



Governor Ned Lamont

Fact Sheet: 2025 Legislative Proposal

HOUSE BILL 6866

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EDUCATION

The Current Situation

Implement the Governor's Budget recommendations related to K-12 Education.

Governor Lamont's Solution

Correct for a known error in the US Census estimates currently in use for the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Formula. These estimates did not back out UConn's population from the town of Mansfield's population, because, due to COVID, UConn's population did not reach 40% of the town's total population. Results in savings to the General Fund of approximately \$1.4 Million in each year of the biennium. Prevents an increase in Mansfield's minimum budget requirement for education.

Cap the Adult Education, Health and Welfare Services for Private Pupils, Transportation and Regional Education Service Center Grants. Results in savings to the General Fund of at least \$4.6 million in FY 26 and \$5.6 million in FY 27.

Establish parameters pertaining to the use of ECS funds received by districts in excess of their FY 2025 entitlement levels. Districts who receive an increase of more than \$100,000 over their FY 2025 levels are required to submit a plan to SDE detailing how these funds will be spent. Establishes enhanced accountability for increased education funding to the 72 municipalities anticipated to receive ECS increases over FY 2025 in FY 2026.



Establish a matching grant to address personal technology use in schools, beginning in FY 2027. The Governor's budget provides \$100,000 for this grant in FY 2027.

Continue funding for the Learner Engagement and Attendance Program (LEAP) in statute. This program is a home visiting program designed to bolster student attendance and engagement in high need districts previously funded through federal funds. The Governor's budget provides \$9.9 million for the program beginning in FY 2027.

Continue the current methodologies for calculating state grants due to magnet and vo-ag operators into future fiscal years and establishes an inflation based schedule at which these operators may adjust the tuition charged to sending districts. Establishes stability in these funding streams and ensures a methodology by which operators may increase tuition in the outyears to cover operating costs.

Establish a dual credit expansion grant program, beginning in FY 2027, administered by SDE. This program allows more high need, high achieving students to gain college credit during their high school careers. The Governor's budget provides \$7.5 million for this grant.

Establish a competitive student support grant program administered by SDE. This grant will provide support for a variety of before/after school and wrap around programming on a competitive basis. The Governor's budget establishes this new \$12.6 million grant with reallocated funding from six existing SDE accounts, while achieving \$1.9 million in administrative savings.

Establish a High Dosage Tutoring Matching Grant program, beginning in FY 2027, administered by SDE. The Governor's budget provides \$5 million for this grant. This builds upon a federally funded initiative which SDE operated in 43 districts during the pandemic.

Remove the General Administrative Payment (GAP) to Birth to Three (B23) providers due to the implementation of tiered rates in the B23 program as recommended in the B23 rate study effective in FY 2027. The Governor's

budget includes \$6 million in FY 2027 in the Office of Early Childhood and \$4.5 million in DSS' Medicaid account and the repeal of the GAP payment will result in savings of \$1 million.

Reduce the state's share of the TRB retiree health costs and municipal health subsidy from one-third to one-quarter for the biennium. This has absolutely no impact on retirees or their share of the health plan premiums because the TRB health fund will provide the additional costs not paid by the state. The health fund is financed by the 1.25% of salary paid by active teachers into the fund. As of December 30, 2024, the TRB health fund had a balance of over \$272.3 million.

Permit the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) Commissioner, within available appropriations, to allocate Early Start CT funds to HeadStart on Housing beginning in FY 2026. The Governor's budget reallocates \$750,00 from OEC's Early Care & Education account to the HeadStart Services account to support more state HeadStart supplemental funds, of which some could be used to support HeadStart on Housing.

Clarify that the Office of Early Childhood is not within the Department of Education for administrative purposes only. Technical change in line with current operating practice.

Repeal the Neighborhood Youth Center grant which is being reallocated into the new student support grant. Funding for neighborhood youth centers are reallocated to the new student support grants.