

Element. & Secondary Education

Coordinator – Candace Fehr

Office of Fiscal Analysis

	Page #	Analyst	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Committee	
						FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
General Fund									
Department of Education	191	CF	3,003,569,028	3,125,660,377	3,381,949,629	3,437,150,957	3,522,148,994	3,587,852,655	3,627,265,156
Connecticut Technical Education and Career System	202	DD	190,315,461	193,279,469	191,502,341	211,316,119	211,316,119	208,016,119	208,016,119
Office of Early Childhood	204	LD	335,929,795	313,424,740	376,154,690	417,162,918	446,832,258	382,407,258	400,207,258
State Library	210	DD	8,899,218	9,674,603	10,852,485	10,003,900	10,022,192	10,503,900	10,522,192
Teachers' Retirement Board	213	NN	1,601,869,993	1,578,729,566	1,587,526,718	1,694,045,333	1,747,770,083	1,694,045,333	1,761,069,083
Total - General Fund			5,140,583,495	5,220,768,755	5,547,985,863	5,769,679,227	5,938,089,646	5,882,825,265	6,007,079,808
Total - Appropriated Funds			5,140,583,495	5,220,768,755	5,547,985,863	5,769,679,227	5,938,089,646	5,882,825,265	6,007,079,808

Department of Education

SDE64000

Permanent Full-Time Positions

Fund	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Committee	
				FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
General Fund	275	284	284	284	285	284	285

Budget Summary

Account	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Committee	
				FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
Personal Services	13,142,700	14,177,486	20,580,254	17,607,641	17,707,641	17,727,641	17,827,641
Other Expenses	1,917,275	8,558,633	10,075,963	5,250,963	5,250,963	10,570,963	13,570,963
Other Current Expenses							
Admin - Adult Education	544,717	754,634	-	-	-	-	-
Development of Mastery Exams Grades 4, 6, and 8	10,362,489	10,469,130	10,643,533	10,571,192	10,571,192	10,571,192	10,571,192
Primary Mental Health	323,458	303,829	345,288	335,288	335,288	335,288	335,288
Leadership, Education, Athletics in Partnership (LEAP)	312,211	312,211	312,211	-	-	312,211	312,211
Adult Education Action	119,785	159,958	194,534	169,534	169,534	169,534	169,534
Connecticut Writing Project	20,250	47,608	95,250	-	-	95,250	95,250
CT Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs	613,866	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
Sheff Settlement	11,737,364	18,041,772	18,684,967	23,714,911	18,721,292	23,714,911	18,721,292
Admin - After School Programs	-	57,207	-	-	-	-	-
Parent Trust Fund Program	266,330	267,193	267,193	-	-	350,000	350,000
Commissioner's Network	9,943,504	9,791,557	9,869,398	9,869,398	9,869,398	9,869,398	9,869,398
Local Charter Schools	855,000	885,000	957,000	957,000	957,000	957,000	957,000
Bridges to Success	27,000	27,000	27,000	-	-	27,000	27,000
Talent Development	1,992,278	1,902,567	2,257,823	2,568,449	2,568,449	2,068,449	2,068,449
School-Based Diversion Initiative	760,326	887,426	900,000	-	-	900,000	900,000
EdSight	1,134,400	1,126,070	1,133,236	1,140,690	1,140,690	1,140,690	1,140,690
Sheff Transportation	53,424,053	67,676,250	75,465,173	77,661,541	80,326,212	77,661,541	80,326,212
Curriculum and Standards	1,919,665	2,215,773	2,215,782	2,215,782	2,615,782	2,215,782	2,615,782
Non-Sheff Transportation	8,079,897	13,476,380	15,675,787	15,675,787	15,675,787	15,675,787	15,675,787
Aspiring Educators Scholarship Program	-	255,000	10,000,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	6,000,000	6,000,000
Education Finance Reform	-	-	150,000,000	-	-	-	-
Assistance to Paraeducators	-	-	5,000,000	-	-	-	-
Dual Credit	-	-	-	-	7,500,000	-	6,000,000
Student Support Grants	-	-	-	12,639,668	12,639,668	-	-
Local Food for Local Schools Incentive Program	-	-	-	-	-	1,500,000	3,430,000
Office of Dyslexia	-	-	-	-	-	680,000	680,000
Other Than Payments to Local Governments							
American School For The Deaf	9,157,514	10,757,514	11,557,514	11,557,514	11,557,514	11,557,514	11,557,514
Regional Education Services	253,676	196,875	262,500	262,500	262,500	262,500	262,500
Family Resource Centers	5,802,625	6,662,824	6,352,710	-	-	7,000,000	7,000,000
Charter Schools	129,203,384	131,251,382	137,514,785	140,303,548	141,622,548	142,803,548	144,122,548
Child Nutrition State Match	2,354,000	2,354,000	2,354,000	2,875,000	2,875,000	2,875,000	2,875,000
Health Foods Initiative	4,151,463	4,151,463	4,151,463	4,151,463	4,151,463	4,151,463	4,151,463
Rose City Learning	-	-	-	-	-	159,000	159,000

