

Comparison of Charter, Magnet, Agricultural Science Centers, and Technical High Schools

By: John D. Moran, Principal Analyst
Andrew Bolger, Legislative Fellow
February 16, 2018 | 2018-R-0030

Issue

Compare the state laws and funding for four types of public schools: charter schools, interdistrict magnet schools, regional agricultural science and technology education centers (“agri-science centers”), and technical high schools. This report updates OLR Report [2014-R-0257](#).

Summary

In addition to regular public schools, Connecticut offers charter schools, interdistrict magnet schools, agri-science centers, and technical high schools. For each type of school, Table 1 compares the statutory provisions (and select regulations and state policies) governing approval, programs, students, special education, and transportation requirements. It also shows how each school is funded. The definition for each type follows.

1. A charter school is a public, nonsectarian, nonprofit school established under a charter that operates independently of any local or regional board of education; no member or employee of a governing council of a charter school may have a personal or financial interest in the assets, real or personal, of the school (charters are granted by the State Board of Education (SBE) or by a local board and SBE) ([CGS § 10-66aa](#)).

2. An interdistrict magnet school is a public school designed to promote racial, ethnic, and economic diversity that draws students from more than one school district, offers a special and high-quality curriculum, and requires students to attend at least half time (magnets are operated by school districts, regional education service centers (RESCs), or other entities) ([CGS § 10-264\(a\)](#)).
3. A regional agri-science center is usually embedded in an existing public high school and offers a curriculum of agricultural science and technology that may include vocational aquaculture and marine-related employment courses in addition to the standard high school curriculum. It serves a region of multiple local school districts ([CGS §§ 10-64 to -66](#)).
4. A technical high school (formally called a “technical education and career school”) is a state-operated, regional public high school that provides vocational education and hands-on experience in specific career areas in addition to the standard high school curriculum. Each school serves a region of multiple local school districts ([CGS §§ 10-95 to -99g](#)).

Table 1: Charter Schools, Interdistrict Magnet Schools, Agricultural Science and Technology Centers, and Technical Education and Career Schools: Comparison of Laws and FY 18 Funding

	<i>Charter Schools</i> (CGS §§ 10-66aa to -66uu)	<i>Interdistrict Magnet School</i> (CGS §§ 10-264h to -264q)	<i>Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Centers</i> (CGS §§ 10-64 to -66)	<i>Technical Education and Career Schools</i> (formerly the <i>Technical High Schools</i>)* (CGS §§ 10-95 to -99g)
Eligible Operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any not-for-profit organization that is tax exempt under IRS Code (Section 501(c)(3)) Public or independent institution of higher education Local or regional board of education Two or more boards of education acting cooperatively RESC (CGS § 10-66bb(b)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local and regional boards of education RESC Cooperative arrangement between two or more school boards For a school that helps meet the goals of the 2013 settlement of the <i>Sheff v. O'Neill</i> school desegregation case (1) boards of trustees of the state's higher education constituent units or independent colleges or universities and (2) any other nonprofit corporation approved by the education commissioner (CGS §§ 10-264(a)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local and regional boards of education (CGS § 10-64(a)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBE authorized to establish and maintain the Technical Education and Career System (TECS)** TECS Board (separate from SBE) advises TECS (CGS § 10-95(a), as amended by PA 17-237, §§ 1 & 2, and PA 17-2, June Special Session (JSS), § 72)** For FY 18, SBE must hire a consultant to (1) help the TECS board develop a transition plan to become an independent agency and (2) provide recommendations on which services could be provided more efficiently through, or in conjunction with, another local or regional board of education or other entity SBE must submit a report on the transition plan and service efficiencies to the Education Committee by January 1, 2019 (PA 17-237, § 16) Board may enter into cooperative arrangements with local and regional boards of education, private occupational schools, institutions of higher education, job training agencies, and employers (CGS § 10-95(a))
Ineligible Operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nonpublic school Parent or group of parents providing home instruction (CGS § 10-66bb(b)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional agricultural science and technology centers Regional technical high schools Regional special education centers (CGS § 10-264(a)) 	None specified	None specified

* PA 17-237 changed the name of the system from the Technical High School System to the Technical Education and Career System.

** Under PA 17-237, in FY 20 (school year 2019-20) TECS becomes (1) independent of SBE and (2) a separate executive branch agency under an executive director appointed by the governor.

