



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 338

January Session, 2025

Senate Bill No. 1393

Senate, March 31, 2025

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. MCCRORY, D. of the 2nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF STATE GRANT
COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS AND
REVISIONS TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS STATUTES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Administrative
2 Services, having reviewed applications for state grants for public school
3 building projects in accordance with section 10-283 of the general
4 statutes on the basis of priorities for such projects and standards for
5 school construction established by the State Board of Education, and
6 having prepared a listing of all such eligible projects ranked in order of
7 priority, as determined by said commissioner together with the amount
8 of the estimated grant with respect to each eligible project, and having
9 submitted such listing of eligible projects, prior to December 15, 2024, to
10 a committee of the General Assembly established under section 10-283a
11 of the general statutes for the purpose of reviewing such listing, is
12 hereby authorized to enter into grant commitments on behalf of the state
13 in accordance with said section 10-283a with respect to the priority
14 listing of such projects and in such estimated amounts as approved by

15 said committee prior to February 1, 2025, as follows:

	School District	Estimated	Estimated
	School	Project Costs	Grant
	Project Number		
T1	FAIRFIELD		
T2	Osborn Hill Elementary School		
T3	051-0157 A	\$597,500	\$155,768
T4	FAIRFIELD		
T5	North Stratfield Elementary School		
T6	051-0158 A	\$652,500	\$170,107
T7	FAIRFIELD		
T8	Fairfield Woods Middle School		
T9	051-0159 A	\$769,500	\$200,609
T10	GREENWICH		
T11	Old Greenwich School		
T12	057-0115 EA/RR	\$45,086,000	\$9,017,200
T13	NORWICH		
T14	John M. Moriarty Elementary School		
T15	104-0121 N	\$74,065,026	\$59,252,021
T16	NORWICH		
T17	Uncas Elementary School		
T18	104-0120 N	\$76,468,605	\$61,174,884
T19	PLAINVILLE		
T20	Middle School of Plainville		
T21	110-0064 RNV	\$61,915,000	\$40,467,644
T22	REGION DISTRICT 5		
T23	Amity Regional High School		
T24	205-0046 A	\$3,152,596	\$1,351,203

16 (2) Previously Authorized Projects That Have Changed Substantially
 17 in Scope or Cost which are Seeking Reauthorization.

T36	School District	Authorized	Requested
T37	School		
T38	Project Number		
T39			
T40	CTECS		
T41	Platt Technical High School		
T42	900-0013 VT/EA		
T43			
T44	Estimated...		
T45	Total Project Costs	\$124,566,000	\$175,231,500
T46	Total Grant	\$124,566,000	\$175,231,500

18 Sec. 2. Subsection (e) of section 10-285a of the general statutes is
 19 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
 20 *2025*):

21 (e) (1) If an elementary school building project for a new building or
 22 for the expansion of an existing building includes space for an early
 23 childhood care and education program that provides services for
 24 children from birth to five years, the percentage determined pursuant to
 25 this section for the entire school building project shall be increased by
 26 fifteen percentage points, but shall not exceed one hundred per cent. [,
 27 for the portion of the building used primarily for such purpose.]
 28 Recipient districts shall maintain such early childhood care and
 29 education program for at least ten years.

30 (2) The percentage determined pursuant to this section for any school
 31 building project for a building or facility that will be used exclusively by
 32 a local or regional board of education for an early childhood care and
 33 education program that provides services for children from birth to five
 34 years shall be increased by fifteen percentage points, but shall not
 35 exceed one hundred per cent. Recipient districts shall maintain such
 36 early childhood care and education program for at least twenty years.

37 Sec. 3. Section 10-285a of the general statutes is amended by adding
 38 subsection (l) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

39 (NEW) (l) (1) If a school building project for a new building or for the

40 expansion of an existing building includes a designated space for a
41 special education program that provides services for students receiving
42 special education and related services, the percentage determined
43 pursuant to this section for the entire school building project shall be
44 increased by fifteen percentage points, but shall not exceed one hundred
45 per cent. Recipient districts shall maintain such designated space for the
46 special education program for at least ten years.

47 (2) The percentage determined pursuant to this section for any school
48 building project for a building or facility that will be used exclusively by
49 a local or regional board of education for a special education program
50 that provides services for students receiving special education and
51 related services shall be increased by fifteen percentage points, but shall
52 not exceed one hundred per cent. Recipient districts shall maintain such
53 special education program for at least twenty years.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-285a(e)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-285a(l)

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-285a(e)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-285a(l)

ED *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Treasurer, Debt Serv.	GF - Future Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Various Municipalities	Future Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill approves a net increase of \$222 million in state grant commitments for school construction projects, which represents potential revenue gain for the specified municipalities. The grants-in-aid will be financed through the issuance of General Obligation (GO) bonds in future fiscal years. The bill does not authorize new GO bonds. The projected debt service cost to the General Fund to issue \$222 million of GO bonds at current market rates is \$318 million over twenty years.

