

Element. & Secondary Education

Coordinator – Candace Fehr

Office of Fiscal Analysis

	Page #	Analyst	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Agency Requested		Governor Recommended		% Diff Gov - App FY 26
					FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	
General Fund									
Department of Education	2	CF	3,125,660,377	3,381,949,629	3,486,513,731	3,493,108,643	3,437,150,957	3,522,148,994	1.63
Connecticut Technical Education and Career System	10	DD	193,279,469	191,502,341	219,378,733	217,698,828	211,316,119	211,316,119	10.35
Office of Early Childhood	12	LD	313,424,740	376,154,690	421,519,258	425,769,258	417,162,918	446,832,258	10.90
State Library	16	DD	9,674,603	10,852,485	11,103,900	11,103,900	10,003,900	10,022,192	(7.82)
Teachers' Retirement Board	18	NN	1,578,729,566	1,587,526,718	1,735,585,083	1,819,244,083	1,694,045,333	1,747,770,083	6.71
Total - General Fund			5,220,768,755	5,547,985,863	5,874,100,705	5,966,924,712	5,769,679,227	5,938,089,646	4.00
Total - Appropriated Funds			5,220,768,755	5,547,985,863	5,874,100,705	5,966,924,712	5,769,679,227	5,938,089,646	4.00

Department of Education

SDE64000

Permanent Full-Time Positions

Fund	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Agency Requested		Governor Recommended		% Diff Gov-App FY 26
			FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	
General Fund	284	284	284	284	284	285	-

Budget Summary

Account	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Agency Requested		Governor Recommended		% Diff Gov-App FY 26
			FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	
Personal Services	14,177,486	20,580,254	21,207,641	21,207,641	17,607,641	17,707,641	(14.44)
Other Expenses	8,558,633	10,075,963	10,075,963	10,075,963	5,250,963	5,250,963	(47.89)
Other Current Expenses							
Admin - Adult Education	754,634	-	-	-	-	-	n/a
Development of Mastery Exams Grades 4, 6, and 8	10,469,130	10,643,533	10,691,192	10,691,192	10,571,192	10,571,192	(0.68)
Primary Mental Health	303,829	345,288	345,288	345,288	335,288	335,288	(2.90)
Leadership, Education, Athletics in Partnership (LEAP)	312,211	312,211	312,211	312,211	-	-	(100.00)
Adult Education Action	159,958	194,534	194,534	194,534	169,534	169,534	(12.85)
Connecticut Writing Project	47,608	95,250	95,250	95,250	-	-	(100.00)
CT Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	-	(100.00)
Sheff Settlement	18,041,772	18,684,967	23,678,587	18,721,292	23,714,911	18,721,292	26.92
Admin - After School Programs	57,207	-	-	-	-	-	n/a
Parent Trust Fund Program	267,193	267,193	267,193	267,193	-	-	(100.00)
Commissioner's Network	9,791,557	9,869,398	9,869,398	9,869,398	9,869,398	9,869,398	-
Local Charter Schools	885,000	957,000	957,000	957,000	957,000	957,000	-
Bridges to Success	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	-	-	(100.00)
Talent Development	1,902,567	2,257,823	2,278,449	2,278,449	2,568,449	2,568,449	13.76
School-Based Diversion Initiative	887,426	900,000	900,000	900,000	-	-	(100.00)
EdSight	1,126,070	1,133,236	1,140,690	1,140,690	1,140,690	1,140,690	0.66
Sheff Transportation	67,676,250	75,465,173	77,661,541	80,326,212	77,661,541	80,326,212	2.91
Curriculum and Standards	2,215,773	2,215,782	2,215,782	2,215,782	2,215,782	2,615,782	-
Non-Sheff Transportation	13,476,380	15,675,787	15,675,787	15,675,787	15,675,787	15,675,787	-
Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program	255,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	(65.00)
Education Finance Reform	-	150,000,000	-	-	-	-	(100.00)
Assistance to Paraeducators	-	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	-	-	(100.00)
Dual Credit	-	-	-	-	-	7,500,000	n/a
Student Support Grants	-	-	-	-	12,639,668	12,639,668	n/a
Other Than Payments to Local Governments							
American School For The Deaf	10,757,514	11,557,514	11,557,514	11,557,514	11,557,514	11,557,514	-
Regional Education Services	196,875	262,500	262,500	262,500	262,500	262,500	-
Family Resource Centers	6,662,824	6,352,710	6,352,710	6,352,710	-	-	(100.00)
Charter Schools	131,251,382	137,514,785	141,955,228	143,107,778	140,303,548	141,622,548	2.03
Child Nutrition State Match	2,354,000	2,354,000	2,354,000	2,354,000	2,875,000	2,875,000	22.13
Health Foods Initiative	4,151,463	4,151,463	4,151,463	4,151,463	4,151,463	4,151,463	-
Grant Payments to Local Governments							
Vocational Agriculture	19,583,200	18,824,200	26,670,738	26,670,738	26,295,732	26,295,732	39.69
Adult Education	22,537,660	23,386,642	25,098,339	25,953,382	23,396,661	23,396,661	0.04
Health and Welfare Services	3,438,415	3,438,415	6,331,637	6,447,702	3,438,415	3,438,415	-

