

## Alliance District Program

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### Issue

Summarize the 2017 legislative changes to Connecticut's Alliance District Program and include the current list of these districts.

### Alliance District Program

#### *Program Reauthorization*

The Alliance District Program identifies the state's lowest performing school districts and requires them to submit plans explaining how they will use a portion of their Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding to help them increase student outcomes and close achievement gaps. The program was set to expire on June 30, 2017, but the 2017 budget act ([PA 17-2, June Special Session \(JSS\)](#), § 224), reauthorized the program for a five-year period starting in FY 18. By law, the education commissioner measures school districts' performance using their score on the state's accountability index, which ranks districts by combining various measures of student performance, primarily standardized assessment scores, into a single score.

When the program was created for FY 13, it included the 30 districts with the lowest index scores. [PA 17-2, JSS](#), requires the commissioner to designate the 30 districts with the lowest index scores, plus keep on the list the three districts that were among the 30 lowest when the program started, but are no longer in the lowest 30. This makes a total of 33 alliance districts.

As under the program’s prior authorization, the act requires the education commissioner to withhold any ECS aid increase over an alliance district’s FY 12 base amount until she approves the district’s plan to improve academic performance. According to the State Department of Education’s (SDE) FY 17 [data](#), alliance district funds comprise roughly \$140.6 million of the almost \$1.9 billion in ECS aid.

Approved alliance district plans are available on SDE’s [alliance district webpage](#). According to SDE, the alliance districts serve more than 200,000 students in 410 schools.

### ***Current List of Alliance Districts***

Table 1 lists SDE’s new alliance districts for FYs 18-22.

**Table 1: 33 Alliance Districts for FYs 18-22**

Ansonia	New Britain
Bloomfield <sup>1</sup>	New Haven
Bridgeport	New London
Bristol	Norwalk
Danbury	Norwich
Derby	Putnam
East Hartford	Stamford
East Haven	Thompson <sup>2</sup>
East Windsor	Torrington <sup>2</sup>
Groton <sup>2</sup>	Vernon
Hamden	Waterbury
Hartford	West Haven
Killingly	Winchester <sup>1</sup>
Manchester	Windham
Meriden	Windsor
Middletown	Windsor Locks <sup>1</sup>
Naugatuck	
<p>1. Districts designated as alliance districts in the original group in FY 13, but are no longer among the 30 lowest scoring districts.</p> <p>2. Newly designated alliance districts that were not part of the group designated in FY 13, but are now among the 30 lowest scoring districts.</p>	

JM:cmg