

House Bill 5212, An Act Concerning Education Funding in Connecticut, contains several provisions that impact how state charter schools receive funding to support the education of students who attend their schools.

Overview of H.B. 5212

- **Protects \$150 million investment** in K-12 education for FY 2025
- **Maintains accelerated phase-in schedule** for Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant and fully funds grant beginning in 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
- **Fully funds ALL public school students**, according to their needs, effective FY 2026
- **Saves local districts tens of millions of dollars annually** by maintaining cap on general education tuition charged by magnet school operators and AgriScience programs in FY 2025 before eliminating tuition altogether in FY 2026

Current Funding of State Charter Schools

- Currently, students who attend state charter schools are funded by a state grant that provides weighted funding for schools educating economically disadvantaged students and multilingual learners.
- The state grant features a foundation amount of \$11,525 per student, plus 36.08% in FY 2024 for a "charter grant adjustment" (a calculation that accounts for student need, similar to the weights in the ECS formula).
- Special education costs for students who attend a charter school are paid by the student's resident town.

The following is a summary of the modifications proposed in H.B. 5212 to the current system for funding state charter schools.

- Section 5 maintains the phase-in of the charter school weighted grant formula, based on student needs, for FY 2025, as detailed in lines 1048-1060.
- Lines 1100-1103 provide full funding of the charter school weighted grant formula in FY 2026 and future years.
- Lines 1061-1071 provide annual increases to the charter foundation level beginning in FY 2027 and annually thereafter.

- This results in charter schools receiving increased grants annually in an amount equal to the 5-year average growth in personal income or inflation, whichever is higher.