

## Introduction

In designing a statewide school finance system for Connecticut, one of the most challenging considerations is how to fund schools of choice fairly. In particular, charter and magnet school programs have expanded rapidly over the past two decades,<sup>1,2</sup> increasing the total cost of these programs. Discussions regarding the funding of schools of choice have become increasingly politicized and controversial. Frequently, schools of choice are characterized as being in competition with local school districts for funding.

In order to implement a single, fair, unified formula to fund Connecticut's schools, local contributions to schools of choice must be considered, as fully funding all schools of choice with state aid alone would significantly increase costs to the state. This policy brief explores how the comparison states of Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island fund schools of choice, and how, and to what extent, local school districts and municipalities contribute funds to support choice programs.

## Connecticut's Current System

Connecticut currently uses more than 10 different school funding formulas that are based on school-type. However, there are four basic types of funding systems for choice schools. Fully funded from the state budget are the Connecticut Technical High School System and state charter schools. Funded through a combination of state funds and tuition payments from sending school districts are RESC-operated magnet schools. Funded through local district budgets with state subsidies are some district-operated (host) magnet schools, local charter schools, and the Open Choice program. Funded through local district budgets, state subsidies, and tuition payments from sending districts are the balance of host magnet schools as well as regional agriscience centers. This system of funding schools is not only confusing but also unfair as it leads to highly variable per-pupil expenditures that depend on the type of school a student attends.

## Delaware

### **Local Contributions to Charter Schools**

School districts in Delaware must pay for their resident students to attend charter schools. Each district pays to the charter school where the student is enrolled the resident district's cost-per-student, less the expenses incurred for transporting that student. In the case of special education students, the district must pay the local cost-per-special education student to the charter school. If local funding accounts for 20 percent or less of the district's budget, the district may pay a portion of their local share to the charter school from its state Division III equalization aid grant.<sup>3</sup>

The Delaware Department of Education annually calculates the local cost-per-student for each school district, based on the district's expenditures for the preceding year. The per-pupil cost is adjusted by a factor set annually by the legislature that is designed to ensure the charter school is funded at a level reasonably equivalent to the current year's local cost-per-student.<sup>4</sup> If the parent or guardian moves to a different district of residence, the child's first district of residence remains responsible for the local portion of the cost of attending the charter school for the balance of the school year.<sup>5</sup>

If a special education student attending a charter school is determined to need an intensive or complex unit or requires a private special education placement, the district of residence remains financially responsible for the student, and reimburses the charter school for the costs associated with providing a program of special education for that student.<sup>6</sup>

### **State Contributions to Charter Schools**

Charter schools in Delaware are funded through a combination of state and local funds. Delaware uses a resource-based formula to fund its public schools, and separates the types of aid into divisions. Charter schools are eligible for state funding under Division I - staffing (except for a superintendent); Division II - energy, minor capital improvements and school building maintenance; and Division III - equalization aid. For the purposes of minor capital improvements, charter schools are treated as vocational technical school districts. For the purposes of equalization aid, charter schools receive the weighted, per-unit values that would have been generated by its students had they been enrolled in their local school district of residence.<sup>7</sup>

In addition, charter schools receive a prorated portion of any other funds that are appropriated to the Delaware Department of Education, which are intended to be allocated on a per-pupil, per-employee, or per-school basis. For the purposes of calculating these types of payments, the charter school student is included in a separate unit count of the charter school, and is removed from the student count of the district. A charter school may negotiate with the school district in which it is located to use partially-funded units to purchase centralized custodial, administrative, clerical, teaching or other educational services. If there is no such agreement with the district, then payment based on the average state cost-per-unit is split between the charter and the district.<sup>8</sup>

Charter schools may use state and local funds for current operations, minor capital improvements, debt service payments, or tuition payments. However, if a charter school receives state or local funding specifically to support extra instructional time, professional development, driver education, or disciplinary programs, the charter school must provide those services.<sup>9</sup>