The bill also increases the reimbursement rate for some school construction projects involving preschool and special education. To the extent future projects are found to be eligible for the reimbursement increase and relevant projects are proposed, approved, and completed, there would be increased costs to the state and increased revenue to involved municipalities. The impact of the increased reimbursements for future projects on the school construction priority list will be reflected when such projects are considered by the legislature in the

future.

The Out Years

The ongoing fiscal impact identified above will continue into the future subject to project completion, successful application for reimbursement, and the costs of borrowing.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 1393*****AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS AND REVISIONS TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS STATUTES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill authorizes school construction state grant commitments totaling \$171.8 million toward total estimated project costs of \$262.7 million. It also reauthorizes one school construction project with a change in cost and scope, resulting in an additional state grant commitment of \$50.7 million.

The bill also (1) establishes a new 15-percentage-point bonus rate for projects with space for special education programs and (2) applies the 15-percentage-point bonus rate for projects with space for certain early childhood programs more broadly to the whole project's costs, rather than just those attributable to the early childhood space.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the bonus rate provisions are effective July 1, 2025.

§ 1 — PRIORITY LIST GRANT COMMITMENTS

Under the state school construction grant program, the state reimburses towns and local districts for a percentage of eligible school construction costs through state general obligation bonds (with less wealthy municipalities receiving a higher reimbursement). The municipalities pay the remaining costs. For the state-operated Connecticut Technical Education and Career System, also known as the technical high schools, the state pays 100% of the project costs.

School Construction Grant Commitments

The bill authorizes school construction state grant commitments

totaling \$171.8 million toward total estimated project costs of \$262.7 million. For each project the bill authorizes, the table below shows the district, school, project type, estimates for total cost and state grant commitment, and state reimbursement rate.

Table: 2025 School Construction Grant Commitments

<i>District</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Estimated Project Cost</i>	<i>Estimated Grant</i>	<i>Reimbursement Rate</i>
Fairfield	Osborne Hill Elementary School	Alteration	\$597,500	\$155,768	26%
Fairfield	North Stratfield Elementary School	Alteration	652,500	170,107	26%
Fairfield	Fairfield Woods Middle School	Alteration	769,500	200,609	26%
Greenwich	Old Greenwich School	Extension/Alteration/ Roof Replacement	45,086,000	9,017,200	20%
Norwich	John M. Moriarty Elementary School	New	74,065,026	59,252,021	80%
Norwich	Uncas Elementary School	New	76,468,605	61,174,884	80%
Plainville	Middle School of Plainville	Renovation	61,915,000	40,467,644	65%
Regional District 5	Amity Regional High School	Alteration	3,152,596	1,351,203	43%
Totals			262,706,727	171,789,436	

Reauthorized Projects

The bill reauthorizes one school construction project with a change in cost and scope, resulting in a \$50.7 million additional state grant commitment. The table below describes the changes to the project.

Table: Reauthorized School Construction Project

<i>District</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Current Law</i>		<i>Bill</i>	<i>Reimbursement Rate</i>
Connecticut Technical High School	Platt Technical High School	Estimated project costs	\$ 124,566,000	\$ 175,231,500	100%
		Estimated state grant	124,566,000	175,231,500	

BONUS REIMBURSEMENT RATES

Early Childhood Space in Elementary Schools

By law, the state gives a 15-percentage-point reimbursement rate increase for new or expansion elementary school construction projects that include space for an early childhood care and education program that provides space for children from birth to age five.

Currently, this increase applies only to the portion of the building used primarily for the program. The bill applies it to the entire project.

Special Education Program Space

The bill establishes a new 15 percentage-point-reimbursement rate bonus for new or expansion school construction projects that include a designated space for special education programs providing services to students receiving special education and related services. The rate increase applies to the entire building project, whether it will be used exclusively or partially for these programs. Districts receiving this bonus must maintain the space for the program for at least 10 years.

The bill also establishes a 15-percentage-point bonus for a building or facility to be used exclusively by a school board for a special education program providing services to students receiving special education and related services. Districts receiving this bonus must maintain the space for the program for at least 20 years.

The bill specifies that these bonus rates cannot cause the project's total reimbursement rate to exceed 100%.

BACKGROUND***Related Bill***

sSB 12 (File 251), favorably reported by the Housing Committee, makes school boards eligible for increases to their school construction grant reimbursement rate based on their municipalities' affordable housing levels under CGS § 8-30g.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 40 Nay 0 (03/12/2025)