Account	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Committee	
				FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
Grant Payments to Local Governments							
Vocational Agriculture	18,824,200	19,583,200	18,824,200	26,295,732	26,295,732	26,295,732	26,295,732
Adult Education	21,620,796	22,537,660	23,386,642	23,396,661	23,396,661	23,396,661	25,953,382
Health and Welfare Services							
Pupils Private Schools	3,438,415	3,438,415	3,438,415	3,438,415	3,438,415	6,331,637	6,447,702
Education Equalization Grants	2,176,723,012	2,231,164,150	2,287,900,235	2,446,615,527	2,437,882,849	2,455,349,515	2,455,349,515
Bilingual Education	3,788,467	3,783,024	3,832,260	3,832,260	3,832,260	3,832,260	3,832,260
Priority School Districts	30,818,778	30,816,420	30,818,778	30,818,778	30,818,778	30,818,778	30,818,778
Interdistrict Cooperation	2,035,290	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	2,337,900	14,758,900	2,337,900	2,337,900
Excess Cost - Student Based	156,148,491	181,152,455	181,119,782	181,119,782	221,119,782	305,119,782	305,119,782
Open Choice Program	30,383,406	30,741,927	31,472,503	31,472,503	31,472,503	31,472,503	31,472,503
Magnet Schools	277,398,994	279,195,021	287,484,265	336,925,940	346,345,603	336,925,940	346,345,603
After School Program	5,478,959	5,308,884	5,750,695	-	-	5,750,695	5,750,695
Extended School Hours	2,919,883	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	3,412,207
High Dosage Tutoring Grants	-	-	-	-	5,000,000	-	-
Personal Technology Grants	-	-	-	-	100,000	-	-
High Quality Special Ed Incentives	-	-	-	-	9,900,000	-	9,900,000
Learner Engagement and Attendance Program	-	-	-	-	9,900,000	-	7,000,000
Agency Total - General Fund	3,003,569,028	3,125,660,377	3,381,949,629	3,437,150,957	3,522,148,994	3,587,852,655	3,627,265,156
Additional Funds Available							
American Rescue Plan Act	151,659,750	-	-	-	-	-	-
Agency Grand Total	3,155,228,778	3,125,660,377	3,381,949,629	3,437,150,957	3,522,148,994	3,587,852,655	3,627,265,156

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Policy Revisions

Provide Additional Funding for the Excess Cost Grant

Excess Cost - Student Based	-	40,000,000	124,000,000	124,000,000	124,000,000	84,000,000
Total - General Fund	-	40,000,000	124,000,000	124,000,000	124,000,000	84,000,000

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.

Committee

Provide additional funding of \$124 million in both FY 26 and FY 27 for Excess Cost.

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Provide Funding for High Quality Special Education Incentives Grant

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

Committee

Same as Governor

Maintain ECS Funding for Overfunded Towns

Education Equalization Grants	-	-	8,733,988	17,466,666	8,733,988	17,466,666
Total - General Fund	-	-	8,733,988	17,466,666	8,733,988	17,466,666

Background

PA 17-2, JSS, the FY 18 and FY 19 Budget, established a phase-in schedule for full funding of the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant. Currently, underfunded towns are scheduled to receive increases in funding until they reach full funding in FY 26. Overfunded towns, conversely, are scheduled to receive decreases in funding until they reach full funding in FY 32. Decreases for overfunded towns were put on hold from FY 22 to FY 25 and will resume in FY 26 under current law. Certain hold harmless provisions apply to Alliance Districts.

