the per-student tuition amount the operator charged in FY 2024.<sup>86</sup> Additionally, in FY 2025, Hartford Public Schools will receive an additional \$5 million in tuition relief.<sup>87</sup>

Students attending interdistrict magnet schools are still counted as residing in the district in which they live for the calculation of ECS grant amounts,<sup>88</sup> and the sending district<sup>J</sup> may use state and/or local funds to pay the tuition amounts.<sup>89</sup> If a local or regional board of education fails to pay tuition, the CSDE has the authority to withhold ECS funds from said board of education, up to the tuition amount, and use those funds to make the payment to the operator of the magnet school.<sup>90</sup>

<sup>J</sup> "Sending district" refers to any district that sends students it is legally responsible for educating to another district.

Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264l.

Not all magnet school operating entities charge tuition to the sending district. In some instances, the magnet school operating entity is prohibited from charging tuition by law, and in other instances, the magnet school operating entity has chosen not to charge tuition. In cases in which a magnet school operating entity is eligible to charge tuition, but chose not to charge tuition prior to fiscal year 2015, the magnet school operating entity may only begin charging tuition if it makes a request to the commissioner of the CSDE by September 1 of the year prior to when tuition will be charged, and the commissioner of the CSDE approves the request.<sup>91</sup>

## Intradistrict Magnet Schools

### District Participation

Local or regional boards of education can create intradistrict magnet schools for resident students to attend if they so choose.<sup>92</sup> Intradistrict magnet schools allow students and families to exercise school choice within their home district and are funded by the district that operates them.<sup>93</sup> Intradistrict magnet schools do not receive specific grants from the State of Connecticut.<sup>94</sup>

### Student Eligibility

Students residing in districts that maintain intradistrict magnet schools can apply through their district to attend those schools.<sup>95</sup> If more students apply than there is available space, districts use lotteries to determine the students eligible to enroll.<sup>96</sup>

### Funding

For funding purposes, intradistrict magnet schools are funded like traditional local public schools. As a result, students who attend intradistrict magnet schools are included in resident student counts for the purposes of calculating a municipality's ECS grant amount,<sup>97</sup> and intradistrict magnet schools are funded as part of the local or regional board of education's regular school district budget, which includes a mix of local, state, and federal funding and varies by town. Intradistrict magnet schools do not receive state magnet school operating grants or magnet school transportation grants.

### School Construction

Intradistrict magnet school building projects developed for the purposes of increasing diversity are eligible to have up to 80 percent of the costs of school construction reimbursed by the State.<sup>98,K</sup>

---

<sup>K</sup> For a more detailed overview of school construction in Connecticut, please see: Connecticut School Finance Project. (2018). *Comparing Connecticut's School Construction Program*. New Haven, CT: Author. Retrieved from <https://files.schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Reports/Comparing%20CTs%20School%20Construction%20Program.pdf>.

## Appendix

### ***Sheff v. O'Neill* Permanent Injunction & Stipulated Agreements**

Since the 1996 Connecticut Supreme Court ruling in the *Sheff v. O'Neill* case, further stipulated agreements were mediated between the case's plaintiffs and the State. Stipulated agreements were reached between the parties in 2003, 2008, 2013, 2015, and 2020 in an effort to ensure the State of Connecticut adhered to the Court's 1996 ruling and made progress in its attempts to create racially integrated learning environments for students in Hartford.<sup>99</sup> The stipulated agreements between the plaintiffs and the State of Connecticut put into place objectives the State had to achieve in terms of reducing the racial, ethnic, and economic isolation of Hartford students.<sup>100</sup>

In 2022, a 10-year permanent injunction and settlement agreement was officially finalized in the case. The agreement marks an end to the decades-long case and requires the State of Connecticut to comply with the terms of a Comprehensive School Choice Plan.<sup>101</sup> Table 5 below summarizes the *Sheff* stipulations since the Connecticut Supreme Court ruling in 1996, as well as the permanent injunction and settlement.