	<i>Charter Schools (CGS §§ 10-66aa to -66uu)</i>	<i>Interdistrict Magnet School (CGS §§ 10-264h to -264q)</i>	<i>Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Centers (CGS §§ 10-64 to -66)</i>	<i>Technical Education and Career Schools (formerly the Technical High Schools) (CGS §§ 10-95 to -99g)</i>
Program and Application Requirements	<p>Applications are to include a description of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the mission, purpose, and any specialized focus of the proposed charter school; the community interest for the establishment of the charter school; the establishment of a school governance council which is responsible for oversight of school operations and includes (1) teachers and parents and guardians of students enrolled in the school (2) the local or regional board of education chairperson, or designee, provided no member or employee of the council has a personal or financial interest in the school; a financial plan for operation of the school; an educational program, instructional methodology, and services offered to students; the number of teachers and administrators expected to be employed; organization of the school in terms of ages or grades to be taught; total estimated enrollment; the means to assess student performance, including participation in mastery examinations; procedures for teacher evaluation and professional development; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support racial, ethnic, and economic diversity Offer a special and high quality curriculum Require students enrolled to attend at least half-time (CGS § 10-264(a)) See "Initial Approval Considerations," for details on what the commissioner must consider before approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide each enrolled student all the student's nonagricultural academic classes unless the board (1) on or before July 1, 1993, entered into a contract for shared-time arrangements with another board or (2) has a shared-time arrangement for its vocational aquaculture program (CGS § 10-65b) Shared-time arrangements mean students are enrolled in the agri-science centers part-time while attending school in their home district for nonagricultural courses (CGS § 10-65b) Establish and implement a five-year plan to increase racial and ethnic diversity at the agri-science center that reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of the center's region (CGS § 10-65a(a)) Operate on a 12-month-a-year basis to allow for occupational instruction and the supervision of student occupational experience programs (Conn. Agencies Reg., § 10-64-2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools must offer full-time comprehensive secondary education, and may offer part-time and evening programs in vocational, technical, technological, and postsecondary education and training (CGS § 10-95(b) as amended by PA 17-237, §§ 1 & 2 and PA 17-2, JSS, §§ 72 & 73) TECS board may authorize schools to offer trade programs for a maximum of five years, after which the board must evaluate programs (see below under "Evaluation") TECS board must base any decision to offer new trade programs on (1) employment demand for graduates, (2) cost of establishing the program, (3) availability of qualified instructors, (4) existence of similar programs at other educational institutions, and (5) student interest TECS board must create a process for employers, parents, students, teachers, and others to request consideration of a new trade program (CGS § 10-95i (b) & (c) as amended by PA 17-237, § 60)

Table 1 (Continued)

	<i>Charter Schools (CGS §§ 10-66aa to -66uu)</i>	<i>Interdistrict Magnet School (CGS §§ 10-264h to -264q)</i>	<i>Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Centers (CGS §§ 10-64 to -66)</i>	<i>Technical Education and Career Schools (formerly the Technical High Schools) (CGS §§ 10-95 to -99g)</i>
Program and Application Requirements (Continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • methods to encourage parent and guardian involvement; • a five-year maintenance and school operation plan; • the student recruitment plan that includes how the school will attract and retain various types of student populations, including those (1) with a history of low academic performance, (2) who receive free and reduced price lunches (FRPL), (3) with a history of behavioral and social problems, (4) who require special education, and (5) who are English language learners (ELL); • a plan to share learning practices and experiences with local or regional boards of education; and • in the case of a charter that plans to contract with a charter management organization, numerous required terms and conditions of the agreement (CGS § 10-66bb(d)). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must provide students in all grades with a supervised, agricultural occupational-experience program in addition to regularly scheduled class activities (Conn. Agencies Reg., § 10-65-7) • Agricultural classes must include time for lab, shop, and fieldwork (Conn. Agencies Reg., § 10-65-7) 	
Approval Granted By	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For state charter school: State Board of Education (SBE) (CGS § 10-66bb(f)) • For local charter school: local board of education and SBE (CGS § 10-66bb(e)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education commissioner (CGS § 10-264/(b)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBE for program, educational need, and area to be served in order to be eligible for state operating and construction grants (CGS § 10-65 (a)) 	SBE (CGS § 10-95(a))

Table 1 (Continued)