### ***Facilities and Start-Up Costs for Charter Schools***

Delaware does not provide facilities for charter schools, but charters are eligible for the same access to conduit bond funding as any other nonprofit organization. In addition, the Delaware Department of Education and the Delaware Office of Management and Budget publish a list, on an annual basis, of vacant state and district spaces and buildings that would be suitable for the operation of a charter school.<sup>10</sup>

The Delaware Department of Education administers a “Charter School Performance Fund” which provides competitive grants for schools with a proven track record of success, as measured by a performance framework established by the charter school’s authorizer. These funds are subject to appropriations, and are not to exceed \$5 million in a given year. High-quality plans for start-up or expansion are prioritized, followed by charters that plan to serve high-needs students.<sup>11</sup>

### ***Teacher Benefits and Retirement***

Charter schools may choose to participate in the state teachers’ retirement system, or may select another retirement system of their choice.<sup>12</sup>

### ***County Vocational Technical School District***

Vocational schools are countywide programs and are included with local district schools in Delaware’s state aid formula.<sup>13</sup> Under the Division II unit-based appropriation, programs of occupational-vocational education are calculated separately from local public schools. However, vocational high schools are authorized to levy and collect taxes to finance their educational programs. The tax rates vary by county and range from \$0.14 per \$100.00 of real property value to \$0.30 per \$100.00. Vocational schools may not charge tuition to families.<sup>14</sup> The tax levy is then considered in the “school district effort” calculation for Division III state equalization aid.

### ***Interdistrict Choice Programs***

Delaware operates an interdistrict choice program for the purposes of reducing racial isolation. Students enrolled in a school outside their resident district are included in the receiving district’s unit count for the allocation of state and federal funds. The resident district must pay to the receiving district the lower of the local shares of two districts, as calculated annually by the Delaware Department of Education and adjusted by an inflation factor.<sup>15</sup>

If the resident district has a higher per-pupil expenditure than the receiving district, the positive difference between the local shares is deposited into a “School Choice Fund.” The full amount contained in the School Choice Fund is then annually redistributed to all receiving districts that had a higher per-pupil expenditure rate than the sending districts on a prorated basis. This is so the funding gap is closed by an equal percentage in

each underfunded receiving district. The State further subsidizes this funding gap through a portion of Division III equalization aid.<sup>16</sup>

### ***Transportation to Choice Programs***

School districts are responsible for transporting resident students to charter schools located within their boundaries. Charter schools may request that the district provide transportation to resident students on the same basis that is offered to students attending district schools, or they may choose to receive a state payment of 70 percent of the average cost of transportation within the vocational district that the charter school is located. If the charter school chooses state reimbursement, it becomes responsible for transporting its students. If a charter school does not rely on the school district for transportation, it must publicly bid its student transportation contract. If the contract is less than 70 percent of the average cost of transportation within the charter school's vocational district, the state will reimburse the charter school for the actual costs of transportation.<sup>17</sup> Vocational school districts are responsible for transporting all students within their region.<sup>18</sup>

Parents are responsible for the transportation of students to charter schools located outside of the district.<sup>19</sup> Parents are also responsible for the transportation of students participating in the interdistrict choice program to and from a point on the regular bus route of the receiving district.<sup>20</sup>

## Maryland

### **State and Local Contributions to Charter Schools**

Charter schools in Maryland are funded with a combination of state and local funds. State and federal funds are allocated to the county school district based on formula or entitlement, and then the district disburses the federal, state, and local share of funding to the charter school.<sup>21</sup> Per statute, the county board of education must “disburse to a public charter school an amount of county, state and federal money for elementary, middle and secondary schools that is commensurate with the amount disbursed to other public schools in the local jurisdiction.”<sup>22</sup> There is no statutory formula by which county school districts must calculate what is a “commensurate” level of funding. The Maryland State Board of Education determined the per-pupil calculation should be the school system’s total operating revenue, less debt service and adult education, divided by the district’s total student enrollment, and then reduced by two percent for administrative costs borne by the district.<sup>23</sup>

In Maryland, a charter school is authorized by the school district that hosts it.<sup>24</sup> Because of this decentralized approach, each district has a unique perspective on, and relationship with, the charters it authorizes. Each individual district creates its own procedures for calculating per-pupil funding, within these basic guidelines. In-kind and centralized services provided by the district are often deducted from payments to charter schools. This method of funding charter schools creates a lack of transparency when attempting to compare the levels of charter school funding between districts.<sup>25</sup>

