



## **DISTRICT REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (DRIP) PROGRAM BEST PRACTICES**

Pursuant to [Public Act 25-174 Section 131](#), the District Repair and Improvement Project (DRIP) Program provides direct grants to Public School Operators (PSOs) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and forward. Grants will be processed through an annual certification process. Funds will be disbursed by June 30<sup>th</sup> and an annual expense report will be due from the PSO by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Best practices have been prepared to assist PSOs and municipalities in administering state grants under the District Repair and Improvement Project (DRIP) program. Additional information can be found on the Office of Policy and Management [website](#).

The DRIP Program provides financial assistance to PSOs for eligible school-related capital expenditure projects funded with State general obligation bonds. Annual grants are announced on March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

### **DRIP PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:**

- Funds will be used in compliance with [Public Act 25-174 Section 131 subsection \(a\)\(2\)](#) and are an allowable project for DRIP Program purposes.
- All DRIP Program funded projects are subject to all federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, regulations, and municipal charter or bylaws. DRIP Program funded projects may be subject to the following: Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities ([CHRO](#)), Connecticut Environmental Policy Act ([CEPA](#)) Evaluation, Environmental Impact Evaluation ([EIE](#)), Flood Management Certification ([FMC](#)); State Historic and Preservation Office ([SHPO](#)) review and determination; Municipal Plan of Conservation and Development ([POCD](#)) provisions; and/or municipal fiscal or other local approvals;
- All required reviews, evaluations, permits and/or certifications have been secured prior to expenditure of DRIP Program funds;
- Not later than September 1<sup>st</sup>, each PSO issued a grant in the preceding fiscal year shall submit a report to OPM describing the amount of grant funds expended in such fiscal year in accordance with [Public Act 25-174 Section 131 subsection \(f\)](#),
- In order to receive your school district DRIP Program funds the Chief Executive Officer (i.e. Superintendent, Principal, Director) must forward the District Repair and Improvement Project (DRIP) Program Grant Certification by the required deadline. Distribution of grant funds will be made by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**ALLOWABLE DRIP PROJECTS:**

DRIP Program funds can only be used for capital expenditure projects authorized by [Public Act 25-174 Section 131 subsection \(a\)\(2\)](#), as may be amended.

**AUDIT AND RECORDS RETENTION:**

- The DRIP program grant provisions have requirements under the [Connecticut State Single Audit Compliance Supplement](#).
- Pursuant to [Public Act 25-174 Section 131 subsection \(g\)](#), each PSO receiving a District Repair and Improvement Project (DRIP) Program grant under this section shall retain detailed accounting records of all expenses incurred relative to the district repair and improvement project for which a grant is received for a period of not less than three (3) years following the completion of such project and applicable State of Connecticut State Library Public Records Administrator records retention guidelines.

**CONTACTS:**

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