

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
BY HIS EXCELLENCY
NED LAMONT

CONNECTICUT
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CAPITOL OFFICE

2026 APR 16 P 12:53

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 26-3

WHEREAS, Connecticut's public elementary and secondary schools prepare young people to enroll in higher education, succeed in the labor market, and engage as informed citizens; and

WHEREAS, all school-aged children throughout Connecticut deserve access to high quality educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, a well-educated workforce is an important driver of economic development; and

WHEREAS, state law charges each Connecticut municipality with the responsibility of providing a public-school educational opportunity to all its school-age residents; and

WHEREAS, the State's public K-12 education system is operated by local and regional school districts, regional educational service centers, public charter schools, endowed academies, Connecticut Technical Education and Career System, state agencies, and college-affiliated districts; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the efforts of those partners, the State of Connecticut is a national leader in public education; and

WHEREAS, public education is supported through a combination of local, state, and federal resources; and

WHEREAS, state law has established education programs to support public education, including the Education Cost Sharing (ECS Formula), Excess Cost, choice funding formulas for magnet schools, Charter Schools, Vocational Agriculture and the Open Choice Program, school based health programs, and other targeted programs to enhance educational outcomes, including but not limited to the Learner Engagement and Attendance Program (LEAP), and the newly established Special Education and Expansion Development Grant (SEED); and

WHEREAS, the efficiency and effectiveness of the largest streams of state education funding, such as ECS, have not been evaluated holistically for many years;

WHEREAS, stakeholders across Connecticut's K-12 education system are united in a commitment to ensure that K-12 resources are allocated in an efficient and effective manner designed to enhance educational outcomes for the Connecticut's students; and

WHEREAS, a successful education system depends upon collaboration, alignment, innovation, equity, performance accountability, access to sufficient information and data, and a commitment to addressing barriers to student success wherever possible;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 10-262w of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has developed a Report of the Effectiveness of the Alliance District Program to inform stakeholder discussion for modifying the program to reflect the needs of the current educational landscape;

WHEREAS, PA 25-67 and PA 25-93 made several changes to state law regarding special education and the funding for such services, forming a basis for review and alignment with the charge of the Commission established below; and

WHEREAS, by collaborating across various interest groups, the State of Connecticut can work to build a modern and transparent educational funding system that supports continued improvement in student outcomes, equity, and accountability in communities throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NED LAMONT, Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Connecticut Constitution and by the statutes of the State of Connecticut, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT**:

1. There is established the Governor's Blue-Ribbon Commission on K-12 Education Funding and Accountability ("Commission"). The Commission shall serve as a principal advisor to the Governor on education funding and related issues and shall coordinate a comprehensive review of all educational funding in Connecticut. Such review shall look at the landscape of educational funding in Connecticut, any relevant models from other states, the primary cost drivers impacting Connecticut school districts, and proven strategies for delivering K-12 education that have resulted in improved outcomes and student success in Connecticut.
2. Based on that review, the Commission shall consider the responsibilities of the state, local governments, and school boards with respect to K-12 education and make recommendations on funding strategies, potential areas of efficiency, and accountability measures to maximize the impact of funding on student outcomes. Such recommendations shall take into consideration the cost of ongoing operational needs, strategies to support student success, and ways to increase predictability and sustainability.
3. The Chairperson shall be designated by the Governor and the Commissioner of Education shall serve as the Vice Chairperson.
4. The Commission shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Four members of the General Assembly, one designated each by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Seante Minority Leader, and house Minority Leader; and
 - b. Department heads of relevant state agencies; and
 - c. Representatives of boards of education, town government, district administrators, state agencies, the legislature, teachers, state and national education funding experts, special education directors, regional education service centers, alliance districts and parents.
5. The Office of the Governor will engage a national educational organization or organizations to facilitate the conversation and work of the Commission.

6. The work of the Commission will be informed by a variety of sources including but not limited to:
 - a. Regional and national experts on education funding and district/school interventions;
 - b. Connecticut's longitudinal data on all entitlements, including ECS and excess costs, state and federal grants, and school district expenditures;
 - c. State and national data on funding as it relates to students' academic outcomes;
 - d. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Report on the Effectiveness of the Alliance District Program as required by CGS 10-262w;
 - e. CSDE's work in accordance with PA 25-67 and PA 25-93, with regards to special education.

7. The Commission shall provide multiple opportunities for additional stakeholder feedback through regional in-person and virtual sessions. The feedback from these sessions shall inform the work of the Commission.

8. The Commission shall develop a strategic plan to provide the resources necessary to support student success throughout the state and hold districts accountable for delivering high quality educational experiences that provide students with what they need to access those educational opportunities. The plan shall be informed by state-level data as well as national studies and shall include recommendations on the current funding systems, (including but not limited to the ECS Formula, the Alliance District Program, the Excess Cost Grant and Special Education Development Grants), the organization/structure of special education services in Connecticut, and cross-district collaboration to address administrative and program needs across districts. Such plan shall be submitted to the Governor and the Connecticut General Assembly by January 15, 2027.

9. The Commission will end its charge after the submission of the plan as required by this order.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, the 16th day of April 2026.



NED LAMONT
Governor

By His Excellency's Order



STEPHANIE THOMAS
Secretary of the State