### **Facilities and Startup Costs**

Charter schools in Maryland are not provided with funding for facilities or reimbursement for capital construction, and charter schools use operating funds to lease or finance school buildings.<sup>26</sup> There are competitive grant funds available through the Federal Charter School Grant program, managed by the Maryland State Department of education, for the pre-planning, planning, design, and implementation phases of charter school operation.<sup>27</sup>

### **Charter School Teacher Benefits and Retirement**

Employees of charter schools in Maryland are considered public school employees of the district in which the charter school is located. If a collective bargaining agreement is in place in the district, charter school teachers are subject to this agreement unless the school and the union mutually agree to negotiate amendments to the bargaining agreement, and the amended agreement is approved by the county school board.<sup>28</sup>

### **Transportation of Charter School Students**

Students attending charter schools are entitled to receive all the same services that are provided to students attending district schools in the district where the charter is located. This includes transportation, but the terms of the provision of transportation to charter students are outlined in the Charter Agreement and, as a result, vary by school. Transportation of special education students must be provided by the district in accordance with the student’s Individual Education Plan.<sup>29</sup>

### **Other Types of Choice Schools**

Maryland operates the Maryland School for the Blind, for which the costs of educating a student are shared by the state and the district.<sup>30</sup> It also operates a School for the Deaf, which is entirely state-funded.<sup>31</sup> Maryland provides categorical funding for Career and Technology Education, but the primary funding mechanism for these schools is the same as local district schools.<sup>32</sup>

## Massachusetts

### **State and Local Contributions to Charter Schools**

Massachusetts operates two types of charter schools: Commonwealth Charters, which are authorized by the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; and Horace Mann Charter Schools, which are authorized by the local school committee and the local collective bargaining unit in the district in which the charter school is located.<sup>33</sup> All final charters are granted by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.<sup>34</sup> Both types of charter schools in Massachusetts receive both state and local funding, but the ways their budgets are determined are different.

Commonwealth charter schools are funded through a formula that is modeled on the state's main formula for distributing aid to school districts, known as Chapter 70.<sup>35</sup> The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education determines charter school tuition through the sum of three rate calculations: the foundation budget rate, the above foundation rate, and the facilities aid rate.<sup>36</sup> Tuition amounts for each sending district are designed to reflect the district's per-pupil expenditures if the charter school student were to attend a local district school.<sup>37</sup> Thus, the charter school's foundation budget is the sum of the foundation budgets of each sending district.<sup>38</sup> Charter school tuition is deducted by the state treasurer from the district's total Chapter 70 aid. If in a single local school district, the total charter school tuition is greater than the district's state aid, the excess amount is deducted from other aid appropriated to the town or city.<sup>39</sup>

In the case of Horace Mann Charter Schools, the board of trustees of the charter school submits an annual budget request to the superintendent of the host district. The local school committee then acts on the budget request in conjunction with the overall district budget. The charter school is entitled to the same amount of funding as district schools under the district's normal budgetary rules. However, once the funds are appropriated, the charter school may spend them without consulting the school committee or superintendent.<sup>40</sup>

The primary mechanism to provide state support to charter schools is through the provision of Chapter 70 aid to districts.<sup>41</sup>

### **Transitional Aid to Districts to Offset the Cost of Charter School Tuition**

The state provides transitional funding for local school districts to offset budget decreases due to students leaving the district to attend charter schools.<sup>42</sup> This aid is provided when a district's total charter school tuition amount is greater than in the previous year, and is currently reimbursed at 100 percent of the increase in the year in which the increase occurs, and 25 percent of the increase in the following years 2-6.<sup>43</sup>

### **Choice School Facilities and Startup Costs**

The state pays for the per-pupil capital cost portion of the foundation budget amount, which has been set at \$893 since 2009. This amount is subject to available appropriations, but the state has consistently appropriated 100 percent of the capital cost portion.<sup>44</sup> Massachusetts does not currently offer funding for startup costs of charter schools.<sup>45</sup> Categorical grants are available to magnet schools for the costs of planning,

construction, reconstruction, enlargement, rehabilitation, or other facility improvements not to exceed 75 percent of the total project cost.<sup>46</sup>

