

Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Formula Comparison Table – 2019 Regular Legislative Session

	Current Law: Conn. Acts 18-81¹ (FY 2019 Budget Adjustments)	Governor Lamont FY 2020 – FY 2021 Proposed Biennial Budget²	Appropriations Committee FY 2020 – FY 2021 Proposed Biennial Budget³	General Assembly FY 2020 – FY 2021 Adopted Biennial Budget⁴
Foundation Amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$11,525 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change from current law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change from current law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change from current law.
Need Student Weights	<p>Low-income students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weight: 30% Concentration weight: 5% Concentration threshold: 75% Identification Method: Eligibility for free and reduced price lunch (FRPL) <p>English Learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weight: 15% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The count of low-income students has changed to students directly certified for free and reduced price lunch (FRPL). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change from current law, but the FRPL data from October 2018 used in this proposal have been found to have “data integrity” issues according to the Connecticut State Department of Education.⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change from current law, but the FRPL data from October 2018 used in this proposal have been found to have “data integrity” issues according to the Connecticut State Department of Education.⁶
State / Local Share Mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% Property Wealth Factor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined by Equalized Net Grand List per Capita 30% Income Wealth Factor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change from current law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change from current law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change from current law.

¹ Conn. Acts 18-81.

² State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management. (2019). *FY 2020 - FY 2021 Biennium Governor's Budget*. Hartford, CT: Author. Retrieved from https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OPM/Budget/2020_2021_Biennial_Budget/GovBud_FY2020-21_Final.pdf?la=en.

³ Connecticut General Assembly, Office of Fiscal Analysis. (2019). *Appropriations Committee Budget, FY 20 & FY 21*. Hartford, CT: Author. Retrieved from https://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa/Documents/year/APPJF/2019APPJF-20190430_Appropriations%20Committee%20Budget%20FY%2020%20-%20FY%2021.pdf.

⁴ H.B. 7424 (as amended by House “A” and “B”): An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth, 2021, and Making Appropriations Therefore, and Implementing Provisions of the Budget. Gen. Assembly. Ct. 2019). https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2019&bill_num=7424

⁵ In testimony before the Appropriations Committee in March of this year, the Connecticut State Department of Education's commissioner and chief financial officer repeatedly stated there are “data integrity” issues with the free and reduced price lunch student numbers that are used in the adopted biennial state budget and were used in the Appropriations Committee's proposed budget. The commissioner testified the department is investigating the cause of the discrepancies. For context, the adopted biennial budget identifies 26,053 more students as FRPL-eligible than the previous fiscal year, despite student enrollment decreasing across the state. This would mark a five percentage point increase in the number of students identified as low-income, and would put the number of children identified as low-income at 16,000 higher than the highest FRPL count in recent history.

⁶ Ibid.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determined by Median Household Income • Statewide Guaranteed Wealth Level: 1.35 • Non-Alliance District Minimum Aid Ratio: 1% • Alliance District Minimum Aid Ratio: 10% • Provides an additional 3%-6% in the Base Aid Ratio for communities that have a Public Investment Communities (PIC) index⁷ score over 300 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top 5 towns: Additional 6% • Next 5 towns: Additional 5% • Next 5 towns: Additional 4% • Remaining 4 towns: Additional 3% 			
Choice Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and regional boards of education – In formula • Charter Schools – Remain as separate line item • Magnet Schools – Remain as separate line item 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change from current law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change from current law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change from current law.

