

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE FINANCE AND REVENUE GENERAL
OBLIGATION BONDING SUBCOMMITTEE

March 24, 2026

Dr. Alice Pritchard, Executive Director
Connecticut Technical Education and Career System

Co-Chair Senator Miller, Co-Chair Representative Napoli, Ranking Member Senator Hwang, Ranking Member Representative Piscopo and members of the Bonding Subcommittee:

My name is Dr. Alice Pritchard, and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System also known as (CTECS). I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony commenting on **SB 85 An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of The State and Establishing a Supplemental Graduate Student Loan Program**. We are grateful to the committee, Governor Lamont for the commitment and continued support of the academic and trade goals of CTECS.

Please see the listed responses from the agency to the Subcommittee questions.

For the Windham Technical High School proposed authorization increase:

1. Why are the increased funds necessary?

The total project cost is expected to be appx. \$264M. The FY26 authorization amount was intended as an addition to a prior authorization thought to still be available and meet the needs of the current project costs.

- a. What has changed since the funds were originally authorized?

A 2015 authorization (through the school construction priority list) was thought to still be available. After checking with DAS and the Office of Grants Administration, it was determined that the 2015 amount was no longer available and CTECS would need a GO authorization for the total amount.

2. How quickly do you anticipate needing the increased funds?

The current allocation (against FY26) will allow us to initiate the project with DAS Construction Services and proceed with design. They will not allow the project to proceed to bidding without all funds allocated. CTECS/DAS will be looking for the remainder to be authorized in 2027 to avoid a project delay.

- a. Do you anticipate further increases for the program/project beyond the Governor's proposal?

CTECS does not anticipate any additional increases.

For the agency's bond-funded programs:

1. Are the pending FY 27 authorizations still necessary?

Yes

- a. If so, is the authorization level adequate to complete the project or continue the program through FY 27, as applicable?

The General Infrastructure line item is critical to support costs related to Electric Bus Deployment (PA22-25) prior to 2030 and cost increases related to trade-educational equipment upgrades.

For programs with unallocated balances:

- a. Does your agency need the unallocated balance?

Yes

- i. If so, for what purpose?

CTECS utilizes GO bond allocations to further the agency's mission by maintaining and upgrading facilities, operations equipment, trade equipment, buses/vehicles, and IT equipment.

- ii. Within what time frame?

CTECS is working with OPM to develop a regular schedule of allocations to meet agency needs to ensure that resources are available to match ideal times for conducting work at our schools. For instance, CTECS does lots of work on facilities, equipment and IT over the summer months to ensure we are ready for the new school year. Allocations in January and September help to have resources on hand to buy equipment and do installation work when schools are less populated over the summer months.

- b. Are the unallocated funds obligated, designated, or otherwise attached to projects, or are funds available for future needs as they arise?

CTECS is unable to obligate unallocated funds. However, CTECS maintains a list of capital projects with DAS/OPM, taking on projects as emergencies and funds present themselves.

- i. If attached to projects, please provide information on the projects.

See attached Form 1100, Capital Expenditures Program Plan, this document is updated and resubmitted in September of each even-numbered year.

3. Allocation of funds

- a. Were recent allocations to specific purposes (e.g., a specific project or projects, or grant awardee(s)) or generally to the program?

Recent allocations were to the IT and General Infrastructure programs. As received, allocated funds are then applied towards current priorities and agency needs.

- i. If generally allocated to the program, briefly describe the process for determining uses and the ultimate recipients or uses of the funds.

CTECS maintains a list of capital projects and IT initiatives. As funds are received, we look to see if any reprioritization is necessary to respond to specific needs or immediate emergency system failures.

4. Have changes to federal programs and/or policies impacted your agency's bond-funded programs?

Yes

a. If so, in what ways?

Cancellation of a Federal EPA Electric School Bus program will force the State/CTECS to self-fund a deployment of 75 Electric school buses to comply with PA22-25 by 2030 for Environmental Justice Schools. We are looking at options for bond funds, other agency grants, and Greenbank financing to help fund these needs.