Table 5

Summary of <i>Sheff</i> Stipulated Agreements	
Year of Stipulation	Summary of Goals and Changes in the Agreement
2003	The 2003 stipulation (known as the Phase I agreement) initiated the planning processes and goal measurements for the State to achieve. This stipulation also added provisions that required the State to spend \$45 million over four years to establish eight additional magnet schools in the Hartford area. Additionally, these provisions allowed for students from suburban towns in the <i>Sheff</i> region to attend interdistrict magnet schools once the required percentage of students from Hartford were enrolled, <sup>l</sup> and allowed for the suburban districts sending students to the magnet schools to be charged tuition for the cost of educating the students. Finally, the 2003 stipulated agreement required the State to increase the percentage of Hartford students attending integrated schools to 30 percent by 2007. <sup>102</sup>
2008	The 2008 <i>Sheff v. O'Neill</i> stipulation required the State to create the Regional School Choice Office (RSCO) to oversee school choice options for the Hartford region. The goal for reduced isolation was for the State to meet 80 percent of the demand for a reduced-isolation setting. The stipulation also required the RSCO to develop a Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) to set up yearly goals for achieving desegregation in the <i>Sheff</i> region and determine educational funding needs. Additionally, the five-year, Phase II agreement called for building more magnet schools in the Hartford suburbs and expanding the number of openings available for Hartford children through Project Choice (formerly Project Concern). <sup>103</sup>
April 2013	In April 2013, the parties in <i>Sheff v. O'Neill</i> adopted a one-year, court-ordered stipulation allowing the State an additional year to reach the 2012-13 goal of 41 percent of Hartford's minority students being in reduced-isolation settings. <sup>104</sup>
December 2013	In December 2013, the parties in <i>Sheff v. O'Neill</i> announced a one-year Phase III settlement, which increased the number of magnet school seats, expanded Open Choice, and allocated funds to strengthen a Hartford neighborhood "Lighthouse School." <sup>105</sup>
2015	The 2015 <i>Sheff v. O'Neill</i> stipulation added provisions that required the CSDE to provide, within available appropriations, the full per-student grant amounts and planned approved increases because of an expanded enrollment cap set by the legislature for the operators of interdistrict magnet schools in the <i>Sheff</i> region. The percentage of Hartford students in a reduced-isolation setting was increased to 47.5 percent. This stipulation further required the State to withhold operating grants from any Voluntary Interdistrict Program <sup>M</sup> whose percentage of racial minority students was greater than 75 percent of its enrollment in accordance with the <i>Sheff</i> CMP. <sup>106</sup>

<sup>l</sup> According to Connecticut's General Statutes, interdistrict magnet schools in operation prior to July 1, 2005 cannot have the percentage of students in attendance from a single district exceed 80 percent of the magnet school's total enrollment. Schools in operation on or after July 1, 2005 cannot have the percentage of students in attendance from a single district exceed 75 percent of the magnet school's total enrollment. Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264l.

<sup>M</sup> Voluntary interdistrict programs include technical high schools, vocational agricultural centers, charter schools, endowed private schools, designated high schools, the Open Choice Program, and magnet schools.

Connecticut State Department of Education. (n.d.). Public School Choice In Connecticut. Retrieved from <http://portal.ct.gov/SDE/School-Choice/CT-School-Choice/Public-School-Choice-in-Connecticut>.

