

February 11, 2021

On February 10, 2021, Governor Ned Lamont released his biennial budget proposal for fiscal years 2022 and 2023.¹ The proposed budget contains policy changes and proposed appropriations to fund public education. Below is a snapshot of how the governor's budget proposal impacts education funding over the next two fiscal years.

Governor's budget proposal is the first step of the budget development process²

- The General Assembly will review the governor's proposed budget, beginning with the Appropriations and Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committees.
- The General Assembly will make adjustments to the budget, and then the amended budget will be put to a vote by each chamber of the legislature.
- Once each chamber passes the same exact version of the budget, the budget is presented to the governor will sign it into law, veto it, veto specific line items, or let it go into effect without signing.

Key Proposed Policies

- Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula is funded at the current (FY 2021) level for the next two fiscal years.
- The ECS formula phase-in is paused until FY 2024 causing full funding according to the formula to be delayed and not occur until FY 2030, as opposed to FY 2028 as in current law.
- Open Choice program is extended geographically by creating a pilot program for up to 50 students from Danbury and 50 students from Norwalk.
- Magnet school per-pupil grant amounts are not changed, and the appropriation is adjusted for annualized anticipated lapses and increased enrollment.
- State charter school per-pupil grant is increased from \$11,250 to \$11,525 per student to match the foundation of the ECS formula.
- Transfer of the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) to a separate state agency is delayed until 2024, keeping CTECS as part of the budget for the State Department of Education.

How do these proposed policy changes impact students and schools?

- Connecticut will no longer follow the ECS formula passed in the bipartisan budget of 2017 and implemented in 2019.
- Town ECS funds in FY 2022 and 2023 will not reflect the updated needs of students or the ability of towns to support students, because the ECS formula will be flat funded through the biennium.

¹ State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management. (2021). *Connecticut FY 2022 – FY 2023 Biennium Governor's Budget*. Hartford, CT: Author. Retrieved from https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OPM/Budget/2022_2023_Biennial_Budget/Bud_WebPage/GovBud_2022-23_Final_Web.pdf.

² A more detailed explanation of Connecticut's state budget process can be found at <http://ctstatefinance.org/resources/connecticuts-state-budget-process>.

- The proposed state education funding does not meaningfully reduce the racial disparities in education funding between majority White districts and majority BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) districts.³
- Connecticut will continue to use 11 different funding formulas to support public school students, with only one formula providing resources to school districts based on the needs of the students served by the district, the flat-funded ECS formula.
- The complexity of regular education tuition between local districts and choice operators, such as interdistrict magnet schools and vocational agriculture programs, will continue to exist.

Analysis of Selected Appropriations

Table 1 below contains the governor's FY 2022 and FY 2023 recommended appropriations for significant education grants, as well as key policy details for each grant. Table 1 also contains FY 2021 estimated expenditures for comparative purposes. The appropriations included in Table 1 are education grants to municipalities and school districts in which the total estimated expenditures exceeded \$10 million in FY 2020, and state funding for school choice programs.⁴

State education appropriations that would increase — as compared to FY 2021 estimated expenditures — under Governor Lamont's budget proposal are highlighted in green, while those appropriations that would remain at FY 2021 estimated amounts are highlighted in yellow. State education appropriations that would decrease are highlighted in red. The far-right column of Table 1 features the key policy details contained in the governor's proposed budget for each grant.

³ In this analysis, BIPOC is used to represent students who, according to Connecticut State Department of Education data, identify as: American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Black or African American; Hispanic/Latino of any race; Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander; or two or more races.

⁴ Although the *Sheff* Settlement and Adult Education grants both exceed \$10 million in statewide allocation, they are not included in the below table due to irregularity in appropriation (*Sheff* Settlement) and relationship to public K-12 education (Adult Education).

