



**Governor Ned Lamont
State of Connecticut**



FACT SHEET
2023 Legislative Session

HOUSE BILL 6662

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING EDUCATION

Summary of Proposal:

Section 1 rolls forward the current charter school funding formula into future fiscal years.

Section 2 makes permanent the cap to the Health and Welfare Services for Private Pupils Grant.

Section 3 makes permanent the cap to the Regional Education Services Grant.

Section 4 reimposes and makes permanent the cap to the Adult Education Grant.

Section 5 makes the cap on transportation grants, for which there is no longer any appropriation, permanent.

Sections 6-8 amends the Excess Cost grant to allow the State Department of Education (SDE) to expend the full appropriation beginning in FY 2023, and to ensure that the grant is capped within available appropriations in future fiscal years. The language maintains the basic tiered structure enacted in section 265 of PA 22-118 beginning in FY 2023.

Section 9 clarifies the amount of lapsing funds in the Open Choice account which are deemed non-lapsing and to be used in accordance with subsection(k) of CGS 10-266aa

Section 10 increases the per pupil rate for pre-k children in the School Readiness and Child Day Care Contract programs beginning in FY 2025.

Section 11 allows the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to establish a protective service class making certain populations such as foster care children, newly adopted children and homeless children presumptively eligible for Care4Kids.

Sections 12-13 provides that teachers employed by schools operated by Goodwin University Magnet Schools ("GUMS") and Goodwin University Education Services ("GUES") qualify for the Teachers' Retirement System ("TRS"). Currently, GUMS and GUES have a contract with LEARN, a regional education service center, whereby the teachers are employed by LEARN and

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participate in the TRS as a result of their employment with LEARN. After the expiration of this contract, the teachers will be directly employed by GUMs and GUES. This proposal ensures that these teachers remain eligible for TRS.

Reason for Proposal: To Implement the Governor's budget recommendations pertaining to education.

Significant Impacts:

Sections 1-8 by capping various grants beginning in FY 2024, savings of at-least \$27.2 million in FY 2024 and \$29.6 million in FY 2025 will be realized. Additionally, sections 6 through 8 will allow SDE to expend the full amount appropriated for the Excess Cost, thereby preventing a reduction of funding to local districts and a MOE issue for SDE with regards to federal special education funding.

Section 9 allows excess open choice funding in excess of \$2 million to lapse, providing potential savings to the General Fund.

Section 10 beginning in FY 2025 results in a General Fund impact of \$15.5 million annually from increasing the rate for pre-k children at state-funded childcare centers to \$10,500 per child.

Section 11 brings OEC into compliance with federal regulations concerning subsidies in the Care4Kids system for foster care children, newly adopted children and homeless children.

Sections 12-13 provides that teachers employed by schools operated by Goodwin University Magnet Schools ("GUMS") and Goodwin University Education Services ("GUES") qualify for the Teachers' Retirement System ("TRS"). Currently, GUMS and GUES have a contract with LEARN, a regional education service center, whereby the teachers are employed by LEARN and participate in the TRS as a result of their employment with LEARN. After the expiration of this contract, the teachers will be directly employed by GUMs and GUES. This proposal ensures that these teachers remain eligible for TRS.