Account	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Agency Requested		Governor Recommended		% Diff Gov-App FY 26
			FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	
Pupils Private Schools							
Education Equalization Grants	2,231,164,150	2,287,900,235	2,453,301,819	2,446,372,375	2,446,615,527	2,437,882,849	6.94
Bilingual Education	3,783,024	3,832,260	3,832,260	3,832,260	3,832,260	3,832,260	-
Priority School Districts	30,816,420	30,818,778	30,818,778	30,818,778	30,818,778	30,818,778	-
Interdistrict Cooperation	1,682,967	1,537,500	1,537,500	1,537,500	1,537,500	1,537,500	-
School Breakfast Program	2,158,900	2,158,900	2,158,900	2,158,900	2,337,900	14,758,900	8.29
Excess Cost - Student Based	181,152,455	181,119,782	181,119,782	181,119,782	181,119,782	221,119,782	-
Open Choice Program	30,741,927	31,472,503	34,084,547	34,903,265	31,472,503	31,472,503	-
Magnet Schools	279,195,021	287,484,265	349,249,725	362,124,329	336,925,940	346,345,603	17.20
After School Program	5,308,884	5,750,695	5,750,695	5,750,695	-	-	(100.00)
Extended School Hours	2,918,405	2,919,883	2,919,883	2,919,883	2,919,883	2,919,883	-
School Accountability	3,412,207	3,412,207	3,412,207	3,412,207	3,412,207	3,412,207	-
High Dosage Tutoring Grants	-	-	-	-	-	5,000,000	n/a
Personal Technology Grants	-	-	-	-	-	100,000	n/a
High Quality Special Ed Incentives	-	-	-	-	-	9,900,000	n/a
Learner Engagement and Attendance Program	-	-	-	-	-	9,900,000	n/a
Agency Total - General Fund	3,125,660,377	3,381,949,629	3,486,513,731	3,493,108,643	3,437,150,957	3,522,148,994	1.63

Account	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27

Policy Revisions

Provide Additional Funding for the Excess Cost Grant

Excess Cost - Student Based	-	40,000,000
Total - General Fund	-	40,000,000

Background

The Excess Cost grant partially reimburses local and regional school districts for special education costs per student in excess of four-and-a-half times each district's prior year net current expenditures per pupil (a way of measuring the district's per pupil spending). When the appropriation is insufficient to fully fund the grant, payments are reduced, with lower wealth towns receiving higher percentages of their fully funded amounts than higher wealth towns. Wealth is determined by Adjusted Equalized Net Grant List Per Capita, a measure of property wealth and income.

In recent years, school districts' special education spending for high-cost students has increased significantly. In FY 24, the total Excess Cost uncapped entitlement increased 25% over FY 23. The FY 25 uncapped entitlement increased 11% over the prior year based on preliminary data. The figure may rise when additional data are reported by districts in the spring.

Governor

Provide additional funding of \$40 million in FY 27 for Excess Cost.

Provide Funding for High Quality Special Education Incentives Grant

Personal Services	-	100,000
High Quality Special Ed Incentives	-	9,900,000
Total - General Fund	-	10,000,000
Positions - General Fund	-	1

Background

The Governor's Recommended Budget establishes a new High Quality Special Education Incentives Grant. Its purpose is to allow school districts to develop and expand in-district or multi-district special education programs and reduce outplacements.

Governor

Provide funding of \$10 million and one position in FY 27 for the High Quality Special Education Incentives Grant. (Additionally, \$4 million in bond funding is proposed to support this initiative.)

Account	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27

Provide Funding for Various School Meal Programs

Child Nutrition State Match	521,000	521,000
School Breakfast Program	179,000	12,600,000
Total - General Fund	700,000	13,121,000

Background

Additional funding for school meals has been spent via ARPA since FY 23, as follows:

- **FY 23:** Approximately \$57.8 million for universal free meals
- **FY 24:** Approximately \$9.9 million for universal free breakfast, and free lunch for students who qualify for reduced price meals
- **FY 25:** A portion of unspent prior year ARPA school meals allocations for free meals for students who qualify for reduced price meals

This funding impacts students who do not already receive free meals due to either their school or district's participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program or individual eligibility for free meals in a non-CEP school. Under CEP, schools and districts with at least 25% direct certified students (i.e., students eligible for free meals due to participation in some other assistance program) can choose to provide free meals to all students.

Governor

Provide funding of \$700,000 in FY 26 and \$13,121,000 in FY 27 for school meals. In FY 26, the funding will provide free meals for students who qualify for reduced price meals (continuing the same policy as in FY 25). In FY 27, the funding will provide universal free breakfast, along with free lunch for students who qualify for reduced price meals.

Continue Funding for Various COVID-19 Relief Funded Programs

Curriculum and Standards	-	400,000
Dual Credit	-	7,500,000
Learner Engagement and Attendance Program	-	9,900,000
Total - General Fund	-	17,800,000

Background

The State Department of Education has used federal COVID-19 education relief (ESSER) funding and state-allocated ARPA funding for various new initiatives in recent years.

Curriculum and Standards: The Science of Reading Masterclass provides educators with professional learning and coaching related to literacy instruction. The program has been funded since 2022 via state-level ESSER funding.

Dual Credit: In both FY 23 and FY 24, \$3.5 million in ARPA funding and a total of \$2 million in state-level ESSER funds were allocated to expand student access to dual enrollment/credit programs. Funding went to both school districts and institutions of higher education for curriculum development, professional development for educators, exam fee waivers, and supports for high-need students.

Learner Engagement and Attendance Program: In both FY 23 and FY 24, \$7 million in ARPA funding was allocated for the Learner Attendance and Engagement Program (LEAP). LEAP addresses chronic absenteeism by connecting directly with students and their families, often through home visits, and offering a variety of summer, after school, and learning support programs. This program operates in 25 districts, including two Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs) and an endowed academy.

Governor

Provide funding of \$17.8 million in FY 27 to continue or expand various programs that were previously funded with COVID-19 relief funding.

