

On May 2, 2026, the Connecticut General Assembly passed a new state budget for fiscal year (FY) 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 Agricultural Science and Technology Education (ASTE) program operators for FY 2027.²

Overview

- The new state budget provides a **one-time** supplemental grant of \$800,000 for ASTE programs.
 - While this increase in funding is not the result of an actual adjustment to the foundation level of the ASTE program grant, the increase does appear to be calculated **as if** the foundation amount were increased in line with the growth permitted under the State's spending cap. This would theoretically bring the foundation amount to \$12,210 per student for ASTE programs in FY 2027.
- In addition to the supplemental funding, a total of \$26,132,180 is appropriated to fund ASTE program operators in FY 2027. This is a decrease of \$163,552 compared to FY 2026 funding levels and reflects updated enrollment and demographic projections.
- 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 ASTE program operators.
 - For FY 2027, ASTE program operators will continue to receive their FY 2024 per-student state grant, plus 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.

¹ Conn. Acts 26-68 as amended by Conn. Acts 26-76 and amended further by Conn. Acts 26-130.

² For more information, please see: School and State Finance Project. (2026). Budget Snapshot: K-12 Education Funding in Revised State Budget for FY 2027. Southington, CT: Author. Retrieved from <https://schoolstatefinance.org/reports/k-12-education-funding-in-revised-state-budget-for-fy-2027>.

How were ASTE programs funded in FY 2026?³

- For FY 2026, ASTE program operators were appropriated \$26,295,732 in state funds.
- Out-of-district students attending ASTE programs were funded through an ECS-based state grant as well as tuition that was billed by the respective ASTE program operator to the student's resident town.
 - For each out-of-district student, ASTE operators received their FY 2024 per-student state grant (\$5,200), plus 42% of the difference between the full weighted funding amount of the student's resident town and the FY 2024 state grant amount.
 - The weighted funding amount was calculated for each sending district by multiplying the ECS formula's foundation amount (\$11,525) by the sending district's need-student count and then dividing this by the district's resident student count (see Appendix).
 - Tuition charged to sending districts was capped at 58% of the amount the ASTE operator charged in FY 2024.
- ASTE program operators were also “held harmless,” meaning they could receive no less than their FY 2024 state grant plus tuition per-student, or \$12,023 per student, in total.
- For in-district students, ASTE program operators received the same per-student state grant amount as they did in FY 2024 (\$5,200 per student).

How will ASTE programs be funded in FY 2027?

- The official funding calculation for ASTE operators remains unchanged for FY 2027.⁴
- An additional \$800,000 in supplemental funding will be provided for ASTE programs in FY 2027.
 - While the budget does not stipulate how this funding will be distributed, the supplemental grant appears to be based on increasing the foundation to \$12,210, or the growth permitted under the State's spending cap.
- The total appropriation for ASTE programs in FY 2027 is \$26,132,180. This does not include the one-time supplemental funds.
- ASTE operators continue to be held harmless at their FY 2024 per-student state grant amount (plus tuition for out-of-district students).

³ For more information on how ASTE programs were funded for FY 2026, please visit <https://schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Reports/Funding%20for%20AgriScience%20Programs%20in%20FYs%202026%20and%202027.pdf>.

⁴ Adjustments to funding levels are made based on updated need-student counts and enrollment data.

The per-student calculations on the following page illustrate sample funding scenarios for a student enrolled in an ASTE program operated by New Haven Public Schools in FY 2027.⁵ **These examples are not inclusive of the \$800,000 in one-time supplemental funds, as there is currently no information on how these funds will be distributed.**

⁵ This calculation is an estimated example. The Connecticut State Department of Education will calculate actual grant amounts. Hamden'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.

In-District Student (New Haven student attending a New Haven ASTE program)

State Per-Student
Grant
(\$5,200)

Out-of-District Student (Hamden student attending a New Haven ASTE program)

FY 2024 State Per-
Student Grant
\$5,200

+

42% of the difference between
the **Sending Town's Weighted
Funding Amount** and the
FY 2024 State Per-Student Grant
 $42\% * (\$13,463 - \$5,200)$
 $= \$3,470$