	<p><i>Charter Schools</i> (CGS §§ 10-66aa to -66uu)</p>	<p><i>Interdistrict Magnet School</i> (CGS §§ 10-264h to -264q)</p>	<p><i>Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Centers</i> (CGS §§ 10-64 to -66)</p>	<p><i>Technical Education and Career Schools</i> (formerly the <i>Technical High Schools</i>) (CGS §§ 10-95 to -99g)</p>
<p>Initial Approval Considerations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effect of school on reducing racial, economic, or ethnic isolation in its region • Regional distribution of charter schools in the state • Potential for over-concentration of charter schools within a school district or contiguous districts • The state's efforts to close achievement gaps • Comments made at the required public hearing (CGS § 10-66bb(c)) 	<p>For annual operating grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether program is likely to increase student achievement; • whether program is likely to reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation; • percentage of enrollment from each participating district; • the school's proposed operating budget and sources of funding, including, for a magnet not operated by a local or regional board of education, the per pupil cost cannot exceed the maximum allowable amount as SDE annually determines; and • for <i>Sheff</i> magnets, whether the school meets the desegregation obligations pursuant to the <i>Sheff</i> court decision and any stipulation or order (CGS § 10-264(b)). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be established through agreements with other boards of education to create regional agri-science center within a regular public school system • Must create an agri-science consulting committee to advise host board (committee is advisory only) • Consulting committee must include at least two representatives with competent agricultural or aquacultural knowledge appointed by each participating board (CGS § 10-64(a)) 	<p>None specified</p>

Table 1 (Continued)

	<p><i>Charter Schools (CGS §§ 10-66aa to -66uu)</i></p>	<p><i>Interdistrict Magnet School (CGS §§ 10-264h to -264q)</i></p>	<p><i>Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Centers (CGS §§ 10-64 to -66)</i></p>	<p><i>Technical Education and Career Schools (formerly the Technical High Schools) (CGS §§ 10-95 to -99g)</i></p>
<p>Additional Approval Factors (Applicable to schools meeting initial considerations)</p>	<p>SBE must give preference to applicant schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • serving children who live in priority districts or in districts where 75% or more of the students are members of racial or ethnic minorities; • whose primary purpose is serving students who (1) have a history of low academic performance, (2) receive FRPL, (3) have a history of behavioral and social problems, (4) are special education students, (5) are ELL students, or (6) make up single-gender student bodies; • whose primary purpose is to improve the performance of an existing low-performing school; • that demonstrate credible, specific strategies to attract and retain low performing or ELL students; and • state charters also receive preference if (1) located at work sites or (2) with applicants that are higher education institutions (CGS § 10-66bb(c)). 	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>

Table 1 (Continued)

	<i>Charter Schools (CGS §§ 10-66aa to -66uu)</i>	<i>Interdistrict Magnet School (CGS §§ 10-264h to -264q)</i>	<i>Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Centers (CGS §§ 10-64 to -66)</i>	<i>Technical Education and Career Schools (formerly the Technical High Schools) (CGS §§ 10-95 to -99g)</i>
Approval Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The level of approval depends on the type of charter (1) SBE review for state charter schools and (2) local board of education and SBE for local charters • Public hearings must be held in the district where the school will be located • For state charter schools, SBE must solicit and review comments from the board of education for the district where the school will be located and from contiguous districts • For local charter schools, the local board must survey teachers and parents in the district to determine if there is enough interest • SBE must vote on a state charter application within 90 days of receiving it; a local board must vote within 75 days of receiving a local charter application and forward an approved application to SBE, which must vote on it within 60 days • SBE approval must be by majority vote and may be subject to conditions • Charters may delay opening for up to one school year for the applicant to prepare (CGS § 10-66bb(e)&(f)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application must be approved by the education commissioner (CGS § 10-264h(b)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not specified in statute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable (but see “Program Requirements” above for approval process for new trade programs)
Approval Limits	None specified in statute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None specified in statute (previously, there was a statutory moratorium on non-Sheff magnets; the moratorium was lifted when the commissioner filed a comprehensive statewide magnet school plan with the Appropriations and Education committees on December 12, 2016) (CGS § 10-264(b)) 	None specified in statute	None specified in statute

Table 1 (Continued)