Consolidate Student Support Programs into a Single Competitive Grant and Reduce Funding

Leadership, Education, Athletics in Partnership (LEAP)	(312,211)	(312,211)
CT Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)
Parent Trust Fund Program	(267,193)	(267,193)
School-Based Diversion Initiative	(900,000)	(900,000)
Student Support Grants	12,639,668	12,639,668
Family Resource Centers	(6,352,710)	(6,352,710)
After School Program	(5,750,695)	(5,750,695)
Total - General Fund	(1,943,141)	(1,943,141)

Account	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27

Background

The State Department of Education administers several programs that provide a range of support services to students and their parents.

Leadership, Education, Athletics in Partnership (LEAP): LEAP provides children, ages seven to 14, from high-poverty neighborhoods in New Haven with mentoring from high school and college counselors.

CT Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs: The Neighborhood Youth Center Program provides support for neighborhood youth centers serving children ages 12 to 17 who live in seven of Connecticut's largest cities (Bridgeport, Hartford, New Britain, New Haven, Norwalk, Stamford, and Waterbury). Centers open evenings and weekends. They offer athletic and recreational opportunities, enrichment or tutoring activities, skills training, and other preventive and intervention services for youth and their families. The CT Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs is the only recipient of funding from this account.

Parent Trust Fund Program: The Parent Trust Fund provides civic leadership skills to parents.

School-Based Diversion Initiative: The School-Based Diversion Initiative works with schools and districts to reduce suspensions, expulsions, and arrests among students with behavioral health needs.

Family Resource Centers: Family Resource Centers are administered within schools to provide access to an array of early childhood and family support services to school-age children and their families. This grant was provided for Family Resource Centers in 36 towns in FY 24.

After School Program: The After School Program provides grants to local and regional boards of education, municipalities, and non-profit organizations to model best practices for after school programming with the goals of improving student achievement, school attendance, and behavior in schools. This grant supported programs in 28 towns in FY 24.

Governor

Transfer funding of \$12,639,668 in both FY 26 and FY 27 from six programs to a single Student Support Services grant, reducing the total funding available by \$1,943,141 in both FY 26 and FY 27. Sec. 15 of HB 6866, the Governor's education implementer, establishes the Student Support Services grant as one competitive grant program, with grants awarded every two years.

Provide Funding for High Dosage Tutoring Matching Grant

High Dosage Tutoring Grants	-	5,000,000
Total - General Fund	-	5,000,000

Background

The State Department of Education allocated \$11.1 million in ESSER funding for high dosage math tutoring in middle and high school in FY 24.

Governor

Provide funding of \$5 million in FY 27 for High Dosage Tutoring Matching Grants. The proposal requires districts to match state funding and adhere to evidence-based approaches in the implementation of the program. To qualify, the program must offer tutoring for at least three 30-minute sessions weekly during the school day.

Adjust Funding for Various Formula Grants

Adult Education	(1,701,678)	(2,556,721)
Health and Welfare Services Pupils Private Schools	(2,893,222)	(3,009,287)
Total - General Fund	(4,594,900)	(5,566,008)

Background

Adult Education: Towns are reimbursed for their current costs associated with adult education programs on a sliding scale that varies based on town wealth. This grant was uncapped beginning in FY 23 per PA 22-118, the FY 23 Revised Budget.

Health and Welfare Services for Private School Pupils: School districts are required to provide the same health services to nonpublic school students that are provided to public school students in those districts as long as the majority of the nonpublic school's enrollment resides in Connecticut. Towns are reimbursed for these costs on a sliding scale that varies based on town wealth. This grant is traditionally capped.

Governor

Reduce funding by \$4,594,900 in FY 26 and \$5,566,008 in FY 27 to reflect capped appropriations for Adult Education and Health and Welfare Services for Private School Pupils.

Account	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27

Adjust ECS Funding to Reflect Data Adjustment

Education Equalization Grants	(1,418,594)	(1,585,566)
Total - General Fund	(1,418,594)	(1,585,566)

Background

The Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant is the primary source of state funding to local and regional school districts. Funding is distributed primarily based on enrollment, the number of free and reduced price lunch students and English learners, and town income and property wealth per capita.

The 2022 Census Bureau Vintage Population Estimate artificially inflated the population estimate for the Town of Mansfield due to pandemic-related issues. This impacted Mansfield's FY 25 ECS grant calculation and, without a data adjustment, will continue to affect the calculation in future years. No other towns were impacted for ECS.

The proposed ECS data adjustment to Mansfield's population reduces the town's ECS grant by \$166,997 from FY 25 to FY 26 and an additional \$166,997 from FY 26 to FY 27. Without the data adjustment, Mansfield's ECS grant would be increasing.

Governor

Reduce funding by \$1,418,594 in FY 26 and \$1,585,566 in FY 27 to adjust ECS funding to Mansfield, to correct a pandemic data issue.

Transfer Funding from Aspiring Educators to Talent Development

Talent Development	500,000	500,000
Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program	(500,000)	(500,000)
Total - General Fund	-	-

Background

Talent Development: Talent Development funds support professional development efforts.

Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program: Sections 11 and 18 of PA 23-167 established the Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program. The program provides eligible students with scholarships of up to \$10,000 per year of enrollment in teacher preparation programs. PA 23-204, the FY 24 and FY 25 Budget, provided \$3 million in FY 24 and \$10 million in FY 25 for the program. In FY 25, \$390,000 has been spent to date.

Governor

Transfer funding of \$500,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 from the Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program account to the Talent Development account. The Governor recommends using this funding for male educator recruitment.

Provide Funding for Personal Technology Grant

Personal Technology Grants	-	100,000
Total - General Fund	-	100,000

Governor

Provide funding of \$100,000 in FY 27 for Personal Technology Grants. The grant is intended to assist local and regional school districts in the implementation of policies related to personal technology use in schools.