Summary of Sheff Stipulated Agreements	
2017	<p>Hartford Superior Court Judge Marshall Berger ruled the State of Connecticut could not raise, for the 2017-18 school year, the percent of minority enrollment a <i>Sheff</i> magnet school may have for the school to be considered racially integrated.<sup>107</sup> Under the rules worked out for implementing the decision in <i>Sheff v. O’Neill</i>, a school is deemed desegregated if students who are racial minorities (specifically Black and Hispanic students) make up no more than 75 percent of the school’s total enrollment. The State had planned to raise the limit to 80 percent, but the <i>Sheff</i> plaintiffs filed for an injunction, which was granted by Judge Berger.<sup>108</sup></p>
2020	<p>On January 10, 2020, the parties in the case agreed to a new stipulated agreement that runs through June 30, 2022 and provides a pathway for potentially ending the litigation and judicial oversight of the case. Among its many components, the stipulated agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates up to 1,052 new magnet school seats, including nearly 600 reserved for Hartford resident students;</li> <li>• Changes the Regional School Choice student assignment protocols so student lottery selection is based solely on socioeconomic status;</li> <li>• Provides additional state funding to diversify student bodies, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$1.1 million in funding for development of new magnet school themes;</li> <li>○ \$800,000 over two years to offer academic and social support for Hartford students participating in the Open Choice program;</li> <li>○ \$300,000 to incentivize suburban districts to increase the number of Open Choice seats they make available for Hartford students by 20 percent;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Simplifies the Regional School Choice application process to be more user-friendly and transparent for families;</li> <li>• Creates an Advisory Committee to review Sheff programs and make non-binding recommendations for improvement; and</li> <li>• Requires the CSDE to develop a long-term, comprehensive school choice plan that helps ensure the stability, sustainability, and predictable and efficient operation of Sheff programs, as well as offers strategies for: providing a seat for every student who applies through the lottery, increasing teacher diversity, and addressing racial disparities in student discipline and academic achievement.<sup>109</sup></li> </ul>
2022	<p>On March 21, 2022, a 10-year permanent injunction and settlement was officially finalized in the case. The agreement marks an end to the landmark case and requires the State of Connecticut to comply with the terms of a Comprehensive School Choice Plan. As part for the agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The State of Connecticut commits to ensuring 95% of Hartford students wishing to attend a school choice program will be able to do so by the 2028-29 school year.</li> <li>• School choice options in the <i>Sheff</i> region will be expanded, reformulated, and created to increase diversity and attract students.</li> <li>• <i>Sheff</i> magnet schools will receive at LEAST their current total funding amount, consisting of their per-student grant plus tuition, through the life of the agreement – regardless of any changes to the state magnet grant or the ability of districts to charge tuition.</li> <li>• By the 2028-29 school year, a minimum of 2,737 new seats will be added for Hartford students to attend area magnet schools, Open Choice districts, and technical high schools.</li> </ul>

<b>Summary of Sheff Stipulated Agreements</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Open Choice grant for receiving districts in the <i>Sheff</i> region will increase by \$2,000 per student to incentivize suburban districts to open up an additional 450 new seats for Hartford students.</li><li>• Additional funding will be provided to Open Choice districts that enroll students at entry grades or increase available seats by 20% or more from the previous year.</li><li>• The State will provide \$12.6 million to magnet school operators from FY 2023 to FY 2025 to establish new extracurricular opportunities and provide or increase athletic offerings.<sup>110</sup></li></ul>

### Magnet School Enrollment by Operator and Operator Type

Table 6 below details the operators and types of operators for Connecticut's interdistrict and intradistrict magnet schools. The chart below also shows the number of magnet schools for each operator and the number of students enrolled by type of magnet school for a given operator.

**Table 6<sup>111</sup>**

<b>Magnet School Enrollment by School Type and Operator Type, 2023-24 School Year</b>					
<b>Operator</b>	<b>Operator Type</b>	<b>Interdistrict Schools</b>	<b>Intradistrict Schools</b>	<b>Interdistrict Enrollment</b>	<b>Intradistrict Enrollment</b>
ACES	RESC	3	0	1,117	0
C.E.S.	RESC	2	0	447	0
CREC	RESC	17	0	8,593	0
EASTCONN	RESC	2	0	267	0
LEARN	RESC	4	0	1,306	0
Goodwin University Educational Services	GUES	3	0	1,213	0
Bloomfield Public Schools	Host District	2	0	504	0
Bridgeport Public Schools	Host District	4	4	1,582	1,776
Bristol Public Schools	Host District	0	1	0	271
Danbury Public Schools	Host District	1	1	357	745
East Hartford Public Schools	Host District	1	1	188	322
East Haven Public Schools	Host District	0	1	0	357
Greenwich Public Schools	Host District	0	3	0	1,234
Groton Public Schools	Host District	0	5	0	2,135
Hartford Public Schools	Host District	21	0	8,468	0
New Haven Public Schools	Host District	15	7	7,014	2,994
New London Public Schools	Host District	7	0	1,970	0
Norwalk Public Schools	Host District	1	7	284	2,990
Norwich Public Schools	Host District	0	4	0	1,715
Stamford Public Schools	Host District	3	4	2,197	2,280
Waterbury Public Schools	Host District	3	1	2,030	216
West Hartford Public Schools	Host District	0	2	0	863
Windham Public Schools	Host District	1	0	554	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>38,091</b>	<b>17,898</b>

