

KEY COMPONENTS

- **Protects \$150 million investment** in K-12 education for FY 2025
- **Fully funds Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grants**, effective FY 2026
- **Expands ECS weighted funding to students attending public schools of choice** (magnet schools, charter schools, AgriScience programs, and the Open Choice program) while protecting funding for local public schools
- **Saves districts tens of millions of dollars** by phasing out general education tuition billing for magnet school operators and AgriScience programs

WHY CONNECTICUT NEEDS STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING NOW

- **Helps Bridge the “Fiscal Cliff”**: Federal COVID-relief dollars will soon expire, but the pandemic's impacts on student learning and mental health will last long after these funds are gone.
 - **Greater state support is critical** to ensuring students have access to the teachers, tutors, programming, and resources they need to be successful in the classroom and beyond.
- **Responds to Crisis of Growing Student Needs**: The learning needs of Connecticut's students continue to grow significantly and **necessitate greater funding**. In the past year, the number of students considered low-income has increased by over 8,000 and the number of multilingual learners has grown by over 10% (4,500 students).
 - Students also continue to experience **increased mental health challenges and high levels of distress** after the pandemic. More mental health supports and school resources are needed to help students facing these hurdles.
- **Reduces Economic & Racial Funding Disparities**: Significantly cuts the **\$550 million racial gap** in Connecticut education funding, which continues to limit opportunities for economically-disadvantaged students and students of color.
- **Invests in Connecticut's Future**: Makes historic investment in education funding, which **research has repeatedly shown improves student outcomes**, including:
 - Higher test scores, graduation rates, and academic achievement;
 - Higher earnings for life; and
 - Reductions in adult poverty.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING

- **Contact your state legislators** and tell them why student-centered funding is important to your community, and urge them to support the proposal.
- **Get your superintendent, board of education, and local municipal officials** to publicly advocate for student-centered funding.
- **Tell your friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers about student-centered funding** and ask them to contact their state legislators to support the proposal and investments in K-12 education.