



**Interim Chancellor O. John Maduko**  
**Connecticut State Colleges & Universities**  
Before the General Bonding Subcommittee  
March 24, 2026

Senator Miller, Representative Napoli, Senator Hwang, Representative Piscopo, and other esteemed members of the General Bonding Subcommittee.

My name is John Maduko, Interim Chancellor for the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to all of you today on behalf of our system, and more importantly, on behalf of the students, staff and faculty we serve.

At CSCU, we serve over 100,000 learners annually across our six institutions, meaning we serve one third of the total population of students seeking a post-secondary education in our state. 95% of our students are Connecticut residents, while over 80% of our students stay and live in Connecticut to work and raise their families, or continue to care for their families.

I would like to thank all of you for your work over the years, as well as other members of the Connecticut General Assembly. As a legislative body, you all have continued to support our CSCU institutions through consistent bond authorizations for some of our most pressing needs such as deferred maintenance, new and replacement equipment, and IT infrastructure. While those specific authorizations are not the flashiest, they are the most important to ensure that our students have access to the facilities, services and programs that they deserve.

Our CSCU system is responsible for maintaining more than \$2.7 billion in capital assets, comprising over 17 million square feet of academic, residential, laboratory, and support space across every corner of Connecticut. Many of the facilities at our public state colleges and universities were constructed decades ago and now require substantial reinvestment to remain safe, functional, and aligned with modern educational and workforce requirements.

Related to our students and their families, our system has ten child-care centers currently operating that serve not only our students, but the public at large. These are just some of the reasons that our CSCU system is explicitly woven into the fabric of our state's communities, our state's workforce, and our state's economy.

Additionally, some of our institutions have high schools on their campuses, allowing our system to stay inherently intertwined with our state's K-12 system. CSCU continues to expand access for high school students through dual and concurrent programs, with over 10,600 students across 205 public high schools enrolling in dual credit courses in AY24-25, allowing those students to transfer those credits when they begin their journey accessing a post-secondary education.

Over the past several years, enrollment across the system has continued to rise, most recently seeing a 7% increase across the system in the Fall of 2025. But while our demand continues to grow, our institution's campuses are aging, and our infrastructure needs are increasing.

The average age of our university facilities is about 20 years, while our Connecticut State Community Colleges see facilities with an average age of 23 years, with some of those CT State campuses with buildings of an average age of 35 years or more.

The ability to effectively manage the renewal and modernization of our system's capital assets hinges on consistent funding. Reliable and consistent state support allows our system to strategically plan, design, and implement projects over multiple years, ensuring that maintenance, renovations, upgrades, and new construction are completed efficiently and are in alignment with enrollment trends, academic priorities, and workforce development needs. Consistent funding also helps minimize disruptions to campus operations and enables careful coordination across multiple projects, maximizing the impact of each dollar invested.

Historically, CSCU has experienced inconsistent levels of state support. While the legislature has continued to support our system through capital bond authorizations, over 470 million dollars of authorizations have yet to be allocated through the State's Bond Commission.

This unpredictability undermines long-term planning and can impede the system's ability to respond to evolving student needs and state workforce priorities. Stable, predictable investment in CSCU's facilities is therefore essential to preserve campus infrastructure, support academic excellence, and ensure that Connecticut's students and communities continue to benefit from safe, modern, and high-quality learning environments.

In addition to the questions supplied by the subcommittee and answered by our system, we have provided the subcommittee with our CSCU five-year capital plan, submitted to the legislature in December of 2025. The plan reflects thoughtful coordination between the CSCU System Office and each institutional president and their senior leadership teams. This five-year plan represents a comprehensive, systemwide assessment of capital needs and prior enrollment strategies.

This five-year capital plan demonstrates both the magnitude of CSCU's infrastructure needs and our system's commitment to disciplined planning, transparency, and accountability. Continued partnership with the state will be essential to maintaining CSCU's campuses, supporting enrollment growth, and ensuring that Connecticut's public higher education system remains a strong engine for workforce development, economic competitiveness, and opportunity statewide.

As we look ahead, CSCU intends to return to this committee next year with an investment case for the system, one that ties together our capital planning priorities and workforce initiatives. We believe the next phase of the conversation should focus not only on addressing deferred maintenance and facility needs, but on making targeted investments that strengthen workforce-aligned academic programs, modernize teaching and learning environments, and position CSCU to meet Connecticut's long-term economic and talent needs.

We are happy to answer any questions anyone may have and once again appreciate the opportunity to advocate for our institutions, their staff and faculty, and most importantly, the 100,000 learners we serve each year. Thank you.