	<p><i>Charter Schools</i> (CGS §§ 10-66aa to -66uu)</p>	<p><i>Interdistrict Magnet School</i> (CGS §§ 10-264h to -264q)</p>	<p><i>Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Centers</i> (CGS §§ 10-64 to -66)</p>	<p><i>Technical Education and Career Schools</i> (formerly the Technical High Schools) (CGS §§ 10-95 to -99g)</p>
<p>Enrollment Minimums or Limits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each school may enroll no more than the lesser of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 250 students or, if a K-8 school, no more than 300 or ○ 25% of the enrollment of the school district where it is located • If SBE finds a state charter school has a demonstrated record of achievement, it must waive the enrollment limits (CGS § 10-66bb(c)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all magnets, no more than 75% of enrolled students may come from a participating district • Enrollment standards for desegregation (i.e., reduced-isolation settings) differ for <i>Sheff</i> and non-<i>Sheff</i> magnet schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Sheff</i> (greater Hartford area) schools must maintain a minority student enrollment of no more than 75% and a non-minority enrollment of at least 25% ○ Non-<i>Sheff</i> magnets must conform with the reduced-isolation setting standards authorized under PA 17-172 and set by the commissioner, which allow for minority student enrollment of no more than 80% and at least 20% non-minority (CGS § 10-264(b)(2), PA 17-172, and the commissioner's reduced-isolation standards) • Commissioner's reduced-isolation standards also allow for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ up to 1% variance for the residency or reduced-isolation standard if she approves a plan to bring the school into compliance, and ○ the commissioner to waive either standard if she finds evidence of other types of diversity (e.g., socioeconomic, special education, and ELLs) or other factors (PA 17-172 and the commissioner's reduced isolation standards) • Private school students enroll in public part-time programs so long as they (1) make up no more than 5% of the magnet school's full-time equivalent enrollment and (2) are not counted for purposes of the state magnet school transportation grant (CGS § 10-264(i)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreements with participating boards may address admission policy and the number of seats available for acceptance (CGS § 10-64(a)) • Each board of education without its own agri-science center must designate one or more SBE-approved centers that their students may attend (CGS § 10-64(d)) • Each board not hosting an agri-science center must provide enrollment opportunities equal to at least (1) the number of students stated in the written agreement, if one exists or (2) the average number of students the board enrolled at the center during the three previous school years, in addition to, for ninth grade, the number of ninth grade students stated in the agreement, if one exists, or the average number enrolled in each designated center over the three previous school years (CGS § 10-65(b)) • No enrollment limits or minimums for boards that operate an agri-science center • School boards that provide opportunities for students to enroll in more than one center in the 2007-08 school year must continue to do so in the numbers required by law (CGS § 10-65(b)) 	<p>None</p>

Table 1 (Continued)

	<p><i>Charter Schools (CGS §§ 10-66aa to -66uu)</i></p>	<p><i>Interdistrict Magnet School (CGS §§ 10-264h to -264q)</i></p>	<p><i>Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Centers (CGS §§ 10-64 to -66)</i></p>	<p><i>Technical Education and Career Schools (formerly the Technical High Schools) (CGS §§ 10-95 to -99g)</i></p>
<p>Student Admission Criteria</p>	<p><i>Required</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide open access on a space-available basis • If applicants exceed space available, must distribute places by lottery • Promote a diverse student body • Not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or English proficiency (CGS § 10-66bb(d)) • May not recruit for purpose of interscholastic athletic competition (CGS § 10-220d) <p><i>Optional</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May limit enrollment to a particular grade level or specialized educational focus • May give preference to siblings if applicants exceed space available (CGS § 10-66bb(d)) <p><i>Waiver</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May seek enrollment lottery waiver if (1) school's primary purpose is to serve student populations with behavioral or social difficulties, needing special education, who are ELL, or of a single gender or (2) a local charter is established at a school among the lowest 5% when all schools ranked by school performance index (CGS § 10-66bb(j)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not recruit for purpose of interscholastic athletic competition (CGS § 10-220d) • After accommodating students from participating districts according to an approved enrollment agreement, may enroll any interested student on a space-available basis by lottery • In enrolling individual students directly, must give preference to a student from a district not participating in a magnet school or the Open Choice interdistrict attendance program (CGS § 10-264(j)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must: (1) have successfully completed eighth grade for ninth grade admission, (2) indicated an interest in agriculture as a career and agree to participate in a supervised, occupational experience program (Conn. Agencies Reg., § 10-65-6) • Agreements with sending districts may specify admission policy and the number of seats available for acceptance (CGS § 10-64(a)) • Agri-science center staff must recommend students for acceptance into the program (Conn. Agencies Reg., § 10-65-6) • Any student denied admission must be given opportunity to ask for review of his or her case before a review committee (Conn. Agencies Reg., § 10-65-6) • May not recruit for the purpose of interscholastic athletic competition (CGS § 10-220d) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissions policy requires eighth grade students to submit: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. most recent Smarter Balanced Report, 2. 7th and 8th grade transcripts, 3. 7th and 8th grade attendance records, 4. written statement of why he or she wants to attend, and 5. 7th and 8th discipline record • Each placed on a ranked list based on score aggregated from each requirement • Application considered final when other documents added including records that show (1) eighth grade completed and (2) no serious disciplinary infractions (TECS admissions policy) • TECS board may recommend student admissions policies to the superintendent (CGS § 10-95(b) as amended by PA 17-237, § 1) • SDE must review the admissions policy regarding (1) enrollment for (a) special education students and students with disabilities, (b) minority students, and (2) the use of placement tests and wait lists in the admissions process (review must be submitted to the Education Committee by January 15, 2018) (PA 17-237, § 12 and PA 17-2, JSS, § 75) • May not recruit for the purpose of interscholastic athletic competition (CGS § 10-220d)

