

April 25, 2025

DMHAS Legislative Newsletter

Greetings to DMHAS Staff and Partners!

We hope you've been enjoying the warmer weather! Please see below what has taken place at the CT General Assembly this week:

Appropriations Committee Releases Budget

This week, the Appropriations Committee released their much-anticipated budget for FY 26-27. This is the legislature's version of the budget, which makes several changes to the Governor's proposed budget that was released in February. The Committee proposed funding towards schools, higher education, special education, child care, and other social services.

To read the budget that was voted out of committee, click [here](#).

Now that the bill has been voted out of committee, legislative leadership, OPM, and the Governor's office will work together to come up with the final version of the budget that can be voted on in the House and Senate.



Appropriations Committee JF Meeting

In addition to the release of the budget, the Appropriations Committee also voted out several bills. To watch the meeting, click [here](#).

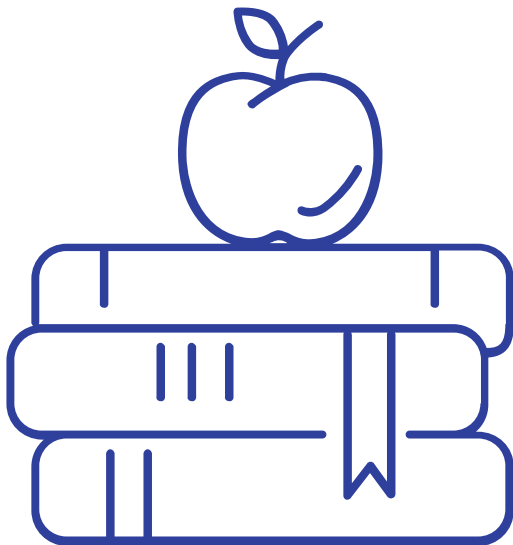
Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee JF Meetings

This week is also the JF Deadline for the Finance Committee. Several bills were voted out of committee, including [HB 7275](#), *An Act Concerning the Regulation of Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and Vapor Products*.

DMHAS worked in conjunction with the Attorney General's Office to update existing statute when it comes to the latest tobacco and electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS). The bill will ensure that new tobacco products are properly regulated, restrictions are in place related to the shipment of tobacco products and ENDS and would require age identification verification requirements for ENDS similar to age verification already in existence for tobacco products.

Commissioner Navarretta submitted [written testimony](#) related to this bill highlighting the efforts our Tobacco Prevention and Enforcement Program do, along with the youth prevention efforts DMHAS is engaged in related to nicotine addiction.

Select Committee on Special Education Public Hearing



At the start of session, legislative leaders stated that special education was going to be top priority and that they wanted to address ongoing concerns related to special education services. [House Bill 7277](#) and [Senate Bill 1561](#) were drafted which includes several provisions aimed at providing equal and accessible services, along with focusing on cost concerns many school districts currently face.

A [public hearing](#) was held on Monday and nearly 200 people signed up to testify to this bill. The bills are set to be voted out of committee today.

The Select Committee will now have to vote the bills out of committee for it to move forward in the legislative process.

What's Happening Next Week?

The House and Senate will be in Session the Following Days:

Monday, April 28th (House Only)

Wednesday, April 30st

Thursday, May 1st



Did You Know?

If you have been following the budget discussions this session, then you might have heard the term **general fund**.

What is the general fund?

The general fund is money made up of revenue that is then used for expenditures authorized by the budget and not otherwise restricted by statute. Funding for various social services, healthcare, and education programs comes from the general fund.

Enjoy Your Weekend!

In partnership, Chandra & Kelly