

H.B. 5003: An Act Concerning Education Funding in Connecticut

SCHOOL + STATE
FINANCE PROJECT

The Two Main Components of Student-Centered Funding

1 ACCELERATES FULL FUNDING OF ECS FORMULA TO FY 2025 (Local and regional public school districts)

The Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula determines how much each municipality receives in state funding to support their local K-12 public schools. The formula is based on the cost to educate a general education student, the learning needs of students in the municipality, and community wealth. The current ECS formula began in FY 2019 and is being phased in over 10 years with students not scheduled to be fully funded until FY 2028.

UNDER H.B. 5003

- Full funding of ECS formula would occur in FY 2025 instead of FY 2028
- Full funding would coincide with expiration of federal COVID-relief aid
- Would help districts bridge upcoming fiscal cliff
- Rest of formula would remain the same



2 EXTENDS ECS FORMULA TO ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS (Magnet schools, state charter schools, AgriScience programs, Open Choice program)

Currently, the State funds public schools of choice through different arbitrary block grants that are not based on student learning needs. Additionally, some choice schools charge tuition, which can be an unpredictable and volatile cost for local budgets and creates less funding transparency.



MAGNET SCHOOLS

CURRENT FUNDING

STATE GRANT (per student)
\$3,060 - \$13,315

LOCAL TUITION
Uncapped



CHARTER SCHOOLS

CURRENT FUNDING

STATE GRANT (per student)
\$11,525 + 25.42% of need-based funding

LOCAL TUITION
No tuition charged



VO-AG PROGRAMS

CURRENT FUNDING

STATE GRANT (per student)
\$5,200

LOCAL TUITION
\$6,822.80 per student



OPEN CHOICE

CURRENT FUNDING

STATE GRANT (per student)
\$3,000 - \$8,000 + \$2,000 bonus for each student in Sheff region

LOCAL TUITION
No tuition charged

UNDER H.B. 5003

- ECS formula would be used to determine state education funding for ALL public school students
- Current block grant system would be eliminated
- Every student would be funded fully according to their learning needs
- Local general education tuition would be eliminated