

**CONNECTICUT
SCHOOL FINANCE
PROJECT**

**SUMMARY OF THE CHANGES IN THE CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUDGET FOR
FISCAL YEARS 2020 AND 2021¹**

June 26, 2019

The State of Connecticut's biennial budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 contains numerous changes to the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) budget, and to the funding of education programs. This summary provides a line item analysis of these changes and compares budget appropriations for FYs 2020 and 2021 with estimated expenditures for FY 2019.

As compared to FY 2019 some of the most significant changes in the new biennial budget for the CSDE include:

1. Continuing the statutorily scheduled 10-year phase-in of a new Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula by adding a total of \$75.4 million in ECS funds over the biennium.²
2. Delaying the separation of the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System from the CSDE into a separate state agency.³
3. Providing funds to increase enrollment at Connecticut's choice schools.⁴
4. Increasing the maximum per student magnet school grant for all per student interdistrict magnet school operating grants by two percent.⁵
5. Transferring the responsibility for administering the Youth Service Bureau and Youth Service Bureau Enhancement programs from the CSDE to the Department of Children and Families.⁶
6. Transferring all Sheff transportation expenses from multiple line items into a new line item appropriation titled Sheff Transportation.⁷
7. Separating the Priority School District appropriation into three separate line items maintaining previously funded programs.⁸

Note: This summary should not be construed as either supporting or opposing any of the budget provisions and/or changes detailed in this document. Additionally, this summary is not meant to be an exhaustive analysis of the enacted budget, and instead, focuses on the Connecticut State Department of Education's budget. As a result, programs or resource transfers possibly impacting K-12 education in Connecticut that are found under other state agency budgets have not been analyzed or included in this summary.

Line-item Analysis of the Enacted Budget for the Connecticut State Department of Education

By line item, the table below summarizes the enacted biennial budget for the CSDE. Line items are listed in order of their Special Identification Code (SID). Consolidated line items appear at the bottom of the table.

Account	FY 2019 Estimated Expenditure ^{9,A}	FY 2020 Enacted Budget ¹⁰	FY 2021 Enacted Budget ¹¹	FY 20 – FY 19 Estimated Difference	Comments ¹²
Personal Services	\$16,001,164	\$16,689,546	\$17,534,577	\$688,382	Pays for personnel expenses at the CSDE.
Other Expenses	\$3,498,843	\$3,485,381	\$3,035,381	(\$13,462)	Pays for litigation related costs, facilities rentals, IT, consulting, office supplies, etc.
Dev. of Mastery Exams Grades 4, 6, and 8	\$10,436,130	\$10,449,592	\$10,490,334	\$13,462	Pays for administration and grading of state assessments such as CMT Science, SBAC, and SAT.
Primary Mental Health	\$345,288	\$345,288	\$345,288	\$0	Pays for grants to support mental health programs for children in grades K-3.
Leadership, Education, Athletics in Partnership (LEAP)	\$312,211	\$312,211	\$312,211	\$0	New Haven-based mentoring program for children ages 7-14.
Adult Education Action	\$194,534	\$194,534	\$194,534	\$0	Funding provides a subsidy for GED tests.
Connecticut Writing Project	\$20,250	\$20,250	\$20,250	\$0	Funds an educator professional development program to improve the teaching of reading and writing.
Neighborhood Youth Centers	\$438,866	\$613,866	\$613,866	\$175,000	Provides funding to support Boys & Girls Clubs and other programs in the state's seven largest cities. Funding in this account was increased by \$175,000 to provide funding for YMCAs.

^A Note that FY 2019 expenditures may differ from FY 2019 appropriations.

Account	FY 2019 Estimated Expenditure ^{9,A}	FY 2020 Enacted Budget ¹⁰	FY 2021 Enacted Budget ¹¹	FY 20 – FY 19 Estimated Difference	Comments ¹²
Sheff Settlement	\$11,038,756	\$10,250,966	\$10,277,534	(\$787,790)	Sheff programs pass through. Funding from this account was transferred to the new Sheff Transportation line item in FY 2020.
Parent Trust Fund Program	\$267,193	\$267,193	\$267,193	\$0	Program provides leadership skills training to parents to improve the health, safety, and learning outcomes of children.
Regional Vocational-Technical School System	\$133,188,256	\$135,153,018	\$140,398,647	\$1,964,762	Pays for personnel expenses for the state's 20 Technical Education and Career System schools. Increased funding for this appropriation reflects the increased wage related expenses associated with the state's collective bargaining contracts.
Commissioner's Network	\$9,359,398	\$10,009,398	\$10,009,398	\$500,000	Provides additional funding to 24 participating schools in the network in 2018-19. ¹³ Participating schools receive additional financial support in exchange for increased accountability. ¹⁴
Local Charter Schools	\$492,000	\$600,000	\$690,000	\$108,000	Pays for the \$3,000 per-pupil grant the State provides for local charter schools. Increased funding will allow for increased enrollment in this choice school program.
Bridges to Success	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$0	Provides funding to support at-risk high school students to successfully transition to college.