### ***Teacher Benefits and Retirement***

Commonwealth Charter Schools are required to participate in the state teacher retirement system.<sup>47</sup> Teachers at Horace Mann Charter Schools are provided benefits in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement of the host district.<sup>48</sup> Employees of independent technical schools are considered state employees.<sup>49</sup>

### ***Transportation to Choice Programs***

Local districts are responsible for the transportation of resident students to charter<sup>50</sup> and magnet schools<sup>51</sup> located in their boundaries, and the state reimburses a portion of the costs.<sup>52</sup> Regional charter schools and independent technical schools are responsible for the transportation of all their students, and are eligible for state reimbursement.<sup>53,54</sup>

### ***School Choice Program***

Massachusetts operates an interdistrict school choice program in certain districts for the purpose of reducing racial isolation. The choice school tuition is paid by the sending district and is equal to 75 percent of the actual per-pupil spending of the receiving district, not to exceed \$5,000 for regular education students.<sup>55</sup>

### ***Magnet Schools***

Magnet schools are operated by local districts and are funded through Chapter 70 aid. However, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education may reimburse towns and districts for the cost of providing magnet programs in order to reduce racial isolation,<sup>56</sup> subject to appropriations, through categorical grants.<sup>57</sup>

### ***Vocational Schools***

Vocational schools are considered local district schools. These schools can be managed by districts, regional districts, or district collaboratives, and are funded like other local public schools.<sup>58</sup>

### ***Independent Technical Schools***

Independent technical schools are eligible for all grants and state aid as regional school districts.<sup>59</sup> In addition, independent technical schools may charge tuition, which is set by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, to each town sending students to the school. The tuition amount is deducted from the state aid payment.<sup>60</sup>

## New Jersey

### **State Contributions to Charter Schools**

New Jersey funds its public schools through an equalization formula enacted through the School Funding Reform Act of 2008. The aid distributed under this formula is commonly known as SFRA.<sup>61</sup> New Jersey charter schools are funded through a combination of state and local tax dollars. School districts with resident students who attend charter schools must make a per-pupil payment directly to the charter school that includes both the state and local shares of funding.<sup>62</sup>

Districts must pay 90 percent of their SFRA allocation on a per-pupil basis for each resident student who attends a charter school. The school district of residence shall pay, directly to the charter school, state aid received for security that is attributable to the student. In addition, charter schools receive a percentage of the district's special education categorical aid equal to the percentage of the district's special education students enrolled in the charter school. If applicable, charter schools also receive 100 percent of state preschool education aid.<sup>63</sup>

If a student enrolls in a charter school who was not included in the district's projected resident enrollment for the school year, the State pays the combined amount of the state and local share to the charter school for that year. Charter schools are eligible for state adjustment aid, which holds schools harmless at 2008 funding levels. Charter schools formed after 2008 are not eligible for adjustment aid.<sup>64</sup>

### **Local Contributions to Charter Schools**

The local share of the per-pupil payment is equal to 90 percent of the local tax levy attributed to schools, divided by the number of resident students in the district.<sup>65</sup> This means wealthy districts tend to make larger local contributions to the per-pupil costs of charter school students, both because they receive less equalization aid from the State and because they often have a higher tax levy for their local district schools. In addition, when resident enrollment in a district increases, and state or local funding remains flat, charter schools will see a proportionate drop in their funding from that district.<sup>66</sup>

### **Charter School Facilities and Startup Costs**

Charter schools in New Jersey are not eligible to receive funds for school construction, but they are allowed to be located in public buildings or to co-locate with existing public schools.<sup>67</sup> New Jersey has administered competitive grants to charter schools through the Federal Charter School Program Grant.

