



Governor Ned Lamont

Fact Sheet: 2025 Legislative Proposal

SENATE BILL 1244

AN ACT MAKING INVESTMENTS IN IN-DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Current Situation

Many of Connecticut's school districts have limited capacity to program for the needs of all their students who receive special education services pursuant to an Individualized Education Program (IEP). This results in the need to contract out for these services, and in many cases, leads to students being placed in out-of-district programs, which are more expensive than offering programming in-district. Approximately 6% of Connecticut students with disabilities are educated out of their home district- the highest in the nation.¹

There is an increasing variability and unpredictability in special education costs, putting added strain on municipalities and schools. Municipalities have recently seen an average annual increase of 5% in special education expenditures. Sometimes, precise costs are not known until after the start of the school year, and these unanticipated costs result in changes to planned programs/services, which can be disruptive to student learning.

Governor Lamont's Solution

Empower the State Department of Education to develop a methodology for determining maximum rates of tuition for approved private special education programs. In January, the Department announced it will undergo a rate study that will inform the structure of future special education rates, aiming to address the financial unpredictability associated with these specialized services and help districts better manage their budgets.

¹ U.S. Department of Education 45th Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 2023



Boards of Education will conduct a review of their special education spending every five years, submit this report to the Department of Education, and post it on their websites to promote transparency. Contracts between districts and service providers must also specify how tuition and costs are calculated and must adhere to established tuition rates.

The Department will also develop and implement a competitive grant application process for local and regional boards of education. This effort will address increasing students with disabilities' access to high-quality education in a least restrictive environment, in addition to expanding and enhancing inclusive programming in-district.