



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
General Obligation Bonding Subcommittee

March 11, 2019

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Representative Miller, Senator Witkos, Representative Floren and members of the bonding subcommittee. My name is Kathy Demsey, and I am the Chief Financial Officer of the State Department of Education. I am here today representing Commissioner Wentzell who sends her apologies that she is unable to present to you today. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you to discuss the Department of Education's bonding needs.

The Department appreciates your continued support for our capital needs at the CT Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) and the grants we provide to local school districts to meet the educational technology needs and minor alterations, repairs and improvements in our neediest districts.

The CTECS currently has \$1.8 million unallocated for minor alterations and improvements to buildings and grounds; the purchase of new and replacement equipment and vehicles; and technology upgrades at the schools. We are appreciative of the Governor's proposed budget recommendation of \$5 million in additional funding in fiscal year 2020-21. The CTECS will continue to prioritize the available funding to meet technology needs and infrastructure repairs that arise during the 2019-20 school year.

While the Governor's budget does not recommend new authorizations for the biennium for capital projects for charter schools or low-performing schools, the Department still has \$6.8 million unallocated for charter schools and \$11.2 million unallocated for low-performing schools. The Department had issued requests for proposal for both of these accounts, and responses were due January 18, 2019. Application review is nearly complete and funding will be awarded shortly.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and we are happy to answer any questions you have at this time.