### **Teacher Benefits and Retirement**

All charter schools in New Jersey are required to participate in the state Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund.<sup>68</sup> In addition, if a currently existing public school is converted into a charter school, the school employees remain subject to the applicable collective bargaining agreement, and are eligible for benefits in accordance with that agreement.<sup>69</sup>

### ***Transportation to Choice Programs***

School districts are responsible for the transportation of resident students to charter schools located within district boundaries, on the same terms and conditions as transportation is provided to students attending local district schools.<sup>70</sup> School districts are eligible for state reimbursement for the transportation, and this aid is not included in the local share of the per-pupil tuition paid by the district to the charter schools.<sup>71</sup> Sending school districts are responsible for providing transportation, or aid-in-lieu of transportation, to resident students who attend public schools in other districts through the Interdistrict Choice Program, and are eligible for state transportation aid for these students.<sup>72</sup>

### ***Interdistrict Public School Choice Program***

New Jersey operates an interdistrict choice program that allows students to enroll in schools outside of their resident district.<sup>73</sup> The sending district retains fiscal responsibility for the choice student, and must pay to the receiving district the SFRA and local tax levy on a per-pupil basis.<sup>74</sup>

### ***County Vocational School Districts***

County vocational school districts are able to levy property taxes to support vocational schools.<sup>75</sup> Sending school districts pay tuition, set by the New Jersey State Board of Education, on a per-pupil basis for students attending county vocational schools.<sup>76</sup> In addition, for fiscal year 2017, the state allocated \$1 million for county vocational-technical school innovation grants.<sup>77</sup>

## New York

### ***State and Local Contributions to Charter Schools***

Charter schools in New York state are funded through a combination of state and local tax dollars. Students who attend charter schools are included in the enrollment, attendance, membership, and students with disabilities counts of the school district where the student resides.<sup>78</sup> The resident district receives state equalization aid for all resident students, and then is responsible for paying tuition to charter schools, as set by the New York State Department of Education.<sup>79</sup>

Charter school tuition is the sum of the Charter School Basic Tuition and the Charter School Supplemental Basic Tuition for a district. The basic tuition rate is calculated by multiplying the district's Approved Operating Expense (AOE) per pupil by the year-over-year percent increase of the statewide total AOE. In 2016-17, this rate is 110.10 percent. However, charter school tuitions are currently capped at 2010-11 school year rates.<sup>80</sup> For districts whose 2016-17 basic tuition rate is greater than the 2010-11 rate, the supplemental basic tuition rate is a flat sum of \$500.00 per pupil. For all other districts, the supplemental basic tuition rate is equal to the 2010-11 basic tuition per pupil minus the 2016-17 basic tuition.<sup>81</sup> School districts are eligible for reimbursement for the supplemental basic tuition.<sup>82</sup> Essentially, the State has subsidized the per-pupil increase in charter school tuition since 2010-11.

School districts must also pay directly to the charter school any federal or state aid attributable to students with disabilities on a per-pupil basis.<sup>83</sup>

### ***Transitional Aid to Districts to Offset Costs of Charter School Tuition***

New York provides Charter School Transitional Aid to school districts whose charter enrollment is greater than two percent of the resident public school enrollment, or whose charter school payments exceed two percent of the local district's Total General Fund Expenditures. This funding is calculated based on the per-pupil, year-over-year increase in charter tuition over three years. For the 2016-17 school year, the state reimbursement under this grant is the sum of 1) 80 percent of the most recent annual increase, 2) 60 percent of the increase two years prior, and 3) 40 percent of the increase three years prior.<sup>84</sup>

### ***Charter School Facilities and Startup Costs***

New York does not provide funding for capital construction or facilities costs for charter schools. However, charter schools may use district buildings and may co-locate with existing public schools.<sup>85</sup> New York City receives a special reimbursement for a portion of the costs associated with charter school leases over \$40 million.<sup>86</sup>

### ***Teacher Benefits and Retirement***

Charter schools may elect to, but are not required to, participate in the state teacher retirement system.<sup>87</sup>

### ***Transportation to Choice Programs***

For the purposes of school transportation, charter schools are considered non-public schools.<sup>88</sup> Local school districts must provide resident students who attend charter schools with transportation services on the same basis as they provide transportation of private school students, in accordance with statutory minimum mileage requirements relating to city and non-city districts.<sup>89</sup> School districts are eligible for reimbursement for the cost of transporting choice students.<sup>90</sup>

