

June 10, 2025

On June 3, 2025, the Connecticut General Assembly passed a new state budget for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.<sup>1</sup> 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 FYs 2026 and 2027 that impact magnet schools operated by Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs) and magnet schools operated by the Goodwin University Magnet School System (GUMSS).<sup>2</sup>

## Overview

- The new state budget increases overall funding for RESC magnet schools and GUMSS for both FY 2026 and FY 2027.
- A total of \$322,925,940 is appropriated to fund all magnet schools in FY 2026, and \$344,345,603 is appropriated in FY 2027.<sup>3</sup>
  - This represents a \$49,441,675 increase in FY 2026 and a \$70,861,338 increase in 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.<sup>4</sup>
- There are no policy changes to the calculation of general education tuition for 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 RESC magnet schools and GUMSS.
  - 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.
  - RESC magnet schools and GUMSS will continue to receive no less than their FY 2024 state aid, plus tuition, per student.
- RESC magnet schools and GUMSS can now receive funding for minor capital improvement projects through the new District Repair and Improvement Project (DRIP) program<sup>5</sup> that passed as part of the biennial state bonding bill.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> 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%20Education%20Funding%20Snapshot.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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](https://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa/Documents/year/PROJ/2025PROJ-20250528_May%2028,%202025%20Expenditure%20Detail.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> For more information on the DRIP program, please visit <https://linktr.ee/DRIPprogram>.

<sup>6</sup> 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).

- Beginning in FY 2026, RESCs in the *Sheff* region and GUMSS will receive a *Sheff* magnet school transportation grant, equal to the “reasonable” cost of transportation, which will eliminate the per-student calculations and supplemental grant received in prior years.
- Under the adopted state budget, EASTCONN will receive an additional \$3 million in one-time aid in FY 2027 and EdAdvance will receive \$900,000 in FY 2027.

### **How were RESC magnet schools and GUMSS funded in FY 2025?<sup>7</sup>**

- The total appropriation for all magnet schools in FY 2025 was \$287,484,265.
- In FY 2025, students who attended RESC-operated magnet schools were funded through the support of a state grant as well as tuition that was billed by the RESC 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 no less than their FY 2024 state grant, plus tuition, per student.

### **How will RESC magnet schools and GUMSS be funded in FYs 2026 and 2027?**

- The funding formula for RESC magnet schools and GUMSS remains unchanged for FYs 2026 and 2027.<sup>8</sup>
- A total of \$322,925,940 is appropriated to fund all magnet schools in FY 2026, and \$344,345,603 is appropriated in FY 2027.<sup>9</sup>
  - The FY 2027 appropriation includes a one-time \$12 million investment for RESC magnet schools and to be distributed proportionally based on enrollment.

<sup>7</sup> For more information on how RESC magnet schools and GUMSS were funded in FY 2025, please visit <https://files.schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Reports/Funding%20for%20RESC%20Magnet%20Schools%20in%20FY%202025.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> Calculations are adjusted in each fiscal year to reflect updated student counts and other relevant enrollment data.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

The following examples illustrate per-student funding scenarios for FY 2026 for student attending a RESC-operated magnet school in the *Sheff* region<sup>10</sup> 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.

### 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<br><i>(Weighted at 30%)</i>   | 700   | 210  |
| FRPL Percentage<br><i>(Weighted at 15% for students above a FRPL percentage of 60%)</i>  | 70%   | 15   |
| Multilingual Learner Count<br><i>(Weighted at 25%)</i>   | 150   | 37.5   |
| <b>Need Student Count</b>  |       | <b>= 1,263</b>   |
| <b>Weighted Funding</b><br><i>(Need Students * Foundation)</i>   |       | <b>= \$14,550,313</b>                                    |
| <b>Initial Weighted Per Student Grant</b><br><i>(Weighted Funding / Enrollment)</i>  |       | <b>= \$14,550</b>  |
| <b>FY 2026 Phased-In Weighted Per-Student Grant</b><br><i>(FY 2024 State Grant + 42% of the difference between FY 2024 State Grant and Initial Weighted Per-Student Grant)</i> |       | <b>= \$8,058 + 42% * (\$14,550 - \$8,058) = \$10,785</b> |

<sup>10</sup> 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.

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| FY 2024 State Per-Student Grant<br>\$8,058    | + | <b>42%</b> of the difference between the <b>weighted funding amount</b> and the FY 2024 per-student grant<br>$42\% * (\$14,550 - \$8,058)$<br>$= \$2,727$ | + | <b>58%</b> of FY 2024 per-student tuition<br>$58\% * \$5,840 = \$3,387$ |
| =   |   |   |   |   |
| FY 2026 total per-student funding<br>\$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<br><i>(Weighted at 30%)</i>   | 700   | 210  |
| FRPL Percentage<br><i>(Weighted at 15% for students above a FRPL percentage of 60%)</i>  | 70%   | 15   |
| Multilingual Learner Count<br><i>(Weighted at 25%)</i>   | 150   | 37.5   |
| <b>Sheff Student Count</b><br><i>(Weighted at 30%)</i>   | 1,000 | 300  |
| <b>Need Student Count</b>  |       | <b>= 1,563</b>   |
| <b>Weighted Funding</b><br><i>(Need Students * Foundation)</i>   |       | <b>= \$18,007,813</b>                                      |
| <b>Initial Weighted Per Student Grant</b><br><i>(Weighted Funding / Enrollment)</i>  |       | <b>= \$18,008</b>  |
| <b>FY 2026 Phased-In Weighted Per-Student Grant</b><br><i>(FY 2024 State Grant + 42% of the difference between FY 2024 State Grant and Initial Weighted Per-Student Grant)</i> |       | <b>= \$10,652 + 42% * (\$18,008 - \$10,652) = \$13,741</b> |

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<br>\$10,652 | + | <b>42%</b> of the difference between the <b>weighted funding amount</b> and the FY 2024 per-student grant<br>$42\% * (\$18,008 - \$10,652)$<br>$= \$3,090$ | + | <b>58%</b> of FY 2024 per-student tuition<br>$58\% * \$5,840 = \$3,387$ |
| =   |   | FY 2026 total per-student funding<br>\$17,129  |   |   |