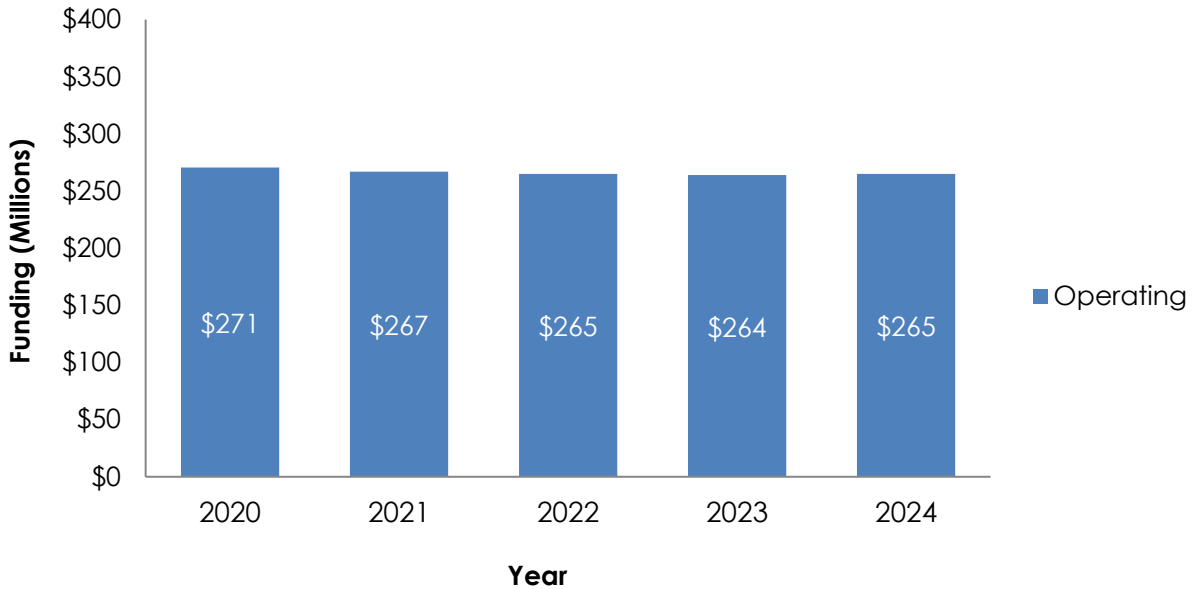


### Interdistrict Magnet School State Grant Payments by Type

Table 7 below details the total state grant expenditure for magnet school operating grants per year. From 2020 to 2024, spending on operating grants decreased by approximately two percent, which is largely a reflection of declining magnet school enrollment.