### ***Voluntary Interdistrict Urban-Suburban Transfer Program***

New York offers aid to districts that receive pupils from another district according to a program to reduce racial isolation. State formula aid follows the child to the receiving district.<sup>91</sup> In addition, the State pays the difference in the per-pupil contribution of the sending district and the per-pupil cost of the receiving district.<sup>92</sup>

### ***Career Education***

New York provides aid for districts that have a population greater than 125,000 students, with a per-pupil grant equal to the career education aid ratio times \$3,900. In 2016-17 the aid ratio was 0.59.

### ***Other State Schools***

New York operates year-round schools for blind and deaf students. The State reimburses the resident district for the difference between the school's tuition costs and the State's basic contribution for special education.<sup>93</sup>

## Rhode Island

### ***State and Local Contributions to Charter Schools***

There are three types of charter schools in Rhode Island: independent charter schools, district charter schools, and Mayoral Academies.<sup>94</sup> Each type of school is funded through a combination of state and local tax dollars.

Local school districts receive state aid through a statewide funding formula that includes a core instructional amount (based on actual expenditure data from the northeast region) and a weight for high-need students, which in fiscal year 2017 has been expanded to include English Learners.<sup>95</sup> The determination of the State's share of the costs of education takes into account the district's revenue-generating capacity and the concentration of high-need students in the district.<sup>96</sup> The core instructional cost is multiplied by the need student weights and the state share ratio to determine the per-pupil aid for a given district. The district's final allocation is based on its average daily membership, which includes charter and local school students.

The State pays its share of formula aid directly to the charter school. The local share is equal to the local appropriation to education from property taxes, net of debt service and capital projects, divided by the average daily membership of the district. The local share is paid to the charter school by the student's district of residence. Beginning in fiscal year 2017, charter schools only receive the need student weight if the percentage of need students enrolled at the charter school exceeds the percentage of need students in the district.<sup>97</sup>

Legislation passed in 2016 allows local school districts to reduce their charter school tuition by the greater of seven percent of the local per-pupil funding, or the per-pupil value of the district's actual costs in the following categories: textbooks, transportation, retiree health benefits, out-of-district special education tuition, services for students aged 18-21-years-old, preschool screening and intervention, career and technical education, tuition and transportation costs, debt service payments, and rental costs; minus the average per-pupil expenses incurred by charter schools for those same categories as reported in the Universal Chart of Accounts for the prior fiscal year.<sup>98</sup> For districts where the above categorical calculation is greater than seven percent of their charter school tuition, there is an additional reduction to payments to Mayoral Academies equal to the per-pupil value of teacher retirement costs attributable to unfunded liability, as calculated by the state's actuary for the preceding year.<sup>99</sup>

### ***Transitional Aid to Districts to Offset Costs of Charter School Tuition***

School districts that have five percent or more of their students attending charter or technical schools receive additional state aid for a transitional period of three years, beginning in 2017. In year one the aid is \$175 per choice-student, in year two it is \$100 per choice-student, and in year three the aid is \$50 per choice-student.<sup>100</sup> This aid is intended to offset the "fixed costs" retained by the district.<sup>101</sup>

### ***Technical Schools***

For all the provisions listed in the previous sections, technical high schools are treated in the same manner as charter schools.<sup>102</sup>

### **Charter School Facilities and Startup Costs**

Charter schools in Rhode Island are eligible for reimbursement of 30 percent for approved, completed school construction as well as repair and renovation projects that are supported by bonds or capital reserve funds. However, there is currently a moratorium in effect on these projects.<sup>103</sup>

### **Teacher Retirement and Benefits**

Certified charter school teachers must participate in the state teachers' retirement system.<sup>104</sup> However, Mayoral Academies are exempt from this provision.<sup>105</sup>

### **Choice School Transportation**

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) administers a statewide transportation system for students attending school outside their resident district. Students who attend private, parochial, charter, career and technical education centers, or other approved programs are eligible to receive transportation via the RIDE system.<sup>106</sup> All districts are mandated to participate in the state system on a fee-for-service basis.