Eliminate Funding for the Connecticut Writing Project and Bridges to Success

Connecticut Writing Project	(95,250)	(95,250)
Bridges to Success	(27,000)	(27,000)
Total - General Fund	(122,250)	(122,250)

Background

Connecticut Writing Project: The Connecticut Writing Project provides opportunities for growth and professional development for teachers and students in the areas of reading and writing.

Bridges to Success: Bridges to Success provides funding to support at-risk high school students to successfully transition to college.

Governor

Eliminate funding of \$122,250 in both FY 26 and FY 27 for the Connecticut Writing Project and Bridges to Success.

Account	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27

Reallocate Paraeducator Healthcare Funding to OSC

Assistance to Paraeducators	(5,000,000)	(5,000,000)
Total - General Fund	(5,000,000)	(5,000,000)

Background

PA 23-204 originally allocated \$5 million in carryforward funds in both FY 24 and FY 25 to the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC), and appropriated \$5 million to the State Department of Education (SDE) in FY 25 to establish subsidies to paraeducators for certain health insurance and health care related costs. PA 24-81 expanded this program and required OSC and SDE to enter into an MOU to allow the Comptroller to use the appropriated funds as OSC administers this program.

Governor

Transfer \$5 million in both FY 26 and FY 27 from SDE to OSC for the paraeducator healthcare subsidy program.

Current Services

Transfer Education Finance Reform Funding to Choice Programs

Sheff Transportation	2,196,368	4,861,039
Education Finance Reform	(76,331,181)	(76,331,181)
Charter Schools	2,788,763	4,107,763
Vocational Agriculture	7,471,532	7,471,532
Magnet Schools	45,443,153	54,445,952
Total - General Fund	(18,431,365)	(5,444,895)

Background

The Education Finance Reform account was established by PA 23-205, the FY 24 and FY 25 Budget. It provided \$150 million in FY 25 for education funding. PA 24-81 directed that the funding be used to:

- Supplement appropriations for ECS (an estimated \$73.7 million) and Charter Schools (approximately \$7.7 million).
- Implement changes in grant formulas for magnet school and vocational agriculture operators (approximately \$58.2 million). Much of this funding replaces tuition that operators lose due to the FY 25 tuition cap.
- Provide funding for a variety of purposes and initiatives (\$10.4 million).

Governor

Transfer funding of \$57,899,816 in FY 26 and \$70,886,286 in FY 27 from the Education Funding Reform account to various choice programs and Sheff Transportation in order to continue the grant and tuition policies established by PA 24-81. A net reduction in funding of \$18,431,365 in FY 26 and \$5,444,895 in FY 27 reflects updated enrollment projections for existing choice school grants and Sheff Transportation, along with the cessation in FY 26 of various other grants provided in FY 25 by the Education Finance Reform account.

The proposal continues current methods for calculating the magnet, vocational agriculture, and state charter school grants. Additionally, it allows magnet and vocational agriculture operators to increase tuition based on inflation every two years beginning in FY 28.

Fund ECS According to Current Law

Education Finance Reform	(73,668,819)	(73,668,819)
Education Equalization Grants	160,133,886	151,568,180
Total - General Fund	86,465,067	77,899,361

Background

Since FY 19, ECS has been subject to a full funding phase-in schedule for both overfunded and underfunded towns, although overfunded towns were held harmless from losses for FY 22 through FY 25. Under the current phase-in schedule: (1) underfunded towns will reach full funding in FY 26, and (2) overfunded towns will resume annual reductions in FY 26, reaching full funding in FY 32.

Governor

Provide \$86,465,067 in FY 26 and \$77,899,361 in FY 27 to fund ECS at the current law requirements. Additionally, transfer \$73,668,819 in both FY 26 and FY 27 from Education Finance Reform to ECS; as noted above, this is the same amount of Education Finance Reform funding that is being used for ECS in FY 25.

Account	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27

Annualize FY 25 Holdbacks

Personal Services	(3,600,000)	(3,600,000)
Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program	(6,000,000)	(6,000,000)
Total - General Fund	(9,600,000)	(9,600,000)

Governor

Reduce funding by \$9.6 million in both FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect the annualization of FY 25 holdbacks in the Personal Services and Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship accounts.

Fund Formula Grants at Statutory Level

Adult Education	1,701,678	2,556,721
Health and Welfare Services Pupils Private Schools	2,893,222	3,009,287
Total - General Fund	4,594,900	5,566,008

Governor

Provide funding of \$4,594,900 in FY 26 and \$5,566,008 in FY 27 to fund two formula grants at statutorily required levels. The Governor recommends capping both grants; see Policy Revisions.

Fund the Requirements of the Sheff Settlement

Sheff Settlement	4,993,619	-
Magnet Schools	3,998,522	4,415,386
Total - General Fund	8,992,141	4,415,386

Background

In March 2022, the General Assembly approved the Sheff v. O'Neill settlement agreement reached on January 27, 2022, which requires the state to take additional steps to expand educational opportunities for racially isolated students in the City of Hartford. The agreement includes an expansion of Open Choice and Magnet Schools seats over a ten-year period.

Governor

Provide funding of \$8,992,141 in FY 26 and \$4,415,386 in FY 27 for the Sheff Settlement and Magnet Schools to fund the requirements of the Sheff settlement in the biennium. The Magnet School account increase includes funding to support: (1) Public Service Academy of Eastern Connecticut in Colchester (\$833,728 in FY 26 and \$1,250,592 in FY 27); (2) an increase in ECAMP enrollment (\$164,794 in both FY 26 and FY 27); and (3) other funding needed to meet Sheff settlement requirements, such as magnet reformulation grants, summer enrichment programming, and marketing (\$3 million in both FY 26 and FY 27, with additional funding for this purpose in the Sheff Settlement account in FY 26).