⁷ The Public Investment Communities (PIC) index is calculated annually by the Office of Policy and Management. The PIC index measures the relative wealth and need of Connecticut's towns by ranking them in descending order by their cumulative point allocations based on: per capita income; adjusted equalized net grand list per capita; equalized mill rate; per capita aid to children receiving Temporary Family Assistance benefits; and unemployment rate. More information on the PIC index, including the cumulative points allocation for each town, can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/IGPP-MAIN/Services/Public-Investment-Community-Index>.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RESCs – Remain as separate line item • Vo-ag – Remain as separate line item • CTECS – Remains as separate line item 			
Special Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special education funding appears to be included in the foundation amount of the ECS grant. • The Excess Cost grant is increased to \$140.6 million for FY 2019, an increase of \$1.6 million over FY 2018 with holdbacks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change from current law: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Special education funding continues to be included in the foundation amount of the ECS grant. ○ The Excess Cost grant is flat-funded at the FY 2019 level of \$140.6 million. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change from current law: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Special education funding continues to be included in the foundation amount of the ECS grant. ○ The Excess Cost grant is flat-funded at the FY 2019 level of \$140.6 million. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change from current law: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Special education funding continues to be included in the foundation amount of the ECS grant. ○ The Excess Cost grant is flat-funded at the FY 2019 level of \$140.6 million.
Phase-in Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formula began being implemented in FY 2019. • Increases in aid over FY 2017 grant amounts began in FY 2019 and are to be phased in using the following schedule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1% of the formula increase in FY 2019 • 10.66% of the formula increase in FY 2020 – FY 2027 • 100% of the formula amount in FY 2028 and each fiscal year thereafter • Decreases in aid compared to FY 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change to the schedule for increases in aid or Alliance District hold harmless provision. • The base grant years for calculating phase-ins and phase-outs are defined as the prior fiscal years. • Decreases in aid are accelerated and phased-out at 25% per year for FY 2021 and FY 2022. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change to the schedule for increases in aid or Alliance District hold harmless provision. • The base grant years for calculating phase-ins and phase-outs are defined as the prior fiscal years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change to the schedule for increases in aid or Alliance District hold harmless provision. • The base grant years for calculating phase-ins and phase-outs are defined as the prior fiscal years.

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	<p>grant amounts began in FY 2019 and are to be phased in using the following schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% of the formula decrease in FY 2019 • 8.33% of the decrease in FY 2020 – FY 2027 • Alliance Districts that would see a loss of funding are held harmless in all fiscal years. 			

Total Formula Cost		
Governor Lamont's FY 2020 – FY 2021 Proposed Biennial Budget ⁸	Appropriations Committee's FY 2020 – FY 2021 Proposed Biennial Budget ⁹	General Assembly's FY 2020 – FY 2021 Adopted Biennial Budget ¹⁰
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FY 2020 ECS funding is increased by \$17.7 million over FY 2019 estimated expenditures. Total estimated increase after formula is fully phased in is \$325.6 million over FY 2019 spending levels. Total estimated increase is lower than previously projected in prior years due to updated student and town data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FY 2020 ECS funding is increased by \$37.6 million over FY 2019 estimated expenditures. Total estimated increase after formula is fully phased in is \$361.3 million over FY 2019 spending levels. Total estimated increase is higher than previously projected in prior years due to the continued use of FRPL counts that the State Department of Education has determined to have "data integrity" issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FY 2020 ECS funding is increased by \$37.6 million over FY 2019 estimated expenditures. Total estimated increase after formula is fully phased in is \$361.3 million over FY 2019 spending levels.¹¹ Total estimated increase is higher than previously projected in prior years due to the continued use of FRPL counts that the State Department of Education has determined to have "data integrity" issues.

⁸ State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management. (2019). *FY 2020 - FY 2021 Biennium Governor's Budget*. Hartford, CT: Author. Retrieved from https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OPM/Budget/2020_2021_Biennial_Budget/GovBud_FY2020-21_Final.pdf?la=en.

⁹ Connecticut General Assembly, Office of Fiscal Analysis. (2019). *Appropriations Committee Budget, FY 20 & FY 21*. Hartford, CT: Author. Retrieved from https://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa/Documents/year/APPJF/2019APPJF-20190430_Appropriations%20Committee%20Budget%20FY%2020%20-%20FY%2021.pdf.

¹⁰ H.B. 7424 (as amended by House "A" and "B"): An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth, 2021, and Making Appropriations Therefore, and Implementing Provisions of the Budget. Gen. Assembly. Ct. 2019).

https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2019&bill_num=7424

¹¹ According to town runs provided by the General Assembly's Office of Fiscal Analysis, "The total cost of providing ECS grants in FY 21 is anticipated to decrease by approximately \$2.7 million from the amount shown here, based on changes in charter school seats and student population. This decrease is reflected in the budgeted appropriation for ECS in FY 21."