If charter schools do not participate in the statewide transportation system, local school districts are responsible for the transportation of students to charter schools and technical schools within their established transportation district. However, the cost of transporting a student to a charter school or technical school is charged to the receiving district at the same grade-level per-pupil cost of student transportation in the resident district.<sup>107</sup>

### **Empowerment Schools**

Empowerment schools are local district schools that are managed collaboratively by the principal and faculty and receive "unprecedented levels of regulatory and statutory flexibility," including school-based autonomy over the budget and flexibility in school-based instructional practices as defined through shared leadership. Empowerment schools are allowed interdistrict enrollment.<sup>108</sup> All services provided by the district are subject to negotiation between the school and the district, and are paid out of the revenues for the empowerment school.<sup>109</sup> Empowerment schools are eligible for all grants and aid as are local public schools. The legislature may appropriate funds to support empowerment schools.<sup>110</sup> In fiscal year 2017, the Rhode Island General Assembly appropriated \$1 million dollars to the Innovation and Empowerment fund in support of empowerment schools.<sup>111</sup>

## Endnotes

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- <sup>1</sup> *Charter school enrollment in Connecticut increased 295 percent between 2001 and 2015.* Northeast Charter Schools Network. (2016, June 21). Education Commissioner and Charter Leaders Celebrate 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CT Charter Movement. Retrieved from [http://www.necharters.org/education\\_commissioner\\_and\\_charter\\_leaders\\_celebrate\\_20th\\_anniversary\\_of\\_northeast\\_charter\\_schools\\_network](http://www.necharters.org/education_commissioner_and_charter_leaders_celebrate_20th_anniversary_of_northeast_charter_schools_network). (2016, June 21). Education Commissioner and Charter Leaders Celebrate 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CT Charter Movement. Retrieved from [http://www.necharters.org/education\\_commissioner\\_and\\_charter\\_leaders\\_celebrate\\_20th\\_anniversary\\_of\\_ct\\_charter\\_movement](http://www.necharters.org/education_commissioner_and_charter_leaders_celebrate_20th_anniversary_of_ct_charter_movement).
- <sup>2</sup> *Interdistrict magnet school enrollment in Connecticut increased 147 percent between 2001 and 2011.* Cotto, Jr., R., & Feder, K. (2014). *Choice Watch: Diversity and Access in Connecticut's School Choice Programs*. New Haven: CT, Connecticut Voices for Children. Retrieved from <http://www.ctvoices.org/sites/default/files/edu14choicewatchfull.pdf>.
- <sup>3</sup> Del. Code Ann. tit 14, ch. 5, § 509.
- <sup>4</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>5</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>6</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>7</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>8</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>9</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>10</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>11</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>12</sup> Del. Code Ann. tit 14, ch. 5, § 507.
- <sup>13</sup> Del. Code Ann. tit 14, ch. 17.
- <sup>14</sup> Del. Code Ann. tit 14, ch. 26, § 2601.
- <sup>15</sup> Del. Code Ann. tit 14, ch. 4, § 408.
- <sup>16</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>17</sup> Del. Code Ann. tit 14, ch. 5, § 508.
- <sup>18</sup> New Castle County Vo-Tech School District. (n.d.). Transportation. Retrieved from <http://www.nccvt.k12.de.us/parents-prospective-students/transportation/>.
- <sup>19</sup> Del. Code Ann. tit 14, ch. 5, § 508.
- <sup>20</sup> Del. Code Ann. tit 14, ch. 4, § 408.
- <sup>21</sup> McGrath, D., Wyatt-Nichol, H., Borsher, J., Lovegrove, M., & Welsh, E. (2014). *Charter School Study Prepared for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)*. Baltimore, MD: University of Baltimore, College of Public Affairs, Schaefer Center for Public Policy. Retrieved from [http://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/MSDE/SB194Ch451\\_2013\(2\).pdf](http://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/MSDE/SB194Ch451_2013(2).pdf).
- <sup>22</sup> Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 9-109.
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