

July 16, 2026

On May 2, 2026, the Connecticut General Assembly passed an adjusted 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 state charter schools for FY 2027.²

Overview

- The new state budget provides a **one-time** supplemental grant of \$8.7 million for state charter schools.
 - While this increase in funding is not the result of an actual adjustment to the foundation level of the state charter school 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 charter schools in FY 2027.
- In addition to the supplemental funding, a total of \$147,337,541 is appropriated to state charter schools in FY 2027. This is an increase of \$4,533,993 over FY 2026 funding levels and reflects updated enrollment and demographic projections.
- Included in this total amount is \$225,000 to provide planning grants to three new charter schools. OLAM charter school in Stamford, PROUD Academy in Ansonia, and the Taino CoLAB Academy in Waterbury will each receive a one-time \$75,000 planning grant.
- The FY 2027 state budget contains no policy changes to the weighted student funding formula for charter schools.
 - For FY 2027, charter schools will continue to receive the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) foundation amount — \$11,525 — per student plus 56.7% of the difference between the charter's weighted per-student entitlement and the ECS foundation amount.

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 state charter schools funded in FY 2026?³

- For FY 2026, the total appropriation for 22 state charter schools was \$142,803,548.
- 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 by multiplying the ECS foundation amount by the charter school's need-student count, then dividing this total by the school's approved enrollment.
 - Need student counts include: students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, 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 FY 2027?

- For FY 2027, charter school grant entitlements will be calculated the same way as in FY 2026.⁴
- An additional \$8.7 million in supplemental funding will be provided for charter schools.
 - While the budget does not stipulate how this funding will be distributed, the supplemental grant appears to be based on increasing the foundation amount to \$12,210, or by the growth permitted under the State's spending cap.
- The total appropriation for 25 state charter schools (inclusive of the \$225,000 in planning grants) in FY 2027 is \$147,337,541. This does not include the one-time supplemental funds.
 - For FY 2027, this represents a \$4,533,993 increase compared to the charter school line item in the FY 2026 budget. This increase is attributable to updated enrollment and demographic projections, as well as the three planning grants.
- The FY 2027 appropriation for charter schools includes \$75,000 each for planning grants to three proposed state charter schools: OLAM charter school in Stamford, PROUD Academy in Ansonia, and the Taino CoLAB Academy in Waterbury.

³ For more information on how state charter schools were funded in FY 2026, please visit <https://schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Reports/Funding%20for%20State%20Charter%20Schools%20in%20FYs%202026%20and%202027.pdf>.

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