Table 1 (Continued)

	<i>Charter Schools (CGS §§ 10-66aa to -66uu)</i>	<i>Interdistrict Magnet School (CGS §§ 10-264h to -264q)</i>	<i>Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Centers (CGS §§ 10-64 to -66)</i>	<i>Technical Education and Career Schools (formerly the Technical High Schools) (CGS §§ 10-95 to -99g)</i>
Special Education	<p><i>State charters</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school district where the student lives must hold the planning and placement team meeting The district must invite representatives of the charter school to participate in the meeting On a quarterly basis, the district must pay the charter school the difference between the reasonable cost of education for the student and the per-student amount the school receives from state, federal, local, or private grants The charter school is responsible for ensuring the student receives services mandated by his or her individualized education program (IEP) (CGS § 10-66ee(d)) <p><i>Local charters</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local district must pay the local charter the amount in the charter document for reasonable special education costs per student (CGS § 10-66ee(b)) 	<p>Same as state charter school requirements, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payments from districts not required to be quarterly Magnet school only responsible for providing special education services if student attends magnet program full-time (CGS § 10-264(h)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agri-science centers may charge tuition to a sending district for educating a student receiving special education services, as follows: the cost of the services minus any state grants the center receives per student (sending district may seek reimbursement from the state for the tuition costs under existing special education law) (CGS § 10-65(b)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBE provides and pays for the services, which are the same that a local or regional school district must provide If a student's planning and placement team determines that he or she requires services that preclude him or her from participating in the technical high school vocational education program, the student must be referred to the local board of education in the town where the student lives for development of an individualized education program at the expense of the local or regional board of education (CGS § 10-76g as amended by PA 17-237, § 54)
Student Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District where the charter school is located must provide transportation to the charter school for students living in the district unless the charter school makes other arrangements District has the option of providing transportation to its students attending charter schools outside the district (CGS § 10-66ee(f)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided by the participating districts Same kind as provided to children enrolled in other public schools (CGS § 10-264(f)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sending school boards must pay the cost of transportation from high school to an agri-science center school located in or outside the district for any resident student under age 21 who has not graduated (CGS § 10-64(d)). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sending school boards must provide transportation for any resident student under age 21 who has not graduated from high school to a technical education and career school located in or outside the district (CGS § 10-97(a))

Table 1 (Continued)

