

July 16, 2026

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 for FY 2027 that impact magnet schools operated by Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs) and magnet schools operated by the Goodwin University Magnet School System (GUMSS).²

Overview

- The new state budget provides a **one-time** supplemental grant of \$5.55 million for magnet schools operated by RESCs and GUMSS.
 - While this increase in funding is not the result of an actual adjustment to the foundation level of the magnet 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 magnet schools in FY 2027.
- The new budget eliminates \$5.59 million of the additional, one-time \$12 million in funding that was previously appropriated for RESCs for FY 2027 as part of the biennial state budget passed in 2025.
- The FY 2027 budget also appropriates an additional \$500,000 for GUMSS.
- In addition to the supplemental funding, a total of \$339,255,603 is appropriated to fund all magnet schools in FY 2027.³ This is an increase of \$16,329,663 over FY 2026 funding levels and reflects updated enrollment and demographic projections, as well as the additional \$500,000 for GUMSS, and the one-time increase of \$6,410,000 (reduced from the \$12 million previously allocated in the biennial budget passed in 2025.)
- There are no policy changes to the calculation of general education tuition for students attending magnet schools, 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 RESC magnet schools and GUMSS.
 - For FY 2027, magnet school operators will continue to receive their FY 2024 per-student state grant, plus 42% of the difference between the sending

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>.

³ The figures represent the sums of the appropriated amounts to fund BOE-operated and RESC-operated magnet schools, as well as magnet schools operated by GUMSS.

town's full weighted per-student funding amount and the operator's FY 2024 per-student state grant.

- Statute still stipulates that RESC magnet schools and GUMSS will continue to receive no less than their FY 2024 state aid, plus tuition, per student. This does not include the funds from the one-time supplemental grant.

How were RESC magnet schools and GUMSS funded in FY 2026?⁴

- The total appropriation for all magnet schools in FY 2026 was \$322,925,940.
- In FY 2026, students who attended RESC-operated and GUMSS-operated magnet schools were funded through the support of a state grant as well as tuition that was billed by the operators to the local district in the town where the student resided.
- RESC-magnet school operators and GUMSS received a per-student state grant equal to the per-student state grant they received in FY 2024, plus 42% of the difference between the weighted funding amount (based on the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula) of the magnet school student's resident town (also known as the sending town) and the operator's FY 2024 per-student state grant.
- For each student they educated, RESC magnet school operators and GUMSS also received general education tuition from the student's sending district. Per-student tuition costs were equal to 58% of the per-student tuition amount the magnet operator charged sending districts in FY 2024.
- Additionally, a hold-harmless provision was also in place to ensure no RESC magnet school operator or GUMSS received less than their FY 2024 state grant, plus tuition, per student.

How will RESC magnet schools and GUMSS be funded in FY 2027?

- The official funding calculation for RESC magnet schools and GUMSS remains unchanged for FY 2027.⁵
- An additional \$5.55 million in supplemental funding will be provided for magnet schools operated by RESCs and GUMSS 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 amount to \$12,210, or the growth permitted under the State's spending cap.

⁴ For more information on how RESC magnet schools and GUMSS were funded in FY 2026, please visit <https://schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Reports/Funding%20for%20RESC%20Magnet%20Schools%20in%20FYs%202026%20and%202027.pdf>.

⁵ Calculations are adjusted in each fiscal year to reflect updated student counts and other relevant enrollment data.

- A total of \$339,255,603 is appropriated to fund all magnet schools in FY 2027.⁶ This does not include the one-time supplemental funds.
 - The FY 2027 appropriation includes a one-time \$6,410,000 investment for RESC magnet schools that is to be distributed proportionally based on enrollment.
 - The FY 2027 appropriation also includes an additional \$500,000 for GUMSS.