Committee

Provide funding of \$8,733,988 in FY 26 and \$17,466,666 in FY 27 to maintain FY 25 funding levels for overfunded towns through the biennium.

Provide Funding for Various School Meal Programs

Child Nutrition State Match	521,000	521,000	521,000	521,000	-	-
School Breakfast Program	179,000	12,600,000	179,000	179,000	-	(12,421,000)
Total - General Fund	700,000	13,121,000	700,000	700,000	-	(12,421,000)

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.

Committee

Provide funding of \$700,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to provide free meals for students who qualify for reduced price meals.

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Continue Funding for Various COVID-19 Relief Funded Programs and Dyslexia

Personal Services	-	-	(480,000)	(480,000)	(480,000)	(480,000)
Curriculum and Standards	-	400,000	-	400,000	-	-
Dual Credit	-	7,500,000	-	6,000,000	-	(1,500,000)
Office of Dyslexia	-	-	680,000	680,000	680,000	680,000
Learner Engagement and Attendance Program	-	9,900,000	-	7,000,000	-	(2,900,000)
Total - General Fund	-	17,800,000	200,000	13,600,000	200,000	(4,200,000)

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.

Committee

Provide funding of \$200,000 in FY 26 and \$13.6 million FY 27 to continue or expand various programs that were previously funded with COVID-19 relief funding and provide additional funding for the Office of Dyslexia. Additionally, transfer funding of \$480,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 from Personal Services to the Office of Dyslexia. The funding was first provided for this purpose in the FY 22 and FY 23 Budget.

Adjust Funding for Student Support Programs

Leadership, Education, Athletics in Partnership (LEAP)	(312,211)	(312,211)	-	-	312,211	312,211
CT Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	-	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
Parent Trust Fund Program	(267,193)	(267,193)	82,807	82,807	350,000	350,000
School-Based Diversion Initiative	(900,000)	(900,000)	-	-	900,000	900,000
Student Support Grants	12,639,668	12,639,668	-	-	(12,639,668)	(12,639,668)
Family Resource Centers	(6,352,710)	(6,352,710)	647,290	647,290	7,000,000	7,000,000
After School Program	(5,750,695)	(5,750,695)	-	-	5,750,695	5,750,695
Total - General Fund	(1,943,141)	(1,943,141)	730,097	730,097	2,673,238	2,673,238

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.

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

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.

Committee

Do not consolidate six programs into a single Student Support Services grant and do not reduce total funding. Provide additional funding of \$730,097 in both FY 26 and FY 27 for the Parent Trust Fund Program and Family Resource Centers.

Adjust Funding for High Dosage Tutoring Matching Grant

High Dosage Tutoring Grants	-	5,000,000	-	-	-	(5,000,000)
Total - General Fund	-	5,000,000	-	-	-	(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.

Committee

Do not provide funding of \$5 million in FY 27 for High Dosage Tutoring Matching Grants.

Adjust Funding for Various Formula Grants

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

Committee

Reduce funding by \$1,701,678 in FY 26 for the Adult Education grant to reflect the cap for one year. Do not cap the Health and Welfare Services for Private School Pupils grants.

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Provide Funding for New Charter Schools

Charter Schools	-	-	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000

Background

The State Board of Education has approved seven charter schools in recent years that have not been funded in the budget.

Committee

Provide funding of \$2.5 million in FY 26 and \$2.5 million in FY 27 to open two charter schools that have been approved by the State Board of Education.

Provide Funding for the Local Food for Schools Incentive Program

Other Expenses	-	-	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)
Local Food for Local Schools Incentive Program	-	-	1,500,000	3,430,000	1,500,000	3,430,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	-	1,930,000	-	1,930,000

Committee

Transfer \$1.5 million from the Other Expenses account to a new Local Food for Local Schools Incentive Program account in both FY 26 and FY 27 and provide additional funding of \$1.93 million in FY 27 for the program. The additional funding is provided to supplement reduced federal funding for the program. In FY 25, the program received \$1.5 million from the Other Expenses account.

Provide Funding for EASTCONN

Other Expenses	-	-	-	3,000,000	-	3,000,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	-	3,000,000	-	3,000,000

Committee

Provide funding of \$3 million in FY 27 for EASTCONN, a regional educational service center (RESC), for one-time support.

