



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee  
General Obligation Bonding Subcommittee  
Commissioner Charlene M. Russell-Tucker  
March 15, 2023**

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Representative Napoli, Senator Martin, Representative Piscopo and members of the Bonding Subcommittee. My name is Charlene Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of the State Department of Education. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you to discuss the Department of Education's bonding needs.

The most recent Charter School Facility bond awards were approved by the State Bond Commission in July and September of 2018 to provide funds to assist state charter schools in financing school building projects and general improvements to school buildings. In total, \$7 million was issued for this purpose based on submitted state charter school applications. There is currently an unallocated balance of \$7 million that is marked for Charter School Facility bond projects, of which \$2.9 million has been sent to OPM for inclusion in the next bond agenda, and we are appreciative that the Governor's Budget recommends authorizing \$5 million in each year of the biennium for this purpose.

The most recent Low-Performing Schools (LPS) bond award was approved by the State Bond Commission in December 2022 to assist targeted local and regional school districts for alterations, repairs, improvements, technology, and equipment in low-performing schools. A total of \$6.1 million was issued for this purpose based on submitted LEA applications. There is currently an unallocated balance of \$5.1 million that was marked for LPS bond projects, and we are appreciative that the Governor's Budget recommends authorizing \$5 million in each year of the biennium for this purpose.

In addition, section 314(f) of Public Act 22-118 authorized \$20 million for capital expenses for Magnet Schools operated by a Regional Education Service Center (RESC) of which up to \$10 million is specifically authorized for the Capitol Regional Education Council (CREC). We are in the process of determining the application process for RESCs to utilize this funding.

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