	<p><i>Charter Schools (CGS §§ 10-66aa to -66uu)</i></p>	<p><i>Interdistrict Magnet School (CGS §§ 10-264h to -264q)</i></p>	<p><i>Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Centers (CGS §§ 10-64 to -66)</i></p>	<p><i>Technical Education and Career Schools (formerly the Technical High Schools) (CGS §§ 10-95 to -99g)</i></p>
<p>School Transportation Funding</p> <p><i>(NOTE: Since FY 17, funding for school transportation has been eliminated from the state budget, except for magnet school transportation under CGS § 10-264i. The entries in this row show the statutory language, which has not been changed despite the cuts. In the event funding is restored, the statutory language would govern the funds.)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided to local and regional school districts through the normal school transportation grant program for charter school students transported within the district where the charter school is located (mandated) and out-of-district (voluntary) (CGS § 10-66ee(f))*** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided through the normal school transportation grant program for students transported within the district (CGS § 10-264(f))*** • Provided through a separate state grant for students transported out-of-district (expenditures over the state grant limits may be submitted for reimbursement in the following year in the normal school transportation grant) up to \$1,300 per student (CGS § 10-264i) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sending districts are eligible for state reimbursement of reasonable transportation costs at its regular rate (0 to 60% depending on wealth) plus an additional 20 percentage points for any costs exceeding \$800 per pupil, per year (CGS § 10-64(d))*** • Education commissioner may reimburse districts and RESCs up to \$2,000 per student for the cost of transporting Hartford students to centers outside Hartford to help meet <i>Sheff</i> goals (GCS § 10-266m)*** • Sending districts are not required to spend more than \$6,000 per student to transport to an agri-science center (CGS § 10-97(e))*** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sending districts are eligible for state reimbursement of reasonable transportation costs at its regular rate (0 to 60% depending on wealth) plus 20 percentage points for any costs exceeding \$800 per pupil, per year (CGS §§ 10-266m and 10-97(a) and (c))*** • If the cost of providing out-of-town transportation for any student exceeds \$200 per year, the town may opt to maintain the student in the town where he or she attends the technical high school (CGS § 10-97(a))*** • Education commissioner may reimburse local and regional boards of education and RESCs up to \$2,000 per student for transporting (1) Hartford students to technical high schools outside Hartford or (2) out-of-district students to technical schools in Hartford to help meet <i>Sheff</i> goals (GCS § 10-266m)*** • Sending districts are not required to spend more than \$6,000 per student for transportation to a technical high school (CGS § 10-97(e))***
<p>***Funds currently eliminated from the state budget, but statutory language remains in place.</p>				

Table 1 (Continued)

	<p><i>Charter Schools (CGS §§ 10-66aa to -66uu)</i></p>	<p><i>Interdistrict Magnet School (CGS §§ 10-264h to -264q)</i></p>	<p><i>Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Centers (CGS §§ 10-64 to -66)</i></p>	<p><i>Technical Education and Career Schools (formerly the Technical High Schools) (CGS §§ 10-95 to -99g)</i></p>
<p>School Construction Funding</p>	<p><i>State charters</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible for state grants for construction and capital improvements or to repay debts for capital projects • Grants of \$250,000 or more must be repaid if the charter school ceases to use the building for education purposes before the bonds are retired (CGS § 10-66hh) • \$5 million in new bond authorization for grants must be effective by July 1, 2016, not exceeding an aggregate of \$35,000,000 to be used for the grants mentioned above (CGS § 10-66jj) • Within appropriations, the state may provide a grant of up to \$75,000 for start-up costs for any new charter school that assists the state in meeting the goals of the 2013 <i>Sheff v. O'Neill</i> school desegregation court stipulation and order (CGS § 10-66ee(l)) <p><i>Local charters</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While there is no explicit local charter school construction law provision, grants presumably fall under regular local school district construction provisions (CGS § 10-283) • Grants exist for start-up costs of up to \$500,000 for newly established local charters (CGS § 10-66nn) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must comply with regular school construction grant requirements, including General Assembly approval as part of the annual school construction priority list • As of July 1, 2011 eligible for 80% funding of construction projects through the school construction grant program (before July 1, 2011 the reimbursement rate was 95%) (CGS § 10-264h(a)) • Within appropriations, discretionary grant of up to \$75,000 for start-up costs for any new magnet school that assists the state in meeting the goals of the 2013 <i>Sheff</i> court stipulation (CGS § 10-264(c)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For projects filed on or after July 1, 2011, reimbursement is 80% of eligible costs of construction and equipment for the center through the state's school construction grant program (before July 1, 2011 the reimbursement rate was 95%) (CGS §§ 10-286(a)(4) and 10-65(a)) • Within appropriations, discretionary grant of up to \$75,000 for start-up costs for any new magnet school that assists the state in meeting the goals of the 2013 <i>Sheff</i> court stipulation (CGS § 10-264(c)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State pays 100% of the cost of school capital projects through general obligation bonds (since they are state schools and not part of a local school district, there is no local share of the costs) • School projects must be included on the annual school construction priority list in the same manner as local school projects (CGS § 10-283b)