Adjust ECS Funding to Reflect Data Adjustment

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

Committee

Same as Governor

Provide Funding for EdAdvance

Other Expenses	-	-	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000

Committee

Provide funding of \$900,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 for EdAdvance, a RESC.

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Adjust Funding for Aspiring Educators and Talent Development

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

Background

Talent Development: Talent Development funds support professional development efforts.

Aspiring Educators Scholarship Program: Sections 11 and 18 of PA 23-167 established the Aspiring Educators 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 Scholarship Program account to the Talent Development account. The Governor recommends using this funding for male educator recruitment.

Committee

Do not transfer funding from the Aspiring Educators Scholarship Program account to the Talent Development account.

Provide Funding for Rose City Learning

Rose City Learning	-	-	159,000	159,000	159,000	159,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	159,000	159,000	159,000	159,000

Background

Rose City Learning Center in Norwich is a non-profit that provides English classes at all levels.

Committee

Provide funding of \$159,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to Rose City Learning in Norwich.

Provide Funding for MLK Scholarship and Robotics

Other Expenses	-	-	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000

Committee

Provide funding of \$45,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to the Other Expenses account for the Norwalk MLK Scholarship Fund (\$20,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27) and Robotics funding (\$25,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27).

Adjust Funding for the Connecticut Writing Project and Bridges to Success

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

Committee

Do not eliminate funding for the Connecticut Writing Project and Bridges to Success.

Adjust Funding for Personal Technology Grant

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

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

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.

Committee

Do not provide funding of \$100,000 in FY 27 for Personal Technology Grants.

Reallocate Paraeducator Healthcare Funding to OSC

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

Committee

Same as Governor

Current Services

Transfer Education Finance Reform Funding to Choice Programs

Other Expenses	-	-	950,000	950,000	950,000	950,000
Sheff Transportation	2,196,368	4,861,039	2,196,368	4,861,039	-	-
Education Finance Reform	(76,331,181)	(76,331,181)	(76,331,181)	(76,331,181)	-	-
Charter Schools	2,788,763	4,107,763	2,788,763	4,107,763	-	-
Vocational Agriculture	7,471,532	7,471,532	7,471,532	7,471,532	-	-
Magnet Schools	45,443,153	54,445,952	45,443,153	54,445,952	-	-
Total - General Fund	(18,431,365)	(5,444,895)	(17,481,365)	(4,494,895)	950,000	950,000

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 Finance 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.

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Committee

Transfer funding of \$58,849,816 in FY 26 and \$49,951,057 in FY 27 from the Education Finance Reform account to various choice programs, Sheff Transportation, and Other Expenses in order to continue the current grant and tuition policies, and maintain some earmark grants established by PA 24-81 (\$800,000 for Brother Carl Institute and \$150,000 for Artists Collective, both within the Other Expenses account). A net reduction in funding of \$17,481,365 in FY 26 and \$4,494,895 in FY 27 reflects updated enrollment projections for existing choice school grants and Sheff Transportation, along with the cessation in FY 26 of a portion of various other grants provided in FY 25 by the Education Finance Reform account.

Fund ECS According to Current Law

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

Committee

Same as Governor. See Policy Revisions regarding overfunded towns.

Annualize FY 25 Holdbacks

Personal Services	(3,600,000)	(3,600,000)	(3,000,000)	(3,000,000)	600,000	600,000
Aspiring Educators Scholarship Program	(6,000,000)	(6,000,000)	(4,000,000)	(4,000,000)	2,000,000	2,000,000
Total - General Fund	(9,600,000)	(9,600,000)	(7,000,000)	(7,000,000)	2,600,000	2,600,000

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.

Committee

Reduce funding by \$7 million in both FY 26 and FY 27 in the Personal Services and Aspiring Educators Scholarship accounts. The Aspiring Educators Scholarship program will be expanded to high school graduates from any district in the state, rather than just Alliance Districts, who are enrolled in a teacher preparation program at any four-year institution of higher education and are underrepresented in the teaching profession or are pursuing a shortage area.

Fund Formula Grants at Statutory Level

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

Governor

Provide funding of \$2,893,222 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.

Committee

Same as Governor; see Policy Revisions.