Account	FY 2019 Estimated Expenditure ^{9,A}	FY 2020 Enacted Budget ¹⁰	FY 2021 Enacted Budget ¹¹	FY 20 – FY 19 Estimated Difference	Comments ¹²
Talent Development	\$2,156,897	\$2,164,593	\$2,183,986	\$7,696	Funding supports professional learning for teachers. The appropriation was level funded from FY 2019, however, expenditures were below appropriation reflecting a small increase from FY 2019 estimated expenditures.
School-Based Diversion Initiative	\$900,000	\$900,000	\$900,000	\$0	Funding supports programs to reduce juvenile justice involvement for youth with mental health needs.
Technical High Schools Other Expenses	\$22,668,577	\$22,668,577	\$22,668,577	\$0	Pays for all non-personnel expenses for the state's 20 Technical Education and Career System schools.
Longitudinal Data Systems Renamed EdSight	\$1,093,877	\$1,095,896	\$1,100,273	\$1,929	This account was renamed in this biennium budget. Project aims to compile statewide education data and provide a data warehouse of school, district, and state level information, which can be used by decisionmakers and others to measure the effectiveness of school, district, and state level programs. Funding is level appropriated between FY 2019 and FY 2020, however, the appropriation is slightly higher than what is anticipated to be expended in FY 2019.

Account	FY 2019 Estimated Expenditure ^{9,A}	FY 2020 Enacted Budget ¹⁰	FY 2021 Enacted Budget ¹¹	FY 20 – FY 19 Estimated Difference	Comments ¹²
K-3 Reading Assessment Pilot Renamed Curriculum and Standards	\$2,215,782	\$2,215,782	\$2,215,782	\$0	This account was renamed in this biennium budget. It is unknown if the use of these funds will change. The account was level funded from FY 2019.
American School for the Deaf	\$7,432,514	\$8,357,514	\$8,357,514	\$925,000	State subsidy for a school for students who are deaf or hearing impaired. It includes funding for programs aimed at helping deaf or hearing-impaired students who also have behavioral challenges. The budget provides additional funds to support the general operations of the school.
Regional Education Services	\$262,500	\$262,500	\$262,500	\$0	Assists local school districts by providing programs to improve learning and technical assistance to member school districts. This account is level funded from FY 2019.
Family Resource Centers	\$5,802,710	\$5,802,710	\$5,802,710	\$0	Supports school-based family centered programs such as high-quality preschool. Most of the schools are in Alliance District communities. This account is level funded from FY 2019.
Charter Schools	\$114,864,132	\$120,622,500	\$124,678,750	\$5,758,368	Pays the per-student charter school grant of \$11,250. Increased funding is intended to allow enrollment growth at charter schools.
Child Nutrition State Match	\$2,354,000	\$2,354,000	\$2,354,000	\$0	State match to federal child nutrition program. This account is level funded from FY 2019.

Account	FY 2019 Estimated Expenditure ^{9,A}	FY 2020 Enacted Budget ¹⁰	FY 2021 Enacted Budget ¹¹	FY 20 – FY 19 Estimated Difference	Comments ¹²
Health Foods Initiative	\$4,151,463	\$4,151,463	\$4,151,463	\$0	State subsidy to encourage school districts to serve healthy food. This account is level funded from FY 2019.
Vocational Agriculture	\$13,759,589	\$14,952,000	\$15,124,200	\$1,192,411	School choice program with 19 locations in school districts that provides educational programs in the field of agriculture and related occupations. Increased funding brings the appropriation to a sufficient level to provide the \$4,200 base statutory grant as well as to allow for expanded enrollment.
Adult Education	\$20,383,960	\$20,383,960	\$20,383,960	\$0	Subsidizes the cost of operating adult education programs in school districts. This account is level funded from FY 2019.
Health and Welfare Services Pupils Private Schools	\$3,438,415	\$3,438,415	\$3,438,415	\$0	Partially reimburses municipalities for the cost of providing health and welfare services in private schools. This account is level funded from FY 2019.
Education Equalization Grants	\$2,016,728,682	\$2,054,281,297	\$2,092,033,975	\$37,552,615	The enacted biennium budget maintains the ECS formula that was passed in October 2017 is to be phased-in over a 10-year period. ECS funding was increased by \$75.4 million over the biennium as planned by the phase-in schedule.