Table 1 (Continued)

	<p><i>Charter Schools</i> (CGS §§ 10-66aa to -66uu)</p>	<p><i>Interdistrict Magnet School</i> (CGS §§ 10-264h to -264q)</p>	<p><i>Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Centers</i> (CGS §§ 10-64 to -66)</p>	<p><i>Technical Education and Career Schools</i> (formerly the Technical High Schools) (CGS §§ 10-95 to -99g)</p>
<p>Operating Expense Funding</p>	<p><i>State charters</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State charter schools receive a state grant of \$11,000 per student per year for FY 15 and for each following fiscal year (This amount will increase to \$11,250 for FY19 and the following years thereafter) The state pays no Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grants for students attending state charter schools, either to the school or to the student's home district At the end of any year, a charter school may (1) use up to 10% of any unspent grant funds for expenses in the following year and (2) deposit up to 5% of unexpended funds in a reserve fund to finance a specific capital or equipment purchase; school must return any other unspent funds to the state (CGS § 10-66ee(a),(d)&(e) and PA 17-2, JSS, § 583) <p><i>Local charters</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local charters receive a state grant of up to \$3,000 per student, within available appropriations The local board of education must pay a local charter school the amount specified in the school's charter (which must be approved by the local board of education), including reasonable costs for special education Students enrolled in a local charter school are counted in the ECS formula in the district in which they reside (CGS § 10-66ee(a),(b)&(c)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State operating grants depend on whether or not (1) a school is run by a local school district ("host magnet") or a regional education service center or other entity (RESC magnet) and (2) whether it helps the state achieve the goals of the 2013 <i>Sheff</i> stipulation ("<i>Sheff</i> magnet") or not ("non-<i>Sheff</i> magnet"). Per-student grants for FYs 18 and 19 are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> host magnet generally: \$7,085 for each student from outside the host district and \$3,000 for each student from the host district; <i>Sheff</i> host magnet (hosted by Hartford or other <i>Sheff</i> district): \$13,054 for each student from outside host district and \$3,000 for each student from within the district; non-<i>Sheff</i> RESC magnet with 55% or less enrollment from a single town: \$7,900 per student; non-<i>Sheff</i> RESC magnet with 55% or more of enrollment from a single town: \$7,085 for each student from outside the dominant district and \$3,000 for each student from the dominant district (two of these magnets receive higher grants (CGS § 10-264(c)); and RESC-run magnet: \$10,443 per student for a school enrolling less than 60% of its students from Hartford or for a school enrolling less than 50% of its students from Hartford, \$7,900 for half of the number of non-Hartford students enrolled over 50% of the total student enrollment with \$10,443 for the remaining students (PA 17-2, JSS, § 585(c)(3)(D)). Part-time magnet school programs receive 65% of the above amounts if they operate at 	<p><i>Operating Grants and Tuition</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State operating grant of \$3,200 per student State law allows operating board to charge sending districts no more than \$6,822.80 in tuition per student attending an agri-science center Operating board can charge tuition on a pro rata basis for shared-time students (CGS § 10-65(a) and (b)) For ECS, agri-science students are counted as attending school in their home districts <p><i>Supplemental Grants</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$500 supplemental per-student grant, within available appropriations, for centers with more than 150 out-of-district students A gradually decreasing phase-out grant for four successive years for centers that no longer qualify for the \$500 grants A \$60 per-student grant for centers that are ineligible for the \$500 grants or phase-out grants (CGS § 10-65(c)) Any remaining funds after the above distributions: an additional \$100 per-student grant for all centers Any remaining funds after the above: proportionately distributed to districts operating centers with more than 150 out-of-district students based on the ratio of the number of out-of-district students in excess of 150 in each center to the total number of students in excess of 150 in all centers in the state (CGS § 10-65(d)) <p><i>Nonsupplant Requirement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For FY 13 and each following FY, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School operations are funded by the state through the regular state budget process Preparatory and supplemental programs, including apprenticeship programs, are funded from the nonlapsing Vocational Education Extension Fund, which includes all proceeds from operating the programs plus rental fees for technical education and career facilities (CGS § 10-95e) Technical high school students are not counted for purposes of ECS grants and local districts receive no ECS grants for these students