Eliminate Funding for Various Grants

Other Expenses	(4,825,000)	(4,825,000)
Total - General Fund	(4,825,000)	(4,825,000)

Governor

Eliminate funding of \$4,825,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 associated with Other Expenses earmarks in PA 23-204, the FY 24 and FY 25 Budget.

Annualize the Cost of Existing Wage Agreements

Personal Services	627,387	627,387
Development of Mastery Exams Grades 4, 6, and 8	47,659	47,659
Sheff Settlement	36,325	36,325
Talent Development	20,626	20,626
EdSight	7,454	7,454
Adult Education	10,019	10,019
Total - General Fund	749,470	749,470

Background

The Governor's Recommended Budget provides funding of \$124.4 million in FY 26 and FY 27, across nine appropriated funds, to reflect current wage-related adjustments resulting from existing wage agreements.

Governor

Provide funding of \$749,470 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect this agency's increased wage costs.

Account	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27

Adjust Funding to Reflect Current Requirements

Development of Mastery Exams Grades 4, 6, and 8	(120,000)	(120,000)
Primary Mental Health	(10,000)	(10,000)
Adult Education Action	(25,000)	(25,000)
Talent Development	(210,000)	(210,000)
Total - General Fund	(365,000)	(365,000)

Governor

Reduce funding by \$365,000 both in FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect current agency requirements.

Totals

Budget Components	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27
FY 25 Appropriation - GF	3,381,949,629	3,381,949,629
Policy Revisions	(12,378,885)	71,804,035
Current Services	67,580,213	68,395,330
Total Recommended - GF	3,437,150,957	3,522,148,994

Positions	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27
FY 25 Appropriation - GF	284	284
Policy Revisions	-	1
Total Recommended - GF	284	285

Connecticut Technical Education and Career System

TEC64600

Permanent Full-Time Positions

Fund	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Agency Requested		Governor Recommended		% Diff Gov-App FY 26
			FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	
General Fund	1,536	1,536	1,539	1,539	1,566	1,566	1.95

Budget Summary

Account	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Agency Requested		Governor Recommended		% Diff Gov-App FY 26
			FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	
Personal Services	164,866,832	164,583,764	178,370,156	176,430,251	174,058,658	174,058,658	5.76
Other Expenses	28,412,637	26,918,577	41,008,577	41,268,577	37,257,461	37,257,461	38.41
Agency Total - General Fund	193,279,469	191,502,341	219,378,733	217,698,828	211,316,119	211,316,119	10.35

Account	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27

Policy Revisions

Finalize Transfer of IT Functions to DAS

Other Expenses	(986,116)	(986,116)
Total - General Fund	(986,116)	(986,116)

Background

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) has provided for a portion of the IT needs of CTECS since it transitioned to an independent agency in FY 23.

Governor

Reduce funding by \$986,116 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to complete the transfer of CTECS' IT functions to DAS.

Current Services

Annualize the Cost of Existing Wage Agreements

Personal Services	7,474,894	7,474,894
Total - General Fund	7,474,894	7,474,894

Background

The Governor's Recommended Budget provides funding of \$124.4 million in FY 26 and FY 27, across nine appropriated funds, to reflect current wage-related adjustments resulting from existing wage agreements.

Governor

Provide funding of \$7,474,894 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect this agency's increased wage costs.

Annualize FY 25 Deficiencies

Personal Services	2,000,000	2,000,000
Other Expenses	11,300,000	11,300,000
Total - General Fund	13,300,000	13,300,000
Positions - General Fund	30	30

Governor

Provide 30 positions and funding of \$13.3 million in both FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect annualization of the agency's FY 25 deficiency.

Account	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27

Provide Funding for Free Menstrual Products

Other Expenses	25,000	25,000
Total - General Fund	25,000	25,000

Background

Sec. 84 of PA 22-118 requires all local and regional school districts to provide free menstrual products in various restrooms accessible to students in grades 3 through 12.

Governor

Provide funding of \$25,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to ensure continued compliance with Sec. 84 of PA 22-118.

Totals

Budget Components	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27
FY 25 Appropriation - GF	191,502,341	191,502,341
Policy Revisions	(986,116)	(986,116)
Current Services	20,799,894	20,799,894
Total Recommended - GF	211,316,119	211,316,119

Positions	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27
FY 25 Appropriation - GF	1,536	1,536
Current Services	30	30
Total Recommended - GF	1,566	1,566

Office of Early Childhood OEC64800

Permanent Full-Time Positions

Fund	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Agency Requested		Governor Recommended		% Diff Gov-App FY 26
			FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	
General Fund	118	118	118	118	118	118	-

