

# IX.B.

## CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Hartford

### TO BE PROPOSED:

September 4, 2019

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education approves the request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) action to transfer \$1,200,000 between accounts, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ this fourth day of September, Two Thousand Nineteen.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Secretary  
State Board of Education

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Dr. Miguel A. Cardona  
Commissioner of Education

**DATE:** September 4, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Request for Finance Advisory Committee Action

When an agency needs to transfer funds between state accounts over a certain dollar threshold, it must make a request to the Office of Policy and Management that the transfer be considered by the Finance Advisory Committee (FAC).

For consideration at the next scheduled FAC meeting, the Department is requesting a transfer of \$1,000,000 from the Commissioner's Network account to the Other Expenses account and \$200,000 from the State Charter School account to the Other Expenses account for the purposes detailed below.

**Transfer of funds from the Commissioner's Network Account \$1,000,000**

The Department anticipates funding will be available in the account due to the timing of schools entering and exiting the network. An estimated budget is prepared for each school coming into the Network. However, the final grant award is based on the actual plan developed and approved for the school. In addition to this, each year the state's share of the cost of a school's plan declines in anticipation of the district being able to fund the full cost itself at the time it exits Commissioner's Network status.

**Transfer of funds to the Other Expenses Account \$1,000,000**

Public Act 17-2, June Special Session, extended the Alliance District program for an additional five years and expanded the number of eligible districts to 33. Groton and Thompson were two of the three new districts to enter the Alliance District grant program. An Alliance District's grant amount is equal to the difference between the district's current year Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant entitlement and the ECS entitlement they received in Fiscal Year 2012. Both Groton and Thompson's Fiscal Year 2020 ECS entitlements are less than their Fiscal Year 2012 ECS entitlement meaning they will not receive funding for the implementation of the educational improvements described in their approved Alliance District plans.

In Fiscal Year 2018, the Department was able, through FAC action and a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Groton and Thompson, to provide both districts with funds to implement their Alliance District plans. We are again requesting approval of the transfer of funds via FAC action to allow the Department to enter into a MOA with the Groton and Thompson school districts to fund the educational improvements described in their approved plans.

**Transfer of funds from the Charter School Account****\$200,000**

This account will have a surplus because Trailblazers Academy, a state charter school located in Stamford, notified the Department on July 9, 2019 of its intent to close prior to the start of the 2019-20 school year. Funding for 135 seats had been budgeted in the Charter School account for the school and those funds will no longer be needed.

**Transfer of funds to the Other Expenses Account****\$200,000**

Trailblazers Academy primarily served middle school students from the City of Stamford. Since the closure of the school, the Department has been working in cooperation with Stamford Public Schools and Trailblazers Academy to ensure the displaced students are enrolled in Stamford Public Schools prior to the start of the new school year. To assist Stamford with this unanticipated influx of students and the associated cost, the Department proposes to enter into a MOA with the district to provide funding to support the expansion and development of programming for these students.

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