Fund the Requirements of the Sheff Settlement

Sheff Settlement	4,993,619	-	4,993,619	-	-	-
Magnet Schools	3,998,522	4,415,386	3,998,522	4,415,386	-	-

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
Total - General Fund	8,992,141	4,415,386	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).

Committee

Same as Governor

Adjust Funding for Various Grants

Other Expenses	(4,825,000)	(4,825,000)	100,000	100,000	4,925,000	4,925,000
Total - General Fund	(4,825,000)	(4,825,000)	100,000	100,000	4,925,000	4,925,000

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.

Committee

Do not eliminate funding associated with Other Expenses earmarks and provide additional funding of \$100,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 for various earmark grants below.

Recipient	Amount \$
Girls on the Run Greater Hartford	100,000
Big Brothers and Big Sisters of CT: Hartford and New Haven mentoring	350,000
Middletown Youth Programming	200,000
Boys and Girls Club of Lower Naugatuck Valley	100,000
Hartford Knights	100,000
Hartford Youth Programming	15,000
Active City	150,000
Robotics	75,000
Serving All Vessels Equally (SAVE) in Norwalk	100,000
ECE recruitment and after school K-2 reading tutoring	2,000,000
EdAdvance (School Readiness Council)	25,000
Stamford Public Education Foundation	210,000
Full Circle Youth Empowerment	1,000,000
Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse	100,000
New Haven Reads	200,000
Thompson (Alliance District)	200,000
Total	4,925,000

Annualize the Cost of Existing Wage Agreements

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

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

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.

Committee

Same as Governor

Adjust Funding to Reflect Current Requirements

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

Governor

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

Committee

Same as Governor

Totals

Budget Components	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
FY 25 Appropriation - GF	3,381,949,629	3,381,949,629	3,381,949,629	3,381,949,629	-	-
Policy Revisions	(12,378,885)	71,804,035	129,847,813	168,445,197	142,226,698	96,641,162
Current Services	67,580,213	68,395,330	76,055,213	76,870,330	8,475,000	8,475,000
Total Recommended - GF	3,437,150,957	3,522,148,994	3,587,852,655	3,627,265,156	150,701,698	105,116,162

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

Connecticut Technical Education and Career System
TEC64600

Permanent Full-Time Positions

Fund	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Committee	
				FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
General Fund	1,511	1,536	1,539	1,569	1,569	1,609	1,609

Budget Summary

Account	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Committee	
				FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
Personal Services	163,387,475	164,866,832	164,583,764	174,058,658	174,058,658	175,558,658	175,558,658
Other Expenses	26,927,986	28,412,637	26,918,577	37,257,461	37,257,461	31,957,461	31,957,461
Other Current Expenses							
PACT at CTECS	-	-	-	-	-	500,000	500,000
Agency Total - General Fund	190,315,461	193,279,469	191,502,341	211,316,119	211,316,119	208,016,119	208,016,119

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Policy Revisions

Provide Funding to PACT (Debt Free Community College) for Trade Opportunities

PACT at CTECS	-	-	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000

Committee

Provide funding of \$500,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to expand PACT (Debt Free Community College) to students that attend adult education programs at the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System. Funding for the program is capped at this amount.

Finalize Transfer of IT Functions to DAS

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

Committee

Same as Governor

Current Services

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Annualize the Cost of Existing Wage Agreements

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

Committee

Same as Governor

Annualize FY 25 Deficiencies

Personal Services	2,000,000	2,000,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Other Expenses	11,300,000	11,300,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	(5,300,000)	(5,300,000)
Total - General Fund	13,300,000	13,300,000	9,500,000	9,500,000	(3,800,000)	(3,800,000)
Positions - General Fund	30	30	70	70	40	40

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.

Committee

Provide 70 positions and funding of \$9.5 million in both FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect annualization of the agency's FY 25 deficiency. The additional positions increase the agency's authorized headcount to match the agency's actual headcount.