Budget Summary

Account	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Agency Requested		Governor Recommended		% Diff Gov-App FY 26
			FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	
Personal Services	8,275,873	10,147,924	10,526,912	10,526,912	9,926,912	9,926,912	(2.18)
Other Expenses	5,134,202	1,319,731	1,319,731	6,319,731	1,319,731	7,919,731	-
Other Current Expenses							
Birth to Three	34,351,477	32,452,407	33,293,626	33,293,626	33,293,626	40,293,626	2.59
Evenstart	545,454	545,456	545,456	545,456	545,456	545,456	-
2Gen - TANF	540,473	572,500	575,685	575,685	575,685	575,685	0.56
Nurturing Families Network	12,484,084	12,139,479	12,669,995	12,669,995	12,669,995	14,469,995	4.37
OEC Parent Cabinet	143,500	150,000	152,264	152,264	152,264	152,264	1.51
Capitol Child Development Center	-	-	-	-	263,000	263,000	n/a
Other Than Payments to Local Governments							
Head Start Services	4,993,641	5,083,238	5,083,238	5,083,238	5,833,238	5,833,238	14.75
Care4Kids TANF/CCDF	81,513,372	112,827,096	151,977,096	151,227,096	147,957,756	151,227,096	31.14
Child Care Quality Enhancements	5,891,953	5,954,530	5,954,530	5,954,530	5,954,530	5,954,530	-
Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership	1,374,236	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	-
Early Care and Education	154,926,475	190,137,329	194,595,725	194,595,725	193,845,725	201,845,725	1.95
Smart Start	3,250,000	3,325,000	3,325,000	3,325,000	3,325,000	6,325,000	-
Agency Total - General Fund	313,424,740	376,154,690	421,519,258	425,769,258	417,162,918	446,832,258	10.90

Account	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27

Policy Revisions

Establish and Capitalize the Universal Preschool Endowment

Background

The Universal Preschool Endowment (UPE) will support expanding access to pre-school for three-four, and five-year-olds not eligible for kindergarten. The UPE will also provide preschool subsidies at no cost to families making less than \$100,000 and limit the cost share for families making less than \$150,000.

Governor

The Governor proposes creating a Universal Pre-school Endowment (UPE) that will be initially funded with the use of \$300 million in unappropriated surplus in FY 25. Annually thereafter, and after the Budget Reserve Fund is at its statutory maximum (18 percent), all the remaining unappropriated surplus will be transferred to the UPE. The proposal restricts the annual allocation to programs and initiatives funded by the UPE to no more than 10 percent of the balance of the endowment in any fiscal year.

Account	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27

Provide Funding for Early Start CT

Early Care and Education	-	8,000,000
Total - General Fund	-	8,000,000

Governor

Provide funding of \$8 million in FY 27 to reflect a 4% increase for Early Start CT.

Provide Funding to Implement Birth to Three Tiered Rates

Birth to Three	-	6,000,000
Total - General Fund	-	6,000,000

Background

Birth to Three service providers are funded through a fee-for-service (FFS) payment structure which is a model where providers are paid based on the individual services they provide to patients. The Birth to Three rate study conducted by Public Consulting Group and published in January 2024 provides recommendations that include FFS and a new tiered rate system based on providers' experience and credentialing levels.

Governor

Provide funding of \$6 million in FY 27 to reflect increased rates for Birth to Three and to implement a tiered-rate system.

Reduce Funding to Reflect the Repeal of the General Administrative Payment (GAP)

Birth to Three	-	(1,000,000)
Total - General Fund	-	(1,000,000)

Background

The General Administrative Payment (GAP) was introduced in 2017 to financially support Birth to Three programs during their transition from a bundled payment system to a fee-for-service model. Under the new tiered rate system, GAP payments are no longer necessary.

Governor

Reduce funding of \$1 million in FY 27 related to the elimination of GAP payments.

Provide Funding for Smart Start

Smart Start	-	3,000,000
Total - General Fund	-	3,000,000

Background

PA 14-41 created the Smart Start grant program, which funds the creation or expansion of preschool programs in public schools. In 2021, the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) offered the Smart Start for Recovery Grant to existing Smart Start grantees and school districts with demonstrated needs for more preschool spaces. This pandemic-response grant aimed to boost the availability of high-quality preschool, particularly in underserved communities, by increasing the number of public-school preschool classrooms. The goal was to provide free preschool access to children and families who might otherwise lack such opportunities. To date, 25 school districts have received a Smart Start grant, with 23 current grantees, and 10 school districts were awarded a Smart Start for Recovery grant.

Governor

Provide funding of \$3 million in FY 27 to allow current grantees to maintain their programs at increased rates and allow Smart Start for Recovery grantees to continue their programs.

Provide Funding to Support the Sparkler App

Birth to Three	-	2,000,000
Total - General Fund	-	2,000,000

Background

The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) offers the Sparkler mobile app, originally funded with ARPA dollars, as part of the Help Me Grow initiative, which aims to ensure children have access to developmental screenings and support services. The app is a free resource that helps families track their children's development, provides learning activities, and connects them with support resources.

Governor

Provide funding of \$2 million in FY 27 to support continued use of the Sparkler mobile app.

Account	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27

Provide Funding for Universal Nurse Home Visiting

Nurturing Families Network	-	1,800,000
Total - General Fund	-	1,800,000

Background

Universal nurse home visiting is an evidence-based model in which a licensed registered nurse provides services in the home to families with newborns.

Governor

Provide funding of \$1.8 million in FY 27 for a universal nurse home visiting program.

Provide Funding to Continue the Tri-Share Pilot Program

Other Expenses	-	1,600,000
Total - General Fund	-	1,600,000

Background

The Tri-Share Child Care Matching Program is a public-private partnership that shares child care costs among parents, employers, and the state. The program is intended to help families who can't afford child care but don't qualify for other assistance. The program is currently being piloted in New London County.

Governor

Provide funding of \$1.6 million to support the continuation of the Tri-Share pilot program.

Transfer the Capitol Child Development Center from OLM to OEC

Capitol Child Development Center	263,000	263,000
Total - General Fund	263,000	263,000

Background

The Capitol Child Development Center (CCDC) has been in operation since 1988 and was created as a model program by the Connecticut General Assembly to provide quality childcare services for children 8 weeks through 5 years of age.

Governor

Transfer funding of \$263,000 in FY 26 and FY 27 from OLM to OEC related to the Capitol Child Development Center.

