

March 25, 2022

[H.B. 5283: An Act Concerning the Education Cost Formula and the Funding of Other Education Programs](#), is the student-centered funding proposal for the 2022 legislative session. While this proposal is similar to last year's proposal, [S.B. 948: An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut](#), there are several distinct changes to this new student-centered funding proposal. These key differences are underlined in the table below.

Student-Centered Funding Proposal Comparison Table		
Bill Number	S.B. 948	H.B. 5283
Education Cost Sharing Formula (ECS)	<p>Student Counts & Needs Weights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the weight provided to students who reside in a district with concentrated poverty from 5% to 15%, and reduce the threshold for districts to be eligible for the weight's additional support from 75% to 60% Increase the weight for English Learners from 15% to 25% <p>Phase-in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides full funding of the ECS formula in FY 2022 for underfunded districts receiving an ECS increase in, rather than FY 2028. The ECS phase-out schedule for overfunded districts receiving a decrease in ECS is maintained. 	<p>Student Counts & Needs Weights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not included in H.B. 5283 due to its enactment last legislative session. <p>Phase-in</p> <p>No change from S.B. 948, with the exception of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides full funding of the ECS formula in <u>FY 2025 for underfunded districts receiving an ECS increase</u>, rather than in FY 2028. <u>The ECS phase-out schedule for overfunded districts receiving a decrease in ECS funding is maintained through FY 2030.</u> <u>Revises ECS phase-in schedule per Governor's adjustments (H.B. 5038) to avoid irregular changes in grants prior to full funding.</u>
Choice Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant program begins in FY 2022 Creates a choice program grant based on the ECS formula for students attending Open Choice, interdistrict magnet schools, state charter schools, Vo-Ag programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators of these programs receive the full weighted per 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.B. 5283 features the same changes to choice funding as S.B. 948 with the following adjustments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Grant program begins in FY 2025</u> <u>Open Choice students are no longer included in the proposal due to possible</u>

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	<p>student amount from the sending town generated by the ECS formula for each student.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators of state charter schools and interdistrict magnet schools not operated by local or regional boards of education receive weighted student funding based on their enrollment, the ECS formula foundation, and the student need weights in the ECS formula. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Sheff</i> region magnet operators receive a 15% need student weighting for all students. Local regular education tuition is eliminated for interdistrict magnet schools and vo-ag programs starting in FY 25. 	<p><u>conflicts with the recent <i>Sheff</i> agreement.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Provides annual growth for RESC choice grants starting in FY 2026 by increasing the foundation by the greater of the increase in personal income or the percentage increase in inflation.</u> <u>Interdistrict magnet school operators are held harmless if choice grant is less than FY 2024 state aid plus tuition per student.</u> <u>Vo-Ag operators are held harmless if choice grant is less than FY 2024 state aid plus tuition per student.</u> Continues the phase-in of the charter school weighted grant formula based on student need, established in PA 21-2, into FY 2024. <u>Provides full funding of the charter school weighted grant formula in FY 2025 and future years.</u> <u>Provides annual growth for charter school grants starting in FY 2026 by increasing the foundation by the greater of the increase in personal income or the percentage increase in inflation.</u>
Special Education	<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 not changed by this proposal. 	No change from S.B. 948
Accountability	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Creates a task force to study accountability related to increased funding entitled under the act.</u>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Requires task force to study Alliance District program, Next Generation Accountability System, and other accountability concepts in connection with increased funding provided by this act to improve student outcomes.</u> • <u>Requires task force to submit a report of findings and recommendations to the Education Committee by July 1, 2023.</u>