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 Agricultural Science and Technology Education (ASTE) program operators for FYs 2026 and 2027.[2]

Overview

- The new state budget increases overall funding for ASTE programs in both FY 2026 and FY 2027. However, there is no change to the cap on general education tuition or to the phase-in of student-centered funding for ASTE programs operators.

- A total of $26,295,732 is appropriated to fund ASTE program operators in both FY 2026 and FY 2027.
    - This represents a $7,471,532 increase in both FY 2026 and 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.[3]

- 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.
    - 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.

- Districts that operate ASTE programs can now receive funding for minor capital improvement projects through the new District Repair and Improvement Project (DRIP) program[4] that passed as part of the biennial state bonding bill.[5]

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[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.

[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).

How were ASTE programs funded in FY 2025?[6]

- For FY 2025, ASTE program operators were appropriated $18,824,200 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 FYs 2026 and 2027?

- The total appropriation for ASTE programs in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 is $26,295,732.

- The funding calculation for ASTE program operators remains the same as FY 2025.[7]

- ASTE operators continue to be held harmless at their FY 2024 per-student state grant amount (plus tuition for out-of-district students).

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 2026.[8]

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[6] For more information on how ASTE programs were funded for 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 counts and enrollment data.
[8] 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% * ($13,372 - $5,200)
= $3,432

\+

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

=

FY 2026 Total Per-Student Funding
$12,590

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 2026. Please note that these estimates are not the FY 2026 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	Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
Andover	$12,563	Colebrook	$12,529
Ansonia	$14,011	Columbia	$12,335
Ashford	$12,878	Cornwall	$13,038
Avon	$11,988	Coventry	$12,496
Barkhamsted	$12,445	Cromwell	$12,598
Beacon Falls	$12,733	Danbury	$14,569
Berlin	$12,408	Darien	$11,649
Bethany	$12,122	Deep River	$12,737
Bethel	$12,932	Derby	$13,614
Bethlehem	$12,381	Durham	$12,114
Bloomfield	$13,508	Eastford	$12,388
Bolton	$12,214	East Granby	$12,152
Bozrah	$12,687	East Haddam	$12,470
Branford	$12,992	East Hampton	$12,362
Bridgeport	$15,932	East Hartford	$14,269
Bridgewater	$12,037	East Haven	$13,949
Bristol	$13,656	East Lyme	$12,555
Brookfield	$12,487	Easton	$11,895
Brooklyn	$12,721	East Windsor	$13,551
Burlington	$12,053	Ellington	$12,291
Canaan	$12,745	Enfield	$13,361
Canterbury	$12,665	Essex	$12,366
Canton	$12,081	Fairfield	$12,234
Chaplin	$13,101	Farmington	$12,313
Cheshire	$12,234	Franklin	$12,442
Chester	$12,507	Glastonbury	$12,152
Clinton	$13,325	Goshen	$12,400
Colchester	$12,450	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
Stratford	$13,573

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
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
Westbrook	$13,379

Sending Town	Weighted Per-Student Amount
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