Provide Funding for Free Menstrual Products

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

Committee

Same as Governor

Totals

Budget Components	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
FY 25 Appropriation - GF	191,502,341	191,502,341	191,502,341	191,502,341	-	-
Policy Revisions	(986,116)	(986,116)	(486,116)	(486,116)	500,000	500,000
Current Services	20,799,894	20,799,894	16,999,894	16,999,894	(3,800,000)	(3,800,000)
Total Recommended - GF	211,316,119	211,316,119	208,016,119	208,016,119	(3,300,000)	(3,300,000)

Positions	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
FY 25 Appropriation - GF	1,539	1,539	1,539	1,539	-	-
Current Services	30	30	70	70	40	40
Total Recommended - GF	1,569	1,569	1,609	1,609	40	40

Office of Early Childhood
OEC64800

Permanent Full-Time Positions

Fund	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Committee	
				FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
General Fund	118	118	118	118	118	118	118

Budget Summary

Account	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Committee	
				FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
Personal Services	8,410,624	8,275,873	10,147,924	9,926,912	9,926,912	9,926,912	9,926,912
Other Expenses	316,878	5,134,202	1,319,731	1,319,731	7,919,731	1,694,731	8,294,731
Other Current Expenses							
Birth to Three	31,892,788	34,351,477	32,452,407	33,293,626	40,293,626	33,293,626	39,693,626
Evenstart	295,455	545,454	545,456	545,456	545,456	545,456	545,456
2Gen - TANF	324,225	540,473	572,500	575,685	575,685	575,685	575,685
Nurturing Families Network	14,089,169	12,484,084	12,139,479	12,669,995	14,469,995	12,669,995	14,469,995
Early Child Care Provider Stabilization Payments	69,908,522	-	-	-	-	-	-
OEC Parent Cabinet	-	143,500	150,000	152,264	152,264	152,264	152,264
Capitol Child Development Center	-	-	-	263,000	263,000	263,000	263,000
Other Than Payments to Local Governments							
Head Start Services	4,867,305	4,993,641	5,083,238	5,833,238	5,833,238	5,833,238	5,833,238
Care4Kids TANF/CCDF	57,809,329	81,513,372	112,827,096	147,957,756	151,227,096	112,827,096	112,827,096
Child Care Quality Enhancements	4,189,292	5,891,953	5,954,530	5,954,530	5,954,530	5,954,530	5,954,530
Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership	1,109,419	1,374,236	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Early Care and Education	139,466,790	154,926,475	190,137,329	193,845,725	201,845,725	193,845,725	193,845,725
Smart Start	3,249,999	3,250,000	3,325,000	3,325,000	6,325,000	3,325,000	6,325,000
Agency Total - General Fund	335,929,795	313,424,740	376,154,690	417,162,918	446,832,258	382,407,258	400,207,258
Additional Funds Available							
American Rescue Plan Act	83,875,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Agency Grand Total	419,804,795	313,424,740	376,154,690	417,162,918	446,832,258	382,407,258	400,207,258

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	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.

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

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.

Committee

Same as Governor

Provide Funding for Smart Start

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

Committee

Same as Governor

Provide Funding for the Waterford Upstart Program

Other Expenses	-	-	375,000	375,000	375,000	375,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	375,000	375,000	375,000	375,000

Background

Waterford Upstart is an interactive learning program that helps children in Pre-K through 2nd grade build skills in reading, math, and science.

Committee

Provide funding of \$375,000 in FY 26 and FY 27 for the Waterford Upstart program.

Provide Funding for the Family Bridge Program

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

Background

The Family Bridge program provides universal home visiting services to families with newborns in certain regions of the state to facilitate the transition from hospital to home. Family Bridge offers at-home visits from registered nurses and certified community health workers.

Governor

Provide funding of \$1.8 million in FY 27 for the Family Bridge program.

Committee

Same as Governor

Provide Funding to Continue the Tri-Share Pilot Program

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

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Background

PA 24-91 Sec. 3 requires the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to establish and administer the Tri-Share Child Care Matching Program, which 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 in FY 27 to support the continuation of the Tri-Share pilot program.

Committee

Same as Governor

Adjust Funding to Implement a Birth to Three Tiered Rate System

Birth to Three	-	6,000,000	-	-	-	(6,000,000)
Total - General Fund	-	6,000,000	-	-	-	(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 related to implementing a new tiered rate system.

Committee

Do not provide funding in FY 27 for a Birth to Three tiered rate system.

Provide Funding to Increase Birth to Three Rates

Birth to Three	-	-	-	6,400,000	-	6,400,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	-	6,400,000	-	6,400,000

Background

The Birth to Three rate study conducted by Public Consulting Group and published in January 2024 provides recommendations that includes rate increases for Birth to Three services under the current rate structure.

