



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 7239

LCO No. 6303



Referred to Committee on FINANCE, REVENUE AND
BONDING

Introduced by:
(FIN)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT REPAIR AND
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PROGRAM.***

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Public school operator" means any (A) local or regional board of
3 education, (B) regional educational service center, (C) interdistrict
4 magnet school operator described in section 10-264s of the general
5 statutes, (D) endowed academy approved pursuant to section 10-34 of
6 the general statutes, or (E) state charter school;
- 7 (2) "District repair and improvement project" means a capital
8 expenditure project, approved by a public school operator, for any of
9 the following: (A) The construction, renovation, repair or enlargement
10 of school buildings or school grounds, including parking lots, athletic
11 fields and playgrounds; (B) improvements to school facilities for
12 compliance with health, safety or code requirements; or (C) the
13 purchase, installation or maintenance of or improvements to fixed
14 school infrastructure, including, but not limited to, heating, ventilation

15 and air conditioning systems, plumbing, electrical systems and roofing;

16 (3) "Number of students enrolled" means the number of all students
17 enrolled in a school or schools, as applicable, under the jurisdiction of a
18 public school operator on October first or the full school day
19 immediately preceding such date;

20 (4) "Number of students eligible for free or reduced price meals or
21 free milk" means the number of students enrolled in a school or schools,
22 as applicable, under the jurisdiction of a public school operator on
23 October first or the full school day immediately preceding such date, in
24 families that meet the income eligibility guidelines established by the
25 federal Department of Agriculture for free or reduced price meals or free
26 milk under the National School Lunch Program, established pursuant
27 to P.L. 79-396; and

28 (5) "Total need students" means the sum of: (A) The number of
29 students enrolled for the school year; (B) thirty per cent of the number
30 of students eligible for free or reduced price meals or free milk; (C)
31 fifteen per cent of the number of students eligible for free or reduced
32 price meals or free milk in excess of the number of students eligible for
33 free or reduced price meals that is equal to sixty per cent of the total
34 number of resident students of the town for the school year; (D) twenty-
35 five per cent of the number of students enrolled who are multilingual
36 learners, as defined in section 10-17o of the general statutes; and (E)
37 thirty per cent of the number of students enrolled who require special
38 education, as defined in section 10-76a of the general statutes.

39 (b) (1) On February first of each year, not more than the amount as
40 authorized by the General Assembly for the fiscal year from the
41 resources of the district repair and improvement account established
42 under subsection (h) of this section shall be allocated to the Secretary of
43 the Office of Policy and Management, who shall allocate an amount to
44 each public school operator in accordance with the provisions of
45 subsection (c) of this section. The secretary shall credit all such allocated

46 moneys to a subaccount for each public school operator and make
47 district repair and improvement project grants from such subaccounts
48 to such public school operator pursuant to the provisions of this section.
49 The secretary shall maintain records indicating, for each public school
50 operator's subaccount, the amount credited to the subaccount each year,
51 the amount paid out in district repair and improvement project grants
52 and charged to the subaccount and the balance available for additional
53 district repair and improvement project grants.

54 (2) No amounts allocated under this section shall be used to satisfy a
55 local matching requirement for any state assistance program or for any
56 school building project under section 10-283 of the general statutes.

57 (c) (1) Each allocation under subsection (b) of this section shall be
58 made to a public school operator in accordance with the following
59 formula: (A) Fifty per cent of the amount shall be allocated pro rata on
60 the basis of the following ratio: The public school operator's total need
61 students enrolled in a school or schools, as applicable, under the
62 jurisdiction of the public school operator for the fiscal year prior to the
63 year in which the grant is to be paid to the total need students enrolled
64 in all such schools in the state for the fiscal year prior to the year in which
65 the grant is to be paid; (B) twenty per cent of the amount shall be
66 allocated equally among all public school operators; and (C) thirty per
67 cent of the amount shall be allocated pro rata on the basis of the
68 following ratio: The total number of students enrolled in a school or
69 schools, as applicable, under the jurisdiction of a public school operator
70 for the fiscal year prior to the year in which the grant is to be paid
71 multiplied by the inverse of the adjusted equalized net grand list per
72 capita of such public school operator, which shall be the numerator of
73 the fraction, and the sum of the resulting products for all the schools
74 under the jurisdiction of a public school operator, which shall be the
75 denominator of the fraction.