+

58% of FY 2024
Per-Student
Tuition
 $58\% * \$6,823$
 $= \$3,957$

=

FY 2027 Total Per-
Student Funding
\$12,627

Appendix

Weighted Per-Student Funding by Sending Town

The table below contains **estimated** weighted per-student funding amounts for use in calculating ASTE program state grants for FY 2027. Please note, these estimates are not the FY 2027 per-student state grant amounts for students from each town, as these amounts are being phased in above the current state grant amount as seen 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	\$12,626
Ansonia	\$14,035
Ashford	\$12,885
Avon	\$11,961
Barkhamsted	\$12,400
Beacon Falls	\$12,686
Berlin	\$12,509
Bethany	\$12,089
Bethel	\$13,070
Bethlehem	\$12,407
Bloomfield	\$13,377
Bolton	\$12,119
Bozrah	\$12,915
Branford	\$12,992
Bridgeport	\$16,008
Bridgewater	\$12,248
Bristol	\$13,529
Brookfield	\$12,501
Brooklyn	\$12,580
Burlington	\$12,016
Canaan	\$12,702
Canterbury	\$12,593
Canton	\$12,069
Chaplin	\$12,737
Cheshire	\$12,237
Chester	\$12,418
Clinton	\$13,245
Colchester	\$12,375

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
Colebrook	\$12,536
Columbia	\$12,319
Cornwall	\$12,672
Coventry	\$12,483
Cromwell	\$12,466
Danbury	\$14,514
Darien	\$11,636
Deep River	\$12,692
Derby	\$12,516
Durham	\$12,092
Eastford	\$12,172
East Granby	\$12,079
East Haddam	\$12,458
East Hampton	\$12,442
East Hartford	\$14,256
East Haven	\$14,006
East Lyme	\$12,572
Easton	\$11,956
East Windsor	\$13,501
Ellington	\$12,289
Enfield	\$13,274
Essex	\$12,440
Fairfield	\$12,226
Farmington	\$12,278
Franklin	\$12,274
Glastonbury	\$12,142
Goshen	\$12,442
Granby	\$12,044

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
Greenwich	\$12,344
Griswold	\$13,443
Groton	\$13,319
Guilford	\$12,021
Haddam	\$12,103
Hamden	\$13,463
Hampton	\$12,954
Hartford	\$15,720
Hartland	\$12,143
Harwinton	\$12,422
Hebron	\$12,160
Kent	\$12,651
Killingly	\$13,268
Killingworth	\$12,053
Lebanon	\$12,455
Ledyard	\$12,460
Lisbon	\$12,798
Litchfield	\$12,441
Lyme	\$12,073
Madison	\$11,726
Manchester	\$13,931
Mansfield	\$12,775
Marlborough	\$12,231
Meriden	\$15,078
Middlebury	\$12,124
Middlefield	\$12,241
Middletown	\$13,361
Milford	\$12,629
Monroe	\$12,075
Montville	\$13,217
Morris	\$12,731
Naugatuck	\$13,824
New Britain	\$14,893
New Canaan	\$11,543
New Fairfield	\$12,346
New Hartford	\$12,307
New Haven	\$15,251
Newington	\$13,014
New London	\$15,835
New Milford	\$13,079
Newtown	\$12,112

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
Norfolk	\$12,776
North Branford	\$12,349
North Canaan	\$13,176
North Haven	\$12,473
North Stonington	\$12,121
Norwalk	\$14,029
Norwich	\$15,129
Old Lyme	\$12,081
Old Saybrook	\$12,626
Orange	\$12,157
Oxford	\$12,198
Plainfield	\$13,474
Plainville	\$13,109
Plymouth	\$13,212
Pomfret	\$12,255
Portland	\$12,580
Preston	\$12,611
Prospect	\$12,305
Putnam	\$13,546
Redding	\$11,896
Ridgefield	\$11,839
Rocky Hill	\$12,617
Roxbury	\$12,100
Salem	\$12,376
Salisbury	\$12,434
Scotland	\$12,997
Seymour	\$13,418
Sharon	\$13,051
Shelton	\$12,980
Sherman	\$11,785
Simsbury	\$12,070
Somers	\$11,830
Southbury	\$12,049
Southington	\$12,550
South Windsor	\$12,368
Sprague	\$13,527
Stafford	\$12,768
Stamford	\$13,968
Sterling	\$12,886
Stonington	\$12,374
Stratford	\$13,608

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
Suffield	\$12,157
Thomaston	\$12,748
Thompson	\$13,257
Tolland	\$12,144
Torrington	\$14,265
Trumbull	\$12,373
Union	\$12,218
Vernon	\$13,621
Voluntown	\$12,864
Wallingford	\$12,896
Warren	\$12,287
Washington	\$12,703
Waterbury	\$14,969
Waterford	\$12,755
Watertown	\$13,058
Westbrook	\$13,195

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
West Hartford	\$12,698
West Haven	\$14,182
Weston	\$11,617
Westport	\$11,661
Wethersfield	\$12,746
Willington	\$12,602
Wilton	\$11,766
Winchester	\$13,687
Windham	\$15,372
Windsor	\$13,403
Windsor Locks	\$13,368
Wolcott	\$12,773
Woodbridge	\$12,123
Woodbury	\$12,217
Woodstock	\$12,233