Reallocate Funding to Support Additional State Head Start Supplemental Grant Funds

Head Start Services	750,000	750,000
Early Care and Education	(750,000)	(750,000)
Total - General Fund	-	-

Governor

Reallocate funding of \$750,000 from the Early Care and Education line item to the Head Start Services line item.

Current Services

Provide Funding for Care 4 Kids to Support Rate Increases and to Comply with Federal Requirements

Care4Kids TANF/CCDF	35,130,660	38,400,000
Total - General Fund	35,130,660	38,400,000

Background

In 2023, per-student rates increased by 11% for licensed child care centers and home-based providers, and by 6% for unlicensed providers. Additionally, the 2024 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Final Rule (45 CFR Part 98) mandates that Connecticut ensure equal access to child care by setting reimbursement rates at no less than 50% of the current market rate. Connecticut must demonstrate progress toward meeting this requirement for the following types of care: infant center care, preschool center care, infant family child care, and preschool family child care.

Governor

Provide funding of \$35,130,660 in FY 26 and \$38,400,000 in FY 27 to support rate increases for Care4Kids.

Account	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27

Annualize FY 2025 Private Provider COLA

Birth to Three	841,219	841,219
Nurturing Families Network	530,516	530,516
Early Care and Education	4,458,396	4,458,396
Total - General Fund	5,830,131	5,830,131

Background

Private provider organizations contract to provide direct health and human services for clients of various state agencies, including: the Departments of Aging and Disability Services, Children and Families, Correction, Developmental, Housing, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Public Health, Social Services, Veterans Affairs, the Office of Early Childhood and the Judicial Department.

Governor

Provide funding of \$5,830,131 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to support annualization of the private provider COLA.

Provide Funding for the Start Early - Early Childhood Development Initiative

Other Expenses	-	5,000,000
Total - General Fund	-	5,000,000

Background

PA 22-118 Sec. 459 requires the Office of Early Childhood to establish and administer the Start Early - Early Childhood Development Initiative, which supports the growth and enhancement of a system of high-quality early childhood care and education and support services.

Governor

Provide funding of \$5 million in FY 27 to support the Start Early - Early Childhood Development Initiative.

Adjust Funding to Reflect Current Requirements

Personal Services	(600,000)	(600,000)
Total - General Fund	(600,000)	(600,000)

Governor

Reduce funding by \$600,000 in FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect current agency requirements.

Annualize Cost of Existing Wage Agreements

Personal Services	378,988	378,988
2Gen - TANF	3,185	3,185
OEC Parent Cabinet	2,264	2,264
Total - General Fund	384,437	384,437

Background

The Governor's Recommended Budget provides funding of \$124.4 million in FY 26 and FY 27, across nine appropriated funds, to reflect current wage-related adjustments resulting from existing wage agreements.

Governor

Provide funding of \$384,437 million in both FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect this agency's increased wage costs.

Totals

Budget Components	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27
FY 25 Appropriation - GF	376,154,690	376,154,690
Policy Revisions	263,000	21,663,000
Current Services	40,745,228	49,014,568
Total Recommended - GF	417,162,918	446,832,258

State Library
CSL66000

Permanent Full-Time Positions

Fund	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Agency Requested		Governor Recommended		% Diff Gov-App FY 26
			FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	
General Fund	53	53	53	53	53	53	-

Budget Summary

Account	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Agency Requested		Governor Recommended		% Diff Gov-App FY 26
			FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	
Personal Services	4,927,239	5,884,263	6,119,751	6,119,751	5,419,751	5,419,751	(7.89)
Other Expenses	1,315,843	1,392,223	1,392,223	1,392,223	892,223	910,515	(35.91)
Other Current Expenses							
State-Wide Digital Library	1,654,909	1,709,210	1,709,210	1,709,210	1,709,210	1,709,210	-
Interlibrary Loan Delivery Service	315,369	364,209	380,136	380,136	380,136	380,136	4.37
Legal/Legislative Library Materials	574,523	574,540	574,540	574,540	674,540	674,540	17.41
Library for the Blind	58,680	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	-
Other Than Payments to Local Governments							
Support Cooperating Library Service Units	124,402	124,402	124,402	124,402	124,402	124,402	-
Grant Payments to Local Governments							
Connecticard Payments	703,638	703,638	703,638	703,638	703,638	703,638	-
Agency Total - General Fund	9,674,603	10,852,485	11,103,900	11,103,900	10,003,900	10,022,192	(7.82)

Account	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27

Policy Revisions

Transfer Funding for Legal and Legislative Library Materials

Legal/Legislative Library Materials	100,000	100,000
Total - General Fund	100,000	100,000

Governor

Provide funding of \$100,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 for the maintenance of the agency's collection of state and federal legal publications. This cost was previously supported with bond funding.

Reduce Funding for Nonprofit Library Programs

Other Expenses	(500,000)	(500,000)
Total - General Fund	(500,000)	(500,000)

Background

Sec. 36 of PA 23-204 provided \$500,000 in both FY 24 and FY 25 to the Other Expenses account for three non-profit library programs: (1) United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library; (2) Read to Grow; and 3) Reach Out and Read. Funding was distributed equally among the three organizations.

Governor

Eliminate funding of \$500,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 for various non-profit library programs.

Account	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27

Provide Funding for the Museum of Connecticut History

Other Expenses	-	18,292
Total - General Fund	-	18,292

Background

The Museum of Connecticut History features exhibits pertaining to Connecticut's military, industrial and government history, and the state's role in the growth and development of the United States.

Governor

Provide funding of \$18,292 in FY 27 for an inventory of the Museum of Connecticut History.