Table 1: Selected State Education Funding under Governor's Proposed Biennial Budget⁵

Grant	FY 2021 Estimated	Governor's Proposed Appropriation		Change from FY 2021 Estimate		Key Policy Details
		FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2022	FY 2023	
Education Equalization (ECS)	\$2,093,587,113	\$2,093,587,113	\$2,093,587,113	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECS funding levels are maintained at the FY 2021 levels with plans to leverage federal aid to make up the differences Phase-in of the ECS formula is proposed to resume in FY 2024 and extended until FY 2030
Magnet Schools	\$295,033,302	\$292,223,044	\$294,662,627	(\$2,810,258)	(\$370,675)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased funding due to increases in enrollment Decrease in funding is due to annualized anticipated lapses in the Magnet Schools appropriation
Regional Vocational – Technical School System	\$140,398,647	\$140,901,414	\$146,188,621	\$502,767	\$5,789,974	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defers establishment of CTECS as an independent agency until FY 2024
Technical High Schools – Other Expenses	\$22,668,577	\$22,668,577	\$22,668,577	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding is maintained at FY 2021 levels
Special Education Excess Cost	\$140,619,782	\$140,619,782	\$140,619,782	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cap on the Excess Cost grant is maintained and funding remains at the FY 2021 level
State Charter Schools	\$120,178,750	\$123,640,200	\$124,032,050	\$3,461,450	\$3,853,300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The charter school per-pupil grant is increased from \$11,250 to \$11,525 to align with the ECS foundation level
Priority School Districts	\$30,818,778	\$30,818,778	\$30,818,778	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding is maintained at FY 2021 levels
Open Choice	\$25,982,027	\$27,980,849	\$30,342,327	\$1,998,822	\$4,360,300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding increased due to increased enrollment

⁵ State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management. (2021). *Connecticut FY 2022 – FY 2023 Biennium Governor's Budget*. Hartford, CT: Author. Retrieved from https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OPM/Budget/2022_2023_Biennial_Budget/Bud_WebPage/GovBud_2022-23_Final_Web.pdf.

Grant	FY 2021 Estimated	Governor's Proposed Appropriation		Change from FY 2021 Estimate		Key Policy Details
		FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2022	FY 2023	
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides \$900,000 in funding to start Open Choice Pilot Program in Norwalk and Danbury Increase will fund Open Choice seats for 50 Danbury students and 50 Norwalk students beginning in the 2022-23 school year
Commissioner's Network	\$10,009,398	\$10,009,398	\$10,009,398	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding is maintained at FY 2021 levels
Vocational Agriculture	\$15,124,200	\$15,124,200	\$15,124,200	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding is maintained at FY 2021 levels
Local Charter Schools	\$690,000	\$852,000	\$957,000	\$162,000	\$267,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding increased due to increased enrollment
Sheff Transportation	\$45,781,798	\$51,843,244	\$52,813,212	\$6,061,446	\$7,031,414	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding increased due to increased enrollment

Analysis of Education Cost Sharing Grant

Connecticut uses the ECS formula that was adopted in 2017 as part of the state budget, and first used and implemented in FY 2019, to distribute state education aid to towns for their local public schools. Governor Lamont's budget proposal pauses the phase-in of the ECS formula and provides FY 2021 funding levels for FY 2022 and FY 2023. The ECS phase-in is proposed to resume in FY 2024, but by pausing the formula's phase-in schedule, the governor's proposal delays full funding for school districts until FY 2030.

The governor's proposal plans to supplement funding to districts through the use of federal aid, although such aid will not be distributed based on the ECS formula. The federal Coronavirus Response Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) provides Connecticut districts with over \$440 million in emergency school relief funding that will be used to provide increased funding to school districts. This funding will be distributed to school districts based on their respective shares of funding under Title 1, Part A funding of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 received in 2020.⁶ The governor will provide \$221.6 million in CRRSA funds in each year of the biennium.

Table 2 below compares, town by town, the **estimated** ECS grants for FY 2022 and FY 2023 under Governor Lamont's budget proposal with a comparison to estimated FY 2021 grant amounts. **All towns are projected to receive the same amount in ECS funding in FY 2022 and FY 2023 as they did in FY 2021 due to the pause in the ECS formula's phase-in.**

⁶ Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, Pub. L. No. 116-260 (2020).

**Table 2: Estimated Town ECS Grants for FYs 2022 and 2023
Under the Governor's Proposed Budget⁷**

Note: Budgeted appropriations may differ from final grant amounts made by the State Department of Education to towns and school districts because final grant calculations take additional statutory provisions into account. Therefore, towns and school districts should wait for final grant amounts to be released by the State Department of Education before finalizing these amounts in their budgets.

