The Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula is the formula the state legislature has established to distribute approximately $2 billion in state education funding to local public school districts. After several years of not faithfully using an ECS formula and instead funding local public schools through block grants, in October 2017, the Connecticut General Assembly passed a new ECS formula, which began being implemented in fiscal year 2019. Below is a table comparing the components of the ECS formula the State of Connecticut is now using to the components of the previous ECS formula that was replaced.

### Comparing Education Cost Sharing Formulas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formula Component</th>
<th>Previous ECS Formula</th>
<th>Current ECS Formula</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation[^4]</td>
<td>$11,525 per student</td>
<td>$11,525 per student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Aid for Special Education Incorporated in Foundation[^5]</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-income Student Weight[^4]</td>
<td>Weigh per Student: 30% Identification Method: Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Lunch</td>
<td>Weigh per Student: 30% Identification Method: Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentrated Poverty Weight[^7]</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Weight per Student: 5% Identification Method: Low-income student residing in district where low-income students account for over 75% of the district’s enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Learner Weight[^8]</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Weight per Student: 15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Base Aid Ratio[^9]                                   | 90% Property Wealth Factor  
  • Determined by town’s Equalized Net Grand per Capita (ENGLPC), compared to state median town ENGLPC[^10]  
  10% Income Wealth Factor  
  • Determined by a town’s Median Household Income (MHI), compared to state median MHI[^11] | 70% Property Wealth Factor  
  • Determined by town’s Equalized Net Grand per Capita (ENGLPC), compared to state median town ENGLPC[^12]  
  30% Income Wealth Factor  
  • Determined by a town’s Median Household Income (MHI), compared to state median MHI[^13] |
| Base Aid Ratio Bonus for Higher-need Towns           | N/A                  | Adds a bonus of 3-6 percentage points to the Base Aid Ratio of communities that have one of the 19 highest Public Investment Communities (PIC) index scores[^14] |
| Statewide Guaranteed Wealth Level[^15]              | 1.5                  | 1.35                |
| Minimum Aid Ratio[^16]                               | Alliance Districts: 10%  
  Non-Alliance Districts: 2% | Alliance Districts: 10%  
  Non-Alliance Districts: 1% |
| Hold Harmless                                        | All towns were “held harmless” and could not receive less ECS funding than they did the previous fiscal year. | Applies only to Alliance Districts[^17]. If, according to the formula, an Alliance District would receive less than its ECS grant from FY 2017, it is “held harmless” and will receive its FY 2017 grant amount instead. |
| Includes Public School Choice Programs               | No                   | No                 |
For the first year of the formula, all towns were guaranteed a percentage of their fully-funded grant amount (according to the formula).\(^1\)

- Educational Reform Districts (the state’s 10 lowest performing districts) were guaranteed 12% 
- Alliance Districts were guaranteed 8% 
- Non-Alliance Districts were guaranteed 1%

**Phase-in Plan**

Formula is phased in over 10 years with the phase-in schedule differing between towns receiving, according to the formula, an increase in ECS funding over their FY 2017 grants and those receiving a decrease compared to their FY 2017 grant amounts.

**Towns Receiving an Increase**
- **FY 2019:** Increase phased in by 4.1% 
- **FY 2020-2027:** Increase phased in by 10.66% per year 
- **FY 2028:** Grant fully funded

**Towns Receiving a Decrease**
- **FY 2019:** Decrease phased out by 25% 
- **FY 2020-2027:** Decrease phased out by 8.33% per year 
- **FY 2028:** Grant fully funded

| Estimated Total Cost When Fully Funded (based on FY 2020 data) | $2.58 billion | $2.36 billion |

\(^1\) Conn. Acts 13-247. 
\(^2\) Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-262f. 
\(^3\) Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-262h. 
\(^4\) Amount that is intended to represent the estimated cost of educating a Connecticut general education student who does not have any additional learning needs. 
\(^6\) Increases foundation amount by a certain percentage for students who live in low-income households as identified by a designated eligibility metric. 
\(^7\) Increases foundation amount by a certain percentage for students who reside in a district where the percentage of the district’s enrollment of low-income students is above a designated threshold. 
\(^8\) Increases foundation amount by a certain percentage for students who are identified as needing additional English-language skills. 
\(^9\) Variable in the ECS formula that determines each community’s ability to financially support its public schools. 
\(^10\) The 33 lowest-performing school districts in Connecticut as designated by the commissioner of the Connecticut State Department of Education and determined by various measures of student performance. 
\(^11\) The most recent ECS formula was never fully funded and the Connecticut General Assembly ceased faithfully following the formula beginning with the 2013-14 school year.