Account	FY 2019 Estimated Expenditure ^{9,A}	FY 2020 Enacted Budget ¹⁰	FY 2021 Enacted Budget ¹¹	FY 20 – FY 19 Estimated Difference	Comments ¹²
Bilingual Education	\$3,177,112	\$3,177,112	\$3,177,112	\$0	This grant has two parts: a formula grant to reimburse towns with schools where more than 20 students speak the same non-English language, and another for professional development for English Learner educators. This account is level funded from FY 2019.
Priority School Districts	\$37,150,868	\$30,818,778	\$30,818,778	(\$6,332,090)	Funding for the main Priority School District grant is not reduced. Rather, funding to support extended school hours and school accountability are transferred to new line item appropriations.
Young Parents Program	\$71,657	\$0	\$0	(\$71,657)	Funding is eliminated for this program, which subsidizes a portion of the cost of daycare programs at public schools.
Interdistrict Coop.	\$1,537,500	\$1,537,500	\$1,537,500	\$0	Provides competitive grants to two or more local boards of education that have entered into a cooperative arrangement to provide a program across school districts. This account is level funded from FY 2019.
School Breakfast Program	\$2,158,900	\$2,158,900	\$2,158,900	\$0	Provides breakfast to children in those schools where 40 percent or more of the children receive free or reduced price lunch. This account is level funded from FY 2019.
Excess Cost - Student Based	\$140,619,782	\$140,619,782	\$140,619,782	\$0	Provides partial support to municipalities for special education expenses that are

Account	FY 2019 Estimated Expenditure ^{9,A}	FY 2020 Enacted Budget ¹⁰	FY 2021 Enacted Budget ¹¹	FY 20 – FY 19 Estimated Difference	Comments ¹²
					more than 4.5 times their average per-pupil expenditure. This account is level funded from FY 2019.
Open Choice Program	\$39,138,373	\$26,835,214	\$27,682,027	(\$12,303,159)	A voluntary school choice program (primarily urban students transferring to suburban schools) operated mostly in the Hartford region, but also in New Haven, Bridgeport, and New London. Funding for the Open Choice program has been increased by \$1.6 million to support increased enrollment in the program. However, \$13.9 million has been transferred from this appropriation and into a new line item that specifically funds Sheff transportation expenses.
Magnet Schools	\$326,508,158	\$304,204,848	\$306,033,302	(\$22,303,310)	Funding to support the operation of Connecticut magnet schools has been increased by \$1.8 million to accommodate increased enrollment. \$30.1 million of the appropriation has been transferred to the new Sheff transportation appropriation.
After School Program	\$4,720,695	\$5,720,695	\$5,750,695	\$1,000,000	Municipalities, community organizations, and RESCs apply for this competitive grant to sponsor after school academically enriched programs. Funding for these programs have been increased by \$1 million.

Account	FY 2019 Estimated Expenditure ^{9,A}	FY 2020 Enacted Budget ¹⁰	FY 2021 Enacted Budget ¹¹	FY 20 – FY 19 Estimated Difference	Comments ¹²
Extended School Hours	\$0	\$2,919,883	\$2,919,883	\$2,919,883	NEW LINE ITEM CREATED FROM A TRANSFER FROM PRIORITY SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROPRIATION.
School Accountability	\$0	\$3,412,207	\$3,412,207	\$3,412,207	NEW LINE ITEM CREATED FROM A TRANSFER FROM PRIORITY SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROPRIATION.
<i>Sheff</i> Transportation	\$0	\$44,750,421	\$45,781,798	\$44,750,421	NEW CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED WITH FUNDING FROM THE MAGNET SCHOOL, OPEN CHOICE, AND SHEFF SETTLEMENT APPROPRIATIONS. NO INCREASED FUNDING WAS PROVIDED. INSTEAD, THE AMOUNT EXPENDED FOR SHEFF TRANSPORTATION RELATED EXPENSES WAS SIMPLY TRANSFERRED INTO A NEW ACCOUNT FOR TRANSPARENCY.
Total	\$2,962,102,893	\$3,018,224,700	\$3,069,764,302	\$55,976,209	

Endnotes

¹ Conn. Acts 19-117.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Connecticut General Assembly, Office of Fiscal Analysis. (2019). OFA Expenditure Detail: June 2019. Hartford, CT: Author. Retrieved from https://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa/Documents/year/PROJ/2019PROJ-20190625_June%202025,%202019%20Expenditure%20Detail.pdf.

¹⁰ Conn. Acts 19-117.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Most of the expenditure data from the Connecticut State Department of Education is available at the below source.

Connecticut State Department of Education. (2019). Grant Payment Report. Available from <https://www.csde.state.ct.us/public/dgm/grantreports1/paydetlMain.aspx>.

¹³ Connecticut State Department of Education. (n.d.). Commissioner's Network. Retrieved from <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Commissioners-Network/Commissioners-Network>.

¹⁴ Ibid.