The following examples illustrate per-student funding scenarios for FY 2027 for a student attending a RESC-operated magnet school in the *Sheff* region⁷ and a student attending a RESC-operated magnet school outside of the *Sheff* region. In both examples, the *Sheff* and non-*Sheff* RESCs charged \$5,840 per student in tuition in FY 2024, which is capped in subsequent years. **These examples are not inclusive of the \$5.55 million in one-time supplemental funds, as there is currently no information on how these funds will be distributed.**

Non-Sheff RESC

RESC magnets receive weighted per-student funding partially based on the need characteristics of enrolled students. Table 1 below details the calculation for the weighted per-student amount for a hypothetical RESC operating outside the *Sheff* region.

Table 1: Example Weighted Per-Student Calculation for a Non-Sheff RESC

Example Non-Sheff RESC	Data	Weighted Students
Enrollment	1,000	1,000
FRPL Count (Weighted at 30%)	700	210
FRPL Percentage (Weighted at 15% for students above a FRPL percentage of 60%)	70%	15
Multilingual Learner Count (Weighted at 25%)	150	37.5
Need Student Count		= 1,263
Weighted Funding (Need Students * Foundation)		= \$14,550,313
Initial Weighted Per Student Grant (Weighted Funding / Enrollment)		= \$14,550
FY 2027 Phased-In Weighted Per-Student Grant (FY 2024 State Grant + 42% of the difference between FY 2024 State Grant and Initial Weighted Per-Student Grant)		= \$8,058 + 42% * (\$14,550 - \$8,058) = \$10,785

⁶ The figures represent the sums of the appropriated amounts to fund BOE-operated and RESC-operated magnet schools, as well as magnet schools operated by GUMSS.

⁷ The only operators in the *Sheff* region that currently fall into this category are Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) and GUMSS.

The table on the prior page detailing a per-student state grant for a RESC outside of the *Sheff* region fits into the calculation of total per student funding below. In this example, the RESC charged \$5,840 per student in tuition in FY 2024, which is capped in subsequent years. **These examples are not inclusive of the \$5.55 million in one-time supplemental funds, as there is currently no information on how these funds will be distributed.**

FY 2024 State Per-Student Grant \$8,058	+	42% of the difference between the weighted funding amount and the FY 2024 per-student grant $42\% * (\$14,550 - \$8,058)$ $= \$2,727$	+	58% of FY 2024 per-student tuition $58\% * \$5,840 = \$3,387$
=				
FY 2027 total per-student funding \$14,172				

Sheff RESC

The table and graphic below similarly show an example calculation for a RESC operating in the *Sheff* region. In this example, the RESC charged \$5,840 per student in tuition in FY 2024, which is capped in subsequent years.

Table 2: Example Weighted Per-Student Calculation for a *Sheff* RESC

Example <i>Sheff</i> RESC	Data	Weighted Students
Enrollment	1,000	1,000
FRPL Count <i>(Weighted at 30%)</i>	700	210
FRPL Percentage <i>(Weighted at 15% for students above a FRPL percentage of 60%)</i>	70%	15
Multilingual Learner Count <i>(Weighted at 25%)</i>	150	37.5
Sheff Student Count <i>(Weighted at 30%)</i>	1,000	300
Need Student Count		= 1,563
Weighted Funding <i>(Need Students * Foundation)</i>		= \$18,007,813
Initial Weighted Per Student Grant <i>(Weighted Funding / Enrollment)</i>		= \$18,008
FY 2027 Phased-In Weighted Per-Student Grant <i>(FY 2024 State Grant + 42% of the difference between FY 2024 State Grant and Initial Weighted Per-Student Grant)</i>		= \$10,652 + 42% * (\$18,008 - \$10,652) = \$13,741

The table on the prior page detailing a per-student state grant for a *Sheff* RESC fits into the calculation of total per student funding below. In this example, the RESC charged \$5,840 per student in tuition in FY 2024, which is capped in subsequent years.

FY 2024 State Per-Student Grant \$10,652	+	<u>42%</u> of the difference between the weighted funding amount and the FY 2024 per-student grant 42% * (\$18,008 - \$10,652) = \$3,090	+	<u>58%</u> of FY 2024 per-student tuition 58% * \$5,840 = \$3,387
=				
FY 2027 total per-student funding \$17,129				