Committee

Provide funding of \$6.4 million in FY 27 for increased rates in Birth to Three.

Adjust Funding for General Administrative Payments (GAP)

Birth to Three	-	(1,000,000)	-	-	-	1,000,000
Total - General Fund	-	(1,000,000)	-	-	-	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. The payment is intended to reimburse the non-billable time for Birth to Three providers that support children with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) of less than 9 hours per month with at least one service delivered in that month. Under a tiered Birth to Three rate system, it is anticipated that less funding will be needed to support GAP payments.

Governor

Reduce funding of \$1 million in FY 27 for GAP payments.

Committee

Maintain funding of \$1 million in FY 27 for GAP payments related to maintaining the current Birth to Three rate structure.

Adjust Funding for Early Start CT

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

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Background

PA 24-78 Sec. 25 requires the Office of Early Childhood to operate and administer Early Start CT, which is a new state funding stream that combines current School Readiness grants, Child Day Care Contracts, and State Head Start supplemental grants, effective July 1, 2025.

Governor

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

Committee

Do not provide funding in FY 27 for Early Start CT rate increases.

Adjust Funding to Support the Sparkler App

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

Background

The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) offers the Sparkler mobile app 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.

Committee

Do not provide funding in FY 27 related to the Sparkler mobile app.

Reallocate Funding to Support Additional State Head Start Supplemental Grant Funds

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

Background

Head Start is a national program that provides early learning, health, and family well-being services to children and families while engaging parents as partners. The State Head Start Supplement grant provides additional funding to federal Head Start programs in Connecticut.

Governor

Reallocate funding of \$750,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 from the Early Care and Education line item to the Head Start Services line item.

Committee

Same as Governor

Transfer the Capitol Child Development Center from OLM to OEC

Capitol Child Development Center	263,000	263,000	263,000	263,000	-	-
Total - General Fund	263,000	263,000	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 childcare services for children 8 weeks through 5 years of age.

Governor

Transfer funding of \$263,000 in FY 26 and FY 27 from the Office of Legislative Management (OLM) to the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) related to the CCDC.

Committee

Same as Governor

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Current Services

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

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

Committee

Provide funding of \$35,130,660 in FY 26 and \$38,400,000 in FY 27 through the Universal Pre-K Endowment.

Provide Funding for the Start Early - Early Childhood Development Initiative

Other Expenses	-	5,000,000	-	5,000,000	-	-
Total - General Fund	-	5,000,000	-	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. As part of this initiative, the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) has partnered with the TMW Center for Early Learning + Public Health to conduct a three-year research project to measure and enhance the quality of its child care and early learning programs and offer support to the early childhood workforce. OEC has also partnered with the University of Connecticut to implement an Early Start Intervention study that includes family support teams to support families, teachers, and programs to improve the quality of children's home and early care environments.

Governor

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

Committee

Same as Governor

Adjust Funding to Reflect Current Requirements

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

Governor

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

Committee

Same as Governor

Annualize FY 2025 Private Provider COLA

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

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

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.

Committee

Same as Governor

Annualize Cost of Existing Wage Agreements

Personal Services	378,988	378,988	378,988	378,988	-	-
2Gen - TANF	3,185	3,185	3,185	3,185	-	-
OEC Parent Cabinet	2,264	2,264	2,264	2,264	-	-
Total - General Fund	384,437	384,437	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 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect this agency's increased wage costs.

Committee

Same as Governor

Totals

Budget Components	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
FY 25 Appropriation - GF	376,154,690	376,154,690	376,154,690	376,154,690	-	-
Policy Revisions	263,000	21,663,000	638,000	13,438,000	375,000	(8,225,000)
Current Services	40,745,228	49,014,568	5,614,568	10,614,568	(35,130,660)	(38,400,000)
Total Recommended - GF	417,162,918	446,832,258	382,407,258	400,207,258	(34,755,660)	(46,625,000)

State Library
CSL66000

Permanent Full-Time Positions

Fund	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Committee	
				FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
General Fund	53	53	53	53	53	53	53