Town	FY 2021 Est. Expenditures	Governor Lamont's Proposed Budget	
		FY 2022	FY 2023
Andover	\$2,004,782	\$2,004,782	\$2,004,782
Ansonia	\$17,938,428	\$17,938,428	\$17,938,428
Ashford	\$3,459,062	\$3,459,062	\$3,459,062
Avon	\$584,016	\$584,016	\$584,016
Barkhamsted	\$1,494,242	\$1,494,242	\$1,494,242
Beacon Falls	\$3,946,560	\$3,946,560	\$3,946,560
Berlin	\$5,870,600	\$5,870,600	\$5,870,600
Bethany	\$1,764,574	\$1,764,574	\$1,764,574
Bethel	\$7,880,729	\$7,880,729	\$7,880,729
Bethlehem	\$1,128,527	\$1,128,527	\$1,128,527
Bloomfield	\$6,700,683	\$6,700,683	\$6,700,683
Bolton	\$2,683,216	\$2,683,216	\$2,683,216
Bozrah	\$1,190,095	\$1,190,095	\$1,190,095
Branford	\$2,619,087	\$2,619,087	\$2,619,087
Bridgeport	\$187,414,378	\$187,414,378	\$187,414,378
Bridgewater	\$23,564	\$23,564	\$23,564
Bristol	\$47,424,566	\$47,424,566	\$47,424,566
Brookfield	\$962,317	\$962,317	\$962,317
Brooklyn	\$6,926,095	\$6,926,095	\$6,926,095
Burlington	\$3,923,648	\$3,923,648	\$3,923,648
Canaan	\$125,752	\$125,752	\$125,752
Canterbury	\$4,004,835	\$4,004,835	\$4,004,835
Canton	\$3,423,208	\$3,423,208	\$3,423,208
Chaplin	\$1,652,147	\$1,652,147	\$1,652,147
Cheshire	\$9,339,412	\$9,339,412	\$9,339,412
Chester	\$768,291	\$768,291	\$768,291
Clinton	\$5,192,084	\$5,192,084	\$5,192,084
Colchester	\$12,040,218	\$12,040,218	\$12,040,218

⁷ State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management. (2021). *Connecticut FY 2022 – FY 2023 Biennium Governor's Budget*. Hartford, CT: Author. Retrieved from https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OPM/Budget/2022_2023_Biennial_Budget/Bud_WebPage/GovBud_2022-23_Final_Web.pdf.

Town	FY 2021 Est. Expenditures	Governor Lamont's Proposed Budget	
		FY 2022	FY 2023
Colebrook	\$403,912	\$403,912	\$403,912
Columbia	\$2,316,189	\$2,316,189	\$2,316,189
Cornwall	\$9,149	\$9,149	\$9,149
Coventry	\$7,952,911	\$7,952,911	\$7,952,911
Cromwell	\$4,977,403	\$4,977,403	\$4,977,403
Danbury	\$37,698,473	\$37,698,473	\$37,698,473
Darien	\$443,228	\$443,228	\$443,228
Deep River	\$1,662,870	\$1,662,870	\$1,662,870
Derby	\$8,840,423	\$8,840,423	\$8,840,423
Durham	\$3,165,733	\$3,165,733	\$3,165,733
East Granby	\$1,434,092	\$1,434,092	\$1,434,092
East Haddam	\$3,555,957	\$3,555,957	\$3,555,957
East Hampton	\$6,902,775	\$6,902,775	\$6,902,775
East Hartford	\$54,387,012	\$54,387,012	\$54,387,012
East Haven	\$19,825,403	\$19,825,403	\$19,825,403
East Lyme	\$6,076,507	\$6,076,507	\$6,076,507
East Windsor	\$5,669,122	\$5,669,122	\$5,669,122
Eastford	\$947,176	\$947,176	\$947,176
Easton	\$172,080	\$172,080	\$172,080
Ellington	\$9,946,889	\$9,946,889	\$9,946,889
Enfield	\$29,551,526	\$29,551,526	\$29,551,526
Essex	\$103,926	\$103,926	\$103,926
Fairfield	\$1,111,544	\$1,111,544	\$1,111,544
Farmington	\$843,467	\$843,467	\$843,467
Franklin	\$736,256	\$736,256	\$736,256
Glastonbury	\$5,379,255	\$5,379,255	\$5,379,255
Goshen	\$80,162	\$80,162	\$80,162
Granby	\$5,278,314	\$5,278,314	\$5,278,314
Greenwich	\$378,649	\$378,649	\$378,649
Griswold	\$10,925,151	\$10,925,151	\$10,925,151
Groton	\$25,040,045	\$25,040,045	\$25,040,045
Guilford	\$1,766,084	\$1,766,084	\$1,766,084
Haddam	\$2,019,012	\$2,019,012	\$2,019,012
Hamden	\$29,931,677	\$29,931,677	\$29,931,677
Hampton	\$1,058,408	\$1,058,408	\$1,058,408
Hartford	\$209,104,777	\$209,104,777	\$209,104,777
Hartland	\$1,071,722	\$1,071,722	\$1,071,722
Harwinton	\$2,430,050	\$2,430,050	\$2,430,050