**Table 7<sup>112</sup>**

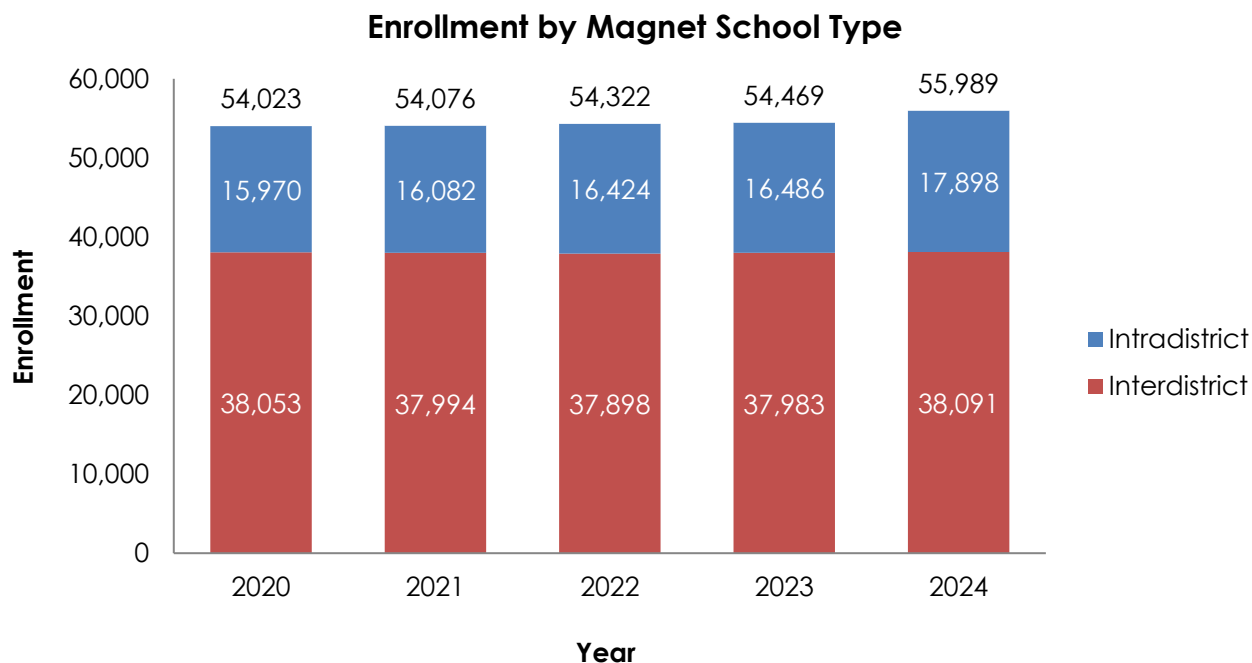
**Interdistrict Magnet School State Operating Grant Payments**



### Enrollment by Magnet School Type

Table 8 below details the number of students enrolled in interdistrict and intradistrict magnet schools per year. The number of students attending interdistrict and intradistrict magnet schools increased slightly from 2020 to 2024 with total enrollment increasing by approximately four percent. Specifically, interdistrict enrollment increased by approximately 0.1 percent and intradistrict enrollment increased by approximately 12 percent.

**Table 8<sup>13</sup>**



## Student Demographics

For the 2023-24 school year, 81 percent of the students attending Connecticut's magnet schools were identified as BIPOC,<sup>N</sup> while 19 percent were identified as white. Additionally, 15 percent of magnet school students required special education services; 13 percent were identified as multilingual learners; and 64 percent were classified as economically disadvantaged due to their eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch.<sup>114</sup> Below are the totals and percentages of magnet school students by demographic compared to the demographics of Connecticut's 512,652 public school students.

**Table 9: Magnet School Demographics Compared to All Connecticut Public School Students, 2023-24<sup>115</sup>**

Demographic	Total Magnet Students	Magnet School Percentage	Total Public School Students	State Percentage
White	10,600	19%	236,989	46%
BIPOC	45,389	81%	275,663	54%
Special Education	8,457	15%	91,847	18%
Multilingual Learner	7,337	13%	54,078	11%
Economically Disadvantaged	35,815	64%	225,363	44%

<sup>N</sup> The School and State Finance Project uses BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) to refer to individuals who self-identify as American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Black or African American; Hispanic/Latino of any race; Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander; or two or more races. Individual demographic categories and data used in this report come from the CSDE. The acronym BIPOC is used in an effort to be as inclusive, succinct, and accurate as possible when using racial and ethnic demographics in our work. However, we know no single acronym, identifier, or label can accurately define an individual or fully encompass the rich diversity of cultures, heritages, and backgrounds represented in the demographic data we use. For questions or comments about the demographic terms we use, please contact us at [info@schoolstatefinance.org](mailto:info@schoolstatefinance.org).

