

SCHOOL + STATE
FINANCE PROJECT

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BUILDING ON SUCCESS:
SUPPORTING CONNECTICUT'S
K-12 STUDENTS NOW
AND IN THE FUTURE

Together, we achieved historic investments in K-12 education during the 2023 session

- **Increase of \$324 million** in the current biennium for K-12 students, including \$150 million for Education Finance Reform in FY 2025.
- **Largest year-over-year investment** in the past decade and second largest in state history.
- **\$35.5 million in district savings** in FY 2025 as a result of new cap on tuition for magnet school and AgriScience programs.
- **Accelerated phase-in of ECS formula** and full funding for local school districts.
- **Increased funding for choice programs** such as magnet schools, charter schools, AgriScience programs, and the Open Choice program.

Breakdown of \$150 Million Education Finance Reform Line Item

- **\$68.5 million** for ECS grants and acceleration of ECS formula
- **\$9.4 million** for charter schools
- **\$40.2 million** for magnet schools operated by RESCs
- **\$13.3 million** for magnet schools operated by local school districts
- **\$11.4 million** for the Open Choice Program
- **\$7.2 million** for AgriScience programs

These additional funding amounts equal 42% of the full cost of the student-centered funding formula contained in H.B. 5003 as it was unanimously passed by the Education Committee during the 2023 legislative session.

Governor's Budget Cuts Historic Investments in K-12 Education Made Last Session

- **Reduces overall funding for K-12 education by \$62.9 million.**
- **Eliminates \$150 million Education Finance Reform line item** and redistributes a portion of those funds to other initiatives.
- **Maintains accelerated ECS formula phase-in schedule** and makes annual adjustments for changes in enrollment, student needs, and community wealth.
- **Eliminates \$54.3 million for magnet schools from the Education Finance Reform line item** and instead provides a 3% per-student grant increase to magnet schools.
- **Eliminates \$48 million in savings to local school districts** by removing cap on general education tuition charged by magnet school operators and AgriScience programs.
- **Eliminates \$11.4 million for the Open Choice program from the Education Finance Reform line item** and instead provides a 3% per-student grant increase to participants in the Open Choice program.
- **Eliminates \$7.2 million for AgriScience programs from the Education Finance Reform line item** and instead provides \$1.2 million to fully fund the current statutory grant.

ACTIONS FOR 2024 SESSION

Key Legislative Action Needed for 2024 Session

- Protect investments in K-12 education for FY 2025, including the **\$150 million for Education Finance Reform**.
- Distribute the \$150 million investment **using a percentage of the student-centered funding formula** found in H.B. 5003 (2023).
- **Fully implement the student-centered funding formula** in FY 2026 to provide predictability for school districts.

WHY CONNECTICUT NEEDS STUDENT-CENTERED FUNDING NOW

Helps Bridge the Upcoming Fiscal Cliff

- Connecticut school districts have received an influx of over **\$1.5 billion in one-time federal COVID-relief aid**.
 - This has provided much-needed relief in the face of a global pandemic and has **temporarily reduced funding disparities**.
- However, the pandemic's **impacts on student learning and mental health will last long after federal funds expire** in September 2024.
- Greater state support is **critical to ensuring students have access to the supports and resources they need** to be successful in the classroom and beyond.

Closes Massive Gaps in Education Funding

- **Reduces economic and racial funding disparities.**
 - Significantly reduces the \$550 million economic and racial gaps in education funding, which continue to limit opportunities for economically-disadvantaged students and students of color.
 - Additional funding will help close Connecticut's opportunity gap, which is one of the largest in the nation.
- **Provides ALL students with access to high-quality K-12 education so they can reach their full potential.**
 - Ends education finance system that has perpetuated multi-generational cycles of poverty and kept students from reaching their full potential.
 - Funds students based on their learning needs rather than where they live or the type of public school they attend.

Addresses Workforce Shortage & Invests in CT's Future

- Helps address Connecticut's **severe labor and skill shortage that is hindering economic growth**, limiting business opportunities, and hurting our state's financial future.
- **Invests in Connecticut's most important resource**: our students.
- Provides the resources necessary to **educate the state's future workforce and equip them with the skills** to meet the needs of Connecticut's economy and employers.
- Research has repeatedly shown **greater education funding improves student outcomes**, including:
 - Higher test scores, graduation rates, and academic achievement;
 - Higher earnings for life; and
 - Reductions in adult poverty.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Us

For questions or comments about the information in this presentation, please contact:

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