Town	FY 2021 Est. Expenditures	Governor Lamont's Proposed Budget	
		FY 2022	FY 2023
Hebron	\$5,997,693	\$5,997,693	\$5,997,693
Kent	\$27,594	\$27,594	\$27,594
Killingly	\$15,574,402	\$15,574,402	\$15,574,402
Killingworth	\$1,677,663	\$1,677,663	\$1,677,663
Lebanon	\$4,578,589	\$4,578,589	\$4,578,589
Ledyard	\$11,492,516	\$11,492,516	\$11,492,516
Lisbon	\$2,899,516	\$2,899,516	\$2,899,516
Litchfield	\$1,293,502	\$1,293,502	\$1,293,502
Lyme	\$60,216	\$60,216	\$60,216
Madison	\$395,466	\$395,466	\$395,466
Manchester	\$38,251,467	\$38,251,467	\$38,251,467
Mansfield	\$9,459,722	\$9,459,722	\$9,459,722
Marlborough	\$2,902,339	\$2,902,339	\$2,902,339
Meriden	\$64,774,542	\$64,774,542	\$64,774,542
Middlebury	\$847,757	\$847,757	\$847,757
Middlefield	\$1,837,504	\$1,837,504	\$1,837,504
Middletown	\$21,551,965	\$21,551,965	\$21,551,965
Milford	\$9,673,235	\$9,673,235	\$9,673,235
Monroe	\$5,272,935	\$5,272,935	\$5,272,935
Montville	\$12,779,336	\$12,779,336	\$12,779,336
Morris	\$109,929	\$109,929	\$109,929
Naugatuck	\$32,037,303	\$32,037,303	\$32,037,303
New Britain	\$95,776,383	\$95,776,383	\$95,776,383
New Canaan	\$377,366	\$377,366	\$377,366
New Fairfield	\$3,481,120	\$3,481,120	\$3,481,120
New Hartford	\$2,913,010	\$2,913,010	\$2,913,010
New Haven	\$160,469,961	\$160,469,961	\$160,469,961
New London	\$28,628,974	\$28,628,974	\$28,628,974
New Milford	\$11,124,188	\$11,124,188	\$11,124,188
Newington	\$13,772,951	\$13,772,951	\$13,772,951
Newtown	\$4,495,691	\$4,495,691	\$4,495,691
Norfolk	\$25,940	\$25,940	\$25,940
North Branford	\$7,331,325	\$7,331,325	\$7,331,325
North Canaan	\$1,781,954	\$1,781,954	\$1,781,954
North Haven	\$3,851,360	\$3,851,360	\$3,851,360
North Stonington	\$2,584,204	\$2,584,204	\$2,584,204
Norwalk	\$12,590,479	\$12,590,479	\$12,590,479
Norwich	\$39,228,238	\$39,228,238	\$39,228,238

