

Federal Funding for Endowed Academies

Endowed academies are unique. As you know, the current funding structure is somewhat complex, where local boards of education pay tuition for the resident students who attend endowed academies, and those resident municipalities must also pay for and provide transportation to the schools that local students attend. In addition, endowed academies receive the benefit of school construction reimbursements, and typically receive equitable services support similar to non-public schools.

Generally, the COVID-19 relief funds are made available to public local educational agencies (LEAs) and there are separate provisions for non-public schools, including the endowed academies. For the first group of funding, the CARES Act, the distribution was through the LEAs as equitable services. This is consistent with the approach to Title funding. The more recent relief funding has a different approach, where the funding for non-public schools will be distributed by the State (the CSDE).

Developing statutory language to address the concerns around funding and resources for endowed academies will need further discussion and analysis to ensure it does not run afoul of state and federal law. Unfortunately, statutory change of the Connecticut law cannot change the explicit distribution mechanisms described in federal law. As indicated in the hearing and above, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) plans to earmark funding for the endowed academies to provide them the benefit of the federal COVID-19 relief. A table with the planned earmarks for each endowed academy can be found below.

		Enrollment	FRPL %	Weighted	Est. Grant	Per Pupil
Endowed Academies:						
Gilbert School		467	40.0%	654	154,329	\$330.47
Norwich Free Academy		2,266	51.0%	3,422	807,680	\$356.43
Woodstock Academy		1,107	52.0%	1,683	397,186	\$358.79
Goodwin University Magnets		957	73.0%	1,656	390,805	\$408.37
	Total	4,797		7,414	1,750,000	