76 (2) For the purposes of this subsection, the adjusted equalized net
77 grand list per capita of a public school operator shall be determined as

78 follows:

79 (A) For a local board of education, the adjusted equalized net grand
80 list per capita shall be the same as the adjusted equalized net grand list
81 per capita, as defined in section 10-261 of the general statutes, of the
82 town of such board;

83 (B) For a regional board of education, a regional educational service
84 center, an interdistrict magnet school operator described in section 10-
85 264s of the general statutes or an endowed academy, the adjusted
86 equalized net grand list per capita shall be determined by such entity's
87 rank under section 10-285a of the general statutes, where the adjusted
88 equalized net grand list per capita shall be the same as the adjusted
89 equalized net grand list per capita of a town with the same ranking; and

90 (C) For a charter school, the adjusted equalized net grand list per
91 capita shall be the same as the adjusted equalized net grand list per
92 capita, as defined in section 10-261 of the general statutes, of the town
93 in which such charter school is located.

94 (d) On March first of each year, the Secretary of the Office of Policy
95 and Management shall notify each public school operator of the amount
96 allocated to such public school operator pursuant to subsections (b) and
97 (c) of this section and shall post on said office's Internet web site such
98 allocation amounts and the calculations for all public school operators.

99 (e) Allocated moneys credited to the subaccount of a public school
100 operator in accordance with subsection (b) of this section shall be issued
101 as a grant by the secretary to the public school operator not later than
102 June thirtieth of each fiscal year. Such public school operator shall use
103 such grants for reimbursement and costs associated with district repair
104 and improvement projects.

105 (f) Not later than September 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, each
106 public school operator issued a grant pursuant to subsection (e) of this
107 section in the preceding fiscal year shall submit a report to the Secretary

108 of the Office of Policy and Management, in a form and manner
109 prescribed by the secretary, describing each district repair and
110 improvement project for which amounts were expended in such fiscal
111 year and the amounts expended for each such project. Such report shall
112 include a certification by the public school operator that (1) the district
113 repair and improvement project was approved by the public school
114 operator or a board, council or other body responsible for overseeing
115 such project, and (2) no grant money allocated under this section to such
116 public school operator for such fiscal year was used to satisfy a local
117 matching requirement for any state assistance program or for any school
118 building project under section 10-283 of the general statutes. The
119 secretary shall post all reports submitted pursuant to this subsection on
120 said office's Internet web site.

121 (g) Each public school operator receiving a district repair and
122 improvement project grant under this section shall retain, for a period
123 of not less than three years following the completion of such project,
124 detailed accounting records of all expenses incurred relative to the
125 district repair and improvement project for which a grant is received. If
126 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management determines that
127 such records are not maintained or a review of such records indicates
128 that such grant, or any portion thereof, was used for other than its
129 intended purpose, the secretary shall provide written notification to the
130 public school operator of such finding. Upon issuing a finding under
131 this section, the secretary may require the public school operator to
132 promptly pay to the state an amount equal to the amount of the grant or
133 may cause the amount of any future grant made under this section to be
134 reduced by such amount.

135 (h) There is established an account to be known as the "district repair
136 and improvement account", which shall be a separate, nonlapsing
137 account. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be
138 deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be expended by
139 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management for the purposes
140 of this section.

141 (i) For the purposes described in subsections (b) and (c) of this section,
142 the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to
143 authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in
144 principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate sixty million dollars,
145 provided thirty million dollars of said authorization shall be effective
146 July 1, 2025.

147 (j) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount
148 stated in subsection (i) of this section, shall be used by the Office of
149 Policy and Management for the purposes of subsections (b) and (c) of
150 this section.

151 (k) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the
152 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent
153 with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply
154 to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this
155 section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived
156 from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in
157 accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to
158 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
159 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
160 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
161 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be
162 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
163 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed
164 by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
165 and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its
166 discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall
167 be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state
168 of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and
169 interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as
170 part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds,
171 appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such
172 principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay
173 such principal and interest as the same become due.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To establish a district repair and improvement project program and authorize state bonds to fund such program.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]