Town	FY 2021 Est. Expenditures	Governor Lamont's Proposed Budget	
		FY 2022	FY 2023
Old Lyme	\$238,583	\$238,583	\$238,583
Old Saybrook	\$129,714	\$129,714	\$129,714
Orange	\$1,015,498	\$1,015,498	\$1,015,498
Oxford	\$3,677,011	\$3,677,011	\$3,677,011
Plainfield	\$14,990,047	\$14,990,047	\$14,990,047
Plainville	\$10,812,066	\$10,812,066	\$10,812,066
Plymouth	\$9,802,121	\$9,802,121	\$9,802,121
Pomfret	\$2,670,987	\$2,670,987	\$2,670,987
Portland	\$4,493,305	\$4,493,305	\$4,493,305
Preston	\$2,952,496	\$2,952,496	\$2,952,496
Prospect	\$4,862,123	\$4,862,123	\$4,862,123
Putnam	\$8,340,282	\$8,340,282	\$8,340,282
Redding	\$178,040	\$178,040	\$178,040
Ridgefield	\$568,700	\$568,700	\$568,700
Rocky Hill	\$5,010,814	\$5,010,814	\$5,010,814
Roxbury	\$36,047	\$36,047	\$36,047
Salem	\$2,525,078	\$2,525,078	\$2,525,078
Salisbury	\$19,530	\$19,530	\$19,530
Scotland	\$1,274,671	\$1,274,671	\$1,274,671
Seymour	\$10,423,086	\$10,423,086	\$10,423,086
Sharon	\$13,437	\$13,437	\$13,437
Shelton	\$6,641,832	\$6,641,832	\$6,641,832
Sherman	\$46,995	\$46,995	\$46,995
Simsbury	\$6,317,010	\$6,317,010	\$6,317,010
Somers	\$5,692,630	\$5,692,630	\$5,692,630
South Windsor	\$11,408,078	\$11,408,078	\$11,408,078
Southbury	\$3,785,641	\$3,785,641	\$3,785,641
Southington	\$20,466,417	\$20,466,417	\$20,466,417
Sprague	\$2,668,094	\$2,668,094	\$2,668,094
Stafford	\$9,551,487	\$9,551,487	\$9,551,487
Stamford	\$13,590,585	\$13,590,585	\$13,590,585
Sterling	\$3,174,585	\$3,174,585	\$3,174,585
Stonington	\$1,073,011	\$1,073,011	\$1,073,011
Stratford	\$24,116,337	\$24,116,337	\$24,116,337
Suffield	\$6,148,151	\$6,148,151	\$6,148,151
Thomaston	\$5,481,226	\$5,481,226	\$5,481,226
Thompson	\$7,534,704	\$7,534,704	\$7,534,704
Tolland	\$9,105,528	\$9,105,528	\$9,105,528

Town	FY 2021 Est. Expenditures	Governor Lamont's Proposed Budget	
		FY 2022	FY 2023
Torrington	\$26,958,170	\$26,958,170	\$26,958,170
Trumbull	\$2,323,541	\$2,323,541	\$2,323,541
Union	\$211,728	\$211,728	\$211,728
Vernon	\$20,170,089	\$20,170,089	\$20,170,089
Voluntown	\$2,117,243	\$2,117,243	\$2,117,243
Wallingford	\$20,855,570	\$20,855,570	\$20,855,570
Warren	\$32,115	\$32,115	\$32,115
Washington	\$53,007	\$53,007	\$53,007
Waterbury	\$150,090,541	\$150,090,541	\$150,090,541
Waterford	\$326,444	\$326,444	\$326,444
Watertown	\$11,780,186	\$11,780,186	\$11,780,186
West Hartford	\$21,880,498	\$21,880,498	\$21,880,498
West Haven	\$48,958,444	\$48,958,444	\$48,958,444
Westbrook	\$74,979	\$74,979	\$74,979
Weston	\$263,792	\$263,792	\$263,792
Westport	\$507,728	\$507,728	\$507,728
Wethersfield	\$10,885,177	\$10,885,177	\$10,885,177
Willington	\$3,456,594	\$3,456,594	\$3,456,594
Wilton	\$461,796	\$461,796	\$461,796
Winchester	\$8,024,957	\$8,024,957	\$8,024,957
Windham	\$28,962,979	\$28,962,979	\$28,962,979
Windsor	\$12,130,392	\$12,130,392	\$12,130,392
Windsor Locks	\$5,225,299	\$5,225,299	\$5,225,299
Wolcott	\$12,387,171	\$12,387,171	\$12,387,171
Woodbridge	\$471,575	\$471,575	\$471,575
Woodbury	\$1,539,859	\$1,539,859	\$1,539,859
Woodstock	\$4,990,532	\$4,990,532	\$4,990,532