



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7239

January Session, 2025



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) There is established a public school district repair and
40 improvement project program to assist public school operators with the
41 costs of minor capital repairs, improvements and maintenance, mitigate
42 such operators' need for more costly and extensive renovations and
43 construction in the future and improve accessibility to safe and well-
44 maintained school buildings and grounds for students and educators.
45 On February first of each year, not more than the amount as authorized
46 by the General Assembly for the fiscal year from the resources of the
47 district repair and improvement account established under subsection
48 (h) of this section shall be allocated to the Secretary of the Office of Policy
49 and Management, who shall allocate an amount to each public school
50 operator in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this

51 section. The secretary shall credit all such allocated moneys to a
52 subaccount for each public school operator and make district repair and
53 improvement project grants from such subaccounts to such public
54 school operator pursuant to the provisions of this section. The secretary
55 shall maintain records indicating, for each public school operator's
56 subaccount, the amount credited to the subaccount each year, the
57 amount paid out in district repair and improvement project grants and
58 charged to the subaccount and the balance available for additional
59 district repair and improvement project grants.

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

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

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

84 follows:

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

89 (B) For a regional board of education, a regional educational service
90 center, an interdistrict magnet school operator described in section 10-
91 264s of the general statutes or an endowed academy, the adjusted
92 equalized net grand list per capita shall be determined by such entity's
93 rank under section 10-285a of the general statutes, where the adjusted
94 equalized net grand list per capita shall be the same as the adjusted
95 equalized net grand list per capita of a town with the same ranking; and

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

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

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

111 (f) Not later than September 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, each
112 public school operator issued a grant pursuant to subsection (e) of this
113 section in the preceding fiscal year shall submit a report to the Secretary
114 of the Office of Policy and Management, in a form and manner

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

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

141 (h) There is established an account to be known as the "district repair
142 and improvement account", which shall be a separate, nonlapsing
143 account. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be
144 deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be expended by
145 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management for the purposes
146 of this section.

147 (i) For the purposes described in subsections (b) and (c) of this section,

148 the State Bond Commission shall have the power from time to time to
149 authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in
150 principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate sixty million dollars,
151 provided thirty million dollars of said authorization shall be effective
152 July 1, 2026.

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

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
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FIN *Joint Favorable Subst.*