## Endnotes

---

- <sup>1</sup> Complaint, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, Superior Court, judicial district of Hartford/New Britain at Hartford (April 26, 1989).
- <sup>2</sup> *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1, 678 A.2d 1267 (1996).
- <sup>3</sup> Conn. Acts 97-290.
- <sup>4</sup> SchoolFunding.Info. (n.d.). Overview of Litigation History: Connecticut. New York, NY: Campaign for Educational Equity. Retrieved from <http://schoolfunding.info/litigation-map/connecticut/#1484004342539-fd26c596-a9c0>.
- <sup>5</sup> Stipulation and Order, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, Superior Court, judicial district of New Britain, Docket No. X03-89-042119S (January 22, 2003). Retrieved from <https://files.schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Resources/2003%20Sheff%20Stipulation.pdf>.
- <sup>6</sup> Motion for Order Enforcing Judgment and to Obtain a Court-Ordered Remedy, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, Superior Court, judicial district of Hartford, Docket No. HHD-X07-CV89-4026240-S (July 5, 2007).
- <sup>7</sup> Stipulation and Proposed Order, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, Superior Court, judicial district of Hartford, Docket No. HHD-X07-CV89-4026240-S (April 4, 2008). Retrieved from <https://files.schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Resources/2008%20Sheff%20Stipulation.pdf>.
- <sup>8</sup> Stipulation and Order, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, Superior Court, judicial district of Hartford, Docket No. HHD-X07-CV89-4026240-S (April 30, 2013). Retrieved from <https://files.schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Resources/2013%20April%2030%20Sheff%20Stipulation.pdf>.
- <sup>9</sup> Stipulation and Proposed Order, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, Superior Court, judicial district of Hartford, Docket No. HHD-X07-CV89-4026240-S (December 13, 2013). Retrieved from <https://files.schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Resources/2013%20December%2013%20Sheff%20Stipulation.pdf>.
- <sup>10</sup> Stipulation and Order, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, Superior Court, judicial district of Hartford, Docket No. HHD-X07-CV89-4026240-S (February 23, 2015). Retrieved from <https://files.schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Resources/2015%20Sheff%20Stipulation.pdf>.
- <sup>11</sup> Memorandum of Decision, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, judicial district of Hartford, Docket No. LND CV-17-5045066-S (August 7, 2017). Retrieved from <http://civiliquiry.jud.ct.gov/DocumentInquiry/DocumentInquiry.aspx?DocumentNo=12744315>.
- <sup>12</sup> Rabe Thomas, J., & Kara, J. (2017, June 16). Judge: Magnet schools cannot be made more segregated. *The Connecticut Mirror*. Retrieved from <https://ctmirror.org/2017/06/16/judge-magnet-schools-cannot-be-made-more-segregated/>.
- <sup>13</sup> Revised Stipulation and Order Correcting Typographical Errors, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, judicial district of Hartford, Docket No. LND CV-17-5045066-S (January 10, 2020). Retrieved from <https://files.schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Resources/2020%20Sheff%20Stipulation.pdf>.
- <sup>14</sup> Permanent Injunction, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, Superior Court, judicial district of Hartford, Docket No. HHD-CV17-S040566S (January 27, 2022). Retrieved from <https://files.schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Resources/Sheff%20Permanent%20Injunction.pdf>.
- <sup>15</sup> Connecticut State Department of Education. (n.d.). Public School Choice In Connecticut. Retrieved from <http://portal.ct.gov/SDE/School-Choice/CT-School-Choice/Public-School-Choice-in-Connecticut>.
- <sup>16</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264l.
- <sup>17</sup> *Ibid*.
- <sup>18</sup> Connecticut State Department of Education. (2024). EdSight - Enrollment Dashboard. Retrieved from [https://public-edsight.ct.gov/students/enrollment-dashboard?language=en\\_US](https://public-edsight.ct.gov/students/enrollment-dashboard?language=en_US).
- <sup>19</sup> *Ibid*.
- <sup>20</sup> *Ibid*.
- <sup>21</sup> *Ibid*.
- <sup>22</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264l.
- <sup>23</sup> Connecticut State Department of Education. (n.d.). What is School Choice? Laws/Regulations: Connecticut School Choice Laws. Retrieved from <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/School-Choice/What-is-School-Choice/Regulations>.
- <sup>24</sup> State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management. (n.d.). Statutes Governing Property Assessment and Taxation. Retrieved from <https://portal.ct.gov/opm/igpp/services-and-forms/statutes-governing-property-assessment-and-taxation>.
- <sup>25</sup> *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1, 678 A.2d 1267 (1996).
- <sup>26</sup> *Ibid*.
- <sup>27</sup> Conn. Acts 97-290.