Table 1 (Continued)

	<p><i>Charter Schools</i> <i>(CGS §§ 10-66aa to -66uu)</i></p>	<p><i>Interdistrict Magnet School</i> <i>(CGS §§ 10-264h to -264q)</i></p>	<p><i>Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Centers</i> <i>(CGS §§ 10-64 to -66)</i></p>	<p><i>Technical Education and Career Schools</i> <i>(formerly the Technical High Schools)</i> <i>(CGS §§ 10-95 to -99g)</i></p>
<p>Operating Expense Funding (continued)</p>		<p>least half-time (CGS § 10-264(c)).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For FY 18, the commissioner may limit payment to a magnet school, subject to certain planned enrollment increases, to an amount equal to the FY 13, FY 15, and FY 16 enrollment levels, whichever is lower. • For FY 19, the commissioner may limit payment to a magnet school, subject to certain planned enrollment increases, to an amount equal to the FY 13, FY 15, FY 16, and FY 17 enrollment levels, whichever is lower (PA 17-2, JSS, § 585) • Many magnet schools receive per-student tuition from sending districts. • Tuition varies based on the state grants the schools receive, but cannot exceed the cost of educating the student minus any state grants to the magnet school (CGS § 10-264(k)) • For ECS grants, magnet school students are counted as attending school in their home districts (CGS § 10-262f(22)) 	<p>any increase in state aid over the previous year cannot be used to supplant local education funding (CGS § 10-65(f))</p>	

Table 1 (Continued)

	<p><i>Charter Schools (CGS §§ 10-66aa to -66uu)</i></p>	<p><i>Interdistrict Magnet School (CGS §§ 10-264h to -264q)</i></p>	<p><i>Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Centers (CGS §§ 10-64 to -66)</i></p>	<p><i>Technical Education and Career Schools (formerly the Technical High Schools) (CGS §§ 10-95 to -99g)</i></p>
<p>Evaluation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charters must be renewed every five years (CGS § 10-66bb(e)&(f)) • After receiving an application for a charter renewal, SBE may commission an independent appraisal of the school's performance, whose results SBE must then consider in determining whether to renew the charter • SBE or the education commissioner may deny renewal, place on probation, or revoke a charter if it finds the school has failed to: (1) adequately demonstrate student progress, (2) manage its public funds in a prudent or legal manner (3) comply with the terms of the charter, applicable laws and regulations • Renewal can also be denied if (1) the school fails to attract and retain students (a) with a history of low academic performance or behavioral or social problems, (b) eligible for FRPL, (c) eligible for special education, or (d) who are ELL or (2) the governing council has not been responsible for school operations or has not provided evidence that the council has initiated substantive communication with the local or regional board of education • A school can also be placed on probation if it fails to (a) make measurable progress in reducing racial, ethnic, and economic isolation; (b) maintain its nonsectarian status; or (c) have a governing council that is able to provide effective leadership • A charter can also be revoked if the school fails to comply with the terms of its probation, including failure to file or implement a corrective action plan (CGS § 10-66bb(q),(h) & (i)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The education commissioner may conduct a comprehensive review of a magnet school's operating budget to verify its tuition rate • RESC-operated magnet schools must submit an annual financial audit to the education commissioner • Each year, the commissioner must randomly select one magnet school for a comprehensive financial audit by an auditor the commissioner selects (CGS § 10-264(n)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating board must conduct an annual study to determine the educational and vocational activities of agri-science center graduates five years after graduation and submit study to SBE (CGS § 10-65a(b)) • Consulting committee must meet at least two times a year to review and assist in evaluating the center (Conn. Agencies Reg., § 10-64-1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TECS must establish specific achievement goals for TECS students and measure school performance based on quantifiable measures including 10th or 11th grade mastery test performance, trade-related assessment tests, and drop-out and graduation rates (CGS § 10-95(e)) as amended by PA 17-237, §§ 1&2 (the act changes this requirement starting in FY20)) • TECS must, beginning in 2020, evaluate each school trade program every five years on the basis of (1) projected employment demand, including employment of graduates in the preceding five years; (2) availability of qualified instructors; (3) existence of similar programs at other educational institutions; (4) student interest; and (5) technological changes. The TECS board must also consider geographic differences that may make a trade program