Budget Summary

Account	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Committee	
				FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
Personal Services	4,794,419	4,927,239	5,884,263	5,419,751	5,419,751	5,419,751	5,419,751
Other Expenses	605,791	1,315,843	1,392,223	892,223	910,515	1,392,223	1,410,515
Other Current Expenses							
State-Wide Digital Library	1,704,119	1,654,909	1,709,210	1,709,210	1,709,210	1,709,210	1,709,210
Interlibrary Loan Delivery Service	311,902	315,369	364,209	380,136	380,136	380,136	380,136
Legal/Legislative Library Materials	574,537	574,523	574,540	674,540	674,540	674,540	674,540
Library for the Blind	80,410	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	124,402
Grant Payments to Local Governments							
Connecticard Payments	703,638	703,638	703,638	703,638	703,638	703,638	703,638
Agency Total - General Fund	8,899,218	9,674,603	10,852,485	10,003,900	10,022,192	10,503,900	10,522,192
Additional Funds Available							
American Rescue Plan Act	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Agency Grand Total	9,399,218	9,674,603	10,852,485	10,003,900	10,022,192	10,503,900	10,522,192

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Policy Revisions

Maintain Funding for Nonprofit Library Programs

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

Committee

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

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Transfer Funding for Legal and Legislative Library Materials

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

Committee

Same as Governor

Provide Funding for the Museum of Connecticut History

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

Committee

Same as Governor

Current Services

Annualize the Cost of Existing Wage Agreements

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

Committee

Same as Governor

Adjust Funding to Reflect Current Requirements

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

Governor

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

Committee

Same as Governor

Totals

Budget Components	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
FY 25 Appropriation - GF	10,852,485	10,852,485	10,852,485	10,852,485	-	-
Policy Revisions	(400,000)	(381,708)	100,000	118,292	500,000	500,000
Current Services	(448,585)	(448,585)	(448,585)	(448,585)	-	-
Total Recommended - GF	10,003,900	10,022,192	10,503,900	10,522,192	500,000	500,000

Teachers' Retirement Board

TRB77500

Permanent Full-Time Positions

Fund	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Committee	
				FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
General Fund	27	27	27	27	27	27	27

Budget Summary

Account	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Committee	
				FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
Personal Services	1,964,441	1,971,034	2,198,913	2,291,080	2,291,080	2,291,080	2,291,080
Other Expenses	393,838	451,239	497,003	496,003	482,003	496,003	482,003
Other Than Payments to Local Governments							
Retirement Contributions	1,578,038,000	1,554,542,000	1,558,960,000	1,655,121,000	1,705,100,000	1,655,121,000	1,705,100,000
Retirees Health Service Cost	12,116,191	13,557,097	16,030,802	29,507,250	33,267,000	29,507,250	44,356,000
Municipal Retiree Health Insurance Costs	9,357,523	8,208,196	9,840,000	6,630,000	6,630,000	6,630,000	8,840,000
Agency Total - General Fund	1,601,869,993	1,578,729,566	1,587,526,718	1,694,045,333	1,747,770,083	1,694,045,333	1,761,069,083

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	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)	(9,835,750)	-	-	11,089,000
Municipal Retiree Health Insurance Costs	(2,210,000)	(2,210,000)	(2,210,000)	-	-	2,210,000
Total - General Fund	(12,045,750)	(13,299,000)	(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.

Committee

Reduce funding of \$12 million in FY 26 and retain funding of \$13.3 million in FY 27 to reduce the state's share of retiree healthcare costs for one year.

Reduce Other Expenses

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

Governor

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

Committee

Same as Governor

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	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	96,161,000	146,140,000	-	-
Total - General Fund	96,161,000	146,140,000	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.

Committee

Same as Governor

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

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

Committee

Same as Governor

Annualize Cost of Existing Wage Agreements

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

Committee

Same as Governor

Realign Funding in Other Expenses Based on Required Actuarial Reports

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

Account	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

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.

Committee

Same as Governor

Totals

Budget Components	Governor Recommended		Committee		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
FY 25 Appropriation - GF	1,587,526,718	1,587,526,718	1,587,526,718	1,587,526,718	-	-
Policy Revisions	(12,060,750)	(13,314,000)	(12,060,750)	(15,000)	-	13,299,000
Current Services	118,579,365	173,557,365	118,579,365	173,557,365	-	-
Total Recommended - GF	1,694,045,333	1,747,770,083	1,694,045,333	1,761,069,083	-	13,299,000