

November 14, 2025

On November 12, 2025, the Connecticut General Assembly convened a special legislative session to consider four pieces of legislation related to healthcare, housing affordability and growth, immigration enforcement, and fiscal adjustments in response to reductions in federal funding.¹ While not one of the primary focuses of the special session, several policy changes to K-12 public school funding were included in special session legislation that impact students, schools, and communities.

A special session is a temporary convening of the Connecticut General Assembly to consider urgent or time-sensitive legislation.

- On November 7, 2025, Governor Ned Lamont called the legislature to meet in special session to address specific topics.
- Bills are introduced, reviewed, and debated in both chambers of the General Assembly.
- After its passage in both chambers, a bill is sent to the governor, who will sign it into law, veto it, veto specific line items (if applicable), or let it go into effect without signing.

K-12 Education Policies Enacted During the Special Session

- **School districts in municipalities that meet certain housing and planning requirements will be eligible for higher reimbursement rates for school construction projects.²**
 - Local and regional boards of education, as well as endowed academies, in eligible municipalities will receive a 5-percentage point increase in their school construction reimbursement rate starting in 2026.
 - To qualify, a municipality must meet at least one of the following conditions:
 1. Comply with the housing growth planning requirements in H.B. 8002 (November 2025 Special Session) and demonstrate steps taken to implement its housing growth policies;
 2. Be designated a transit-oriented community (as defined in H.B. 8002) by adopting zoning regulations creating a transit-oriented district around transit stations; or
 3. Establish a development district with the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority.

¹ State of Connecticut, Office of the Governor. (2025, November 7). *Governor Lamont Calls Legislature Into Special Session To Consider Proposals on Reducing Costs for Working Families, Building More Housing, and Revitalizing Waterbury Hospital* [Press release]. Retrieved from <https://portal.ct.gov/governor/news/press-releases/2025/11-2025/governor-lamont-calls-legislature-into-special-session>.

² Section 46 of H.B. 8002: An Act Concerning Housing Growth. Gen. Assembly. (Ct. 2025 (November Special Session)). https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2025&bill_num=8002

- **The Open Choice Voucher pilot program is re-established to expand access to eligible families participating in the Open Choice program.³**
 - The program will provide 20 Rental Assistance Program (RAP) certificates over a two-year period (10 vouchers each for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years) to families who qualify as low-income under the RAP, have participated in the Open Choice program for at least one year, and would like to move to the town where their child is attending a school through the Open Choice program.
 - The pilot program previously applied only to families in the Hartford region but will now be available to any family with a student participating in the Open Choice program.
- **To address the impact of reduced federal funding, \$500 million from the state's Budget Reserve Fund is appropriated to maintain essential programs and services, including school meals.⁴**
 - Funding will be used to respond to, and mitigate, actions by the federal government resulting in reduced funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC); the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); healthcare; school meals; childcare assistance; or housing assistance.
 - There are no details within the legislation clarifying how much funding will be allocated to each program.

³ Section 29 of H.B. 8002: An Act Concerning Housing Growth. Gen. Assembly. (Ct. 2025 (November Special Session)). https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2025&bill_num=8002

⁴ H.B. 8003: An Act Concerning Temporary Adjustments to the Budget Reserve Fund and Appropriating Funds to Address Reductions in Federal Funding. https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2025&bill_num=8003