- 
- <sup>28</sup> Complaint, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, Superior Court, judicial district of Hartford/New Britain at Hartford (April 26, 1989). Retrieved from <https://files.schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Resources/1989%20Sheff%20Complaint.pdf>.
- <sup>29</sup> *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1, 678 A.2d 1267 (1996).
- <sup>30</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264l.
- <sup>31</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 170, § 10-66c.
- <sup>32</sup> Connecticut State Department of Education. (2024). EdSight - Enrollment Dashboard. Retrieved from [https://public-edsight.ct.gov/students/enrollment-dashboard?language=en\\_US](https://public-edsight.ct.gov/students/enrollment-dashboard?language=en_US).
- <sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>35</sup> Conn. Acts 24-81.
- <sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>38</sup> Connecticut State Department of Education. (n.d.). Magnet Schools: FAQs. Retrieved from <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/School-Choice/CT-School-Choice/Interdistrict-Magnet-Schools/School-Choice-Programs/FAQ>.
- <sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>40</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264l.
- <sup>41</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, §§ 10-264l, 10-264o.
- <sup>42</sup> Conn. Acts 23-204.
- <sup>43</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264i.
- <sup>44</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264l.
- <sup>45</sup> Connecticut State Department of Education. (n.d.). Charter Schools: FAQs. Retrieved from <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Charter-Schools/Charter-Schools/FAQ>.
- <sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>47</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264l.
- <sup>48</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>50</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>51</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264q.
- <sup>52</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264l.
- <sup>53</sup> Norton, Keith M. (2023, June 28). *Memorandum to Interdistrict Magnet School Operators Outside the Greater Hartford Region. RE: Enrollment Policies for Interdistrict Magnet in non-Sheff Regions*. Hartford, CT: Connecticut State Department of Education. Retrieved from [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/strategic-planning/enrollment\\_policies\\_interdistrict\\_magnet\\_schools\\_and\\_open\\_choice\\_programs\\_non-sheff\\_region\\_2023-24.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/strategic-planning/enrollment_policies_interdistrict_magnet_schools_and_open_choice_programs_non-sheff_region_2023-24.pdf).
- <sup>54</sup> Norton, Keith M. (2024, August 5). *Memorandum to Interdistrict Magnet School Operators Outside the Greater Hartford Region. RE: Enrollment Policies for Interdistrict Magnet (IMS) and the Open Choice (OC) Program in the Sheff Regions*. Hartford, CT: Connecticut State Department of Education. Retrieved from [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/strategic-planning/2024-2\\_enrollment\\_policies\\_interdistrict\\_magnet\\_schools\\_and\\_open\\_choice\\_programs\\_sheff\\_region.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/strategic-planning/2024-2_enrollment_policies_interdistrict_magnet_schools_and_open_choice_programs_sheff_region.pdf).
- <sup>55</sup> Conn. Acts 23-204.
- <sup>56</sup> Conn. Acts 19-117.
- <sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>59</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264l.
- <sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>63</sup> Connecticut State Department of Education. (n.d.). Magnet Schools: FAQs. Retrieved from <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/School-Choice/CT-School-Choice/Interdistrict-Magnet-Schools/School-Choice-Programs/FAQ>.
- <sup>64</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>65</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264l.
- <sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>69</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264l, as amended by Conn. Acts 19-117 § 270.
- <sup>70</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264l.

