
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)