Current Services

Annualize the Cost of Existing Wage Agreements

Personal Services	235,488	235,488
Interlibrary Loan Delivery Service	15,927	15,927
Total - General Fund	251,415	251,415

Background

The Governor's Recommended Budget provides funding of \$124.4 million in FY 26 and FY 27, across nine appropriated funds, to reflect current wage-related adjustments resulting from existing wage agreements.

Governor

Provide funding of \$251,415 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect this agency's increased wage costs.

Adjust Funding to Reflect Current Requirements

Personal Services	(700,000)	(700,000)
Total - General Fund	(700,000)	(700,000)

Governor

Reduce funding by \$700,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect current agency requirements.

Totals

Budget Components	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27
FY 25 Appropriation - GF	10,852,485	10,852,485
Policy Revisions	(400,000)	(381,708)
Current Services	(448,585)	(448,585)
Total Recommended - GF	10,003,900	10,022,192

Teachers’ Retirement Board
TRB77500

Permanent Full-Time Positions

Fund	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Agency Requested		Governor Recommended		% Diff Gov-App FY 26
			FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	
General Fund	27	27	27	27	27	27	-

Budget Summary

Account	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Agency Requested		Governor Recommended		% Diff Gov-App FY 26
			FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	
Personal Services	1,971,034	2,198,913	2,291,080	2,291,080	2,291,080	2,291,080	4.19
Other Expenses	451,239	497,003	511,003	557,003	496,003	482,003	(0.20)
Other Than Payments to Local Governments							
Retirement Contributions	1,554,542,000	1,558,960,000	1,683,600,000	1,762,200,000	1,655,121,000	1,705,100,000	6.17
Retirees Health Service Cost	13,557,097	16,030,802	39,343,000	44,356,000	29,507,250	33,267,000	84.07
Municipal Retiree Health Insurance Costs	8,208,196	9,840,000	9,840,000	9,840,000	6,630,000	6,630,000	(32.62)
Agency Total - General Fund	1,578,729,566	1,587,526,718	1,735,585,083	1,819,244,083	1,694,045,333	1,747,770,083	6.71

Account	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27

Policy Revisions

Reduce the State's Share of Health Care Funding from One-Third to One-Quarter

Retirees Health Service Cost	(9,835,750)	(11,089,000)
Municipal Retiree Health Insurance Costs	(2,210,000)	(2,210,000)
Total - General Fund	(12,045,750)	(13,299,000)

Background

Currently, the state share is one-third of the base plan premium, and the remaining two-thirds are shared by the health fund and the retiree. The proposal would reduce the state share to one-quarter of the cost of the base plan, and the remainder would be supported by the health fund.

Governor

Reduce funding by \$12 million in FY 26 and \$13.3 million in FY 27 to reflect the reduction in the state’s share of retiree healthcare costs.

Reduce Other Expenses

Other Expenses	(15,000)	(15,000)
Total - General Fund	(15,000)	(15,000)

Governor

Reduce funding by \$15,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27.

Account	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27

Current Services

Fund the Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution (ADEC) for the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS)

Retirement Contributions	96,161,000	146,140,000
Total - General Fund	96,161,000	146,140,000

Background

The Connecticut Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) is the state's defined benefit plan for approximately 53,400 active and 40,000 retired Connecticut public school teachers and beneficiaries. The benefits of the program are funded by employee contributions, state appropriations and investment income. The June 30, 2024, TRS actuarial valuation set an Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution (ADEC) for the TRS of \$1,655.1 million in FY 26 and \$1,705.1 million in FY 27. Payment of the full contribution is required by both statute (CGS Sec. 10-183z) and the bond covenant for Pension Obligation Bonds (POBs), issued pursuant to PA 07-186. The state's debt service payment on the POBs is appropriated in Debt Service - State Treasurer.

Governor

Provide funding increase of \$96.2 million in FY 26 and \$146.1 million in FY 27 to fund the ADEC for TRS in the biennium.

Adjust Funding for the State's Share of Retiree Health Service Costs

Retirees Health Service Cost	23,312,198	28,325,198
Municipal Retiree Health Insurance Costs	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)
Total - General Fund	22,312,198	27,325,198

Background

The TRB is required to offer one or more health plans to retired TRS members who are participating in Medicare. CGS Sec. 10 - 183t requires a cost sharing arrangement in which retirees, the state, and the TRB health fund each pay one-third of the total cost for the basic plan. The TRB health fund is supported by active teachers who contribute 1.25% of their annual salary. The TRB basic plan changed from a Medicare Supplement Plan to a Medicare Advantage Plan, effective July 1, 2018.

Governor

Provide funding of \$22.3 million in FY 26 and \$27.3 million in FY 27 to reflect increased premiums rates.

Annualize Cost of Existing Wage Agreements

Personal Services	92,167	92,167
Total - General Fund	92,167	92,167

Background

The Governor's Recommended Budget provides funding of \$124.4 million in FY 26 and FY 27, across nine appropriated funds, to reflect current wage-related adjustments resulting from existing wage agreements.

Governor

Provide funding of \$92,167 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect this agency's increased wage costs.

Realign Funding in Other Expenses Based on Required Actuarial Reports

Other Expenses	14,000	-
Total - General Fund	14,000	-

Background

The state contracts with an actuarial firm to complete certain reports which vary in frequency.

Governor

Provide funding of \$14,000 in FY 26 to support costs of actuarial reports.

Account	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27

Totals

Budget Components	Governor Recommended	
	FY 26	FY 27
FY 25 Appropriation - GF	1,587,526,718	1,587,526,718
Policy Revisions	(12,060,750)	(13,314,000)
Current Services	118,579,365	173,557,365
Total Recommended - GF	1,694,045,333	1,747,770,083