- 
- <sup>71</sup> Conn. Acts 23-204.
- <sup>72</sup> Conn. Acts 24-81.
- <sup>73</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264l.
- <sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>75</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>76</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>77</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-286h.
- <sup>78</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264h.
- <sup>79</sup> Conn. Acts 12-120.
- <sup>80</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264i.
- <sup>81</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>82</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>83</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264l.
- <sup>84</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>85</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>86</sup> Conn. Acts 23-204.
- <sup>87</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>88</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264l.
- <sup>89</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>90</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>91</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264(m)(2).
- <sup>92</sup> Connecticut State Department of Education. (n.d.). Magnet Schools: FAQs. Retrieved from <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/School-Choice/CT-School-Choice/Interdistrict-Magnet-Schools/School-Choice-Programs/FAQ>.
- <sup>93</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>94</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, §§ 10-266a–266e.
- <sup>95</sup> Connecticut State Department of Education. (n.d.). Magnet Schools: FAQs. Retrieved from <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/School-Choice/CT-School-Choice/Interdistrict-Magnet-Schools/School-Choice-Programs/FAQ>.
- <sup>96</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>97</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264l.
- <sup>98</sup> Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-286h.
- <sup>99</sup> School and State Finance Project. (2024). *History of School Finance in Connecticut*. Hamden, CT: Author. Retrieved from <https://files.schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Reports/History%20of%20School%20Finance%20in%20Connecticut.pdf>.
- <sup>100</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>101</sup> Permanent Injunction, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, Superior Court, judicial district of Hartford, Docket No. HHD-CV17-S040566S (January 27, 2022). Retrieved from <https://files.schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Resources/Sheff%20Permanent%20Injunction.pdf>.
- <sup>102</sup> Stipulation and Order, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, Superior Court, judicial district of New Britain, Docket No. X03-89-042119S (January 22, 2003). Retrieved from <https://files.schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Resources/2003%20Sheff%20Stipulation.pdf>.
- <sup>103</sup> Stipulation and Proposed Order, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, Superior Court, judicial district of Hartford, Docket No. HHD-X07-CV89-4026240-S (April 4, 2008). Retrieved from <https://files.schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Resources/2008%20Sheff%20Stipulation.pdf>.
- <sup>104</sup> Stipulation and Order, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, Superior Court, judicial district of Hartford, Docket No. HHD-X07-CV89-4026240-S (April 30, 2013). Retrieved from <https://files.schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Resources/2013%20April%2030%20Sheff%20Stipulation.pdf>.
- <sup>105</sup> Stipulation and Proposed Order, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, Superior Court, judicial district of Hartford, Docket No. HHD-X07-CV89-4026240-S (December 13, 2013). Retrieved from <https://files.schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Resources/2013%20December%2013%20Sheff%20Stipulation.pdf>.
- <sup>106</sup> Stipulation and Order, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, Superior Court, judicial district of Hartford, Docket No. HHD-X07-CV89-4026240-S (February 23, 2015). Retrieved from <https://files.schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Resources/2015%20Sheff%20Stipulation.pdf>.
- <sup>107</sup> Memorandum of Decision, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, judicial district of Hartford, Docket No. LND CV-17-5045066-S (August 7, 2017). Retrieved from <http://civilinquiry.jud.ct.gov/DocumentInquiry/DocumentInquiry.aspx?DocumentNo=12744315>.

---

<sup>108</sup> Rabe Thomas, J., & Kara, J. (2017, June 16). Judge: Magnet schools cannot be made more segregated. *The Connecticut Mirror*. Retrieved from <https://ctmirror.org/2017/06/16/judge-magnet-schools-cannot-be-made-more-segregated/>.

<sup>109</sup> Revised Stipulation and Order Correcting Typographical Errors, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, judicial district of Hartford, Docket No. LND CV-17-5045066-S (January 10, 2020). Retrieved from <https://files.schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Resources/2020%20Sheff%20Stipulation.pdf>.

<sup>110</sup> Permanent Injunction, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, Superior Court, judicial district of Hartford, Docket No. HHD-CV17-S040566S (January 27, 2022). Retrieved from <https://files.schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Resources/Sheff%20Permanent%20Injunction.pdf>.

<sup>111</sup> Enrollment data provided to the School and State Finance Project by the Connecticut State Department of Education.

<sup>112</sup> Connecticut State Department of Education. (n.d.). Grant Payment Report. Available from <https://www.csde.state.ct.us/public/dgm/grantreports1/paydetlMain.aspx>.

<sup>113</sup> Connecticut State Department of Education. (2024). EdSight - Enrollment Dashboard. Retrieved from [https://public-edsight.ct.gov/students/enrollment-dashboard?language=en\\_US](https://public-edsight.ct.gov/students/enrollment-dashboard?language=en_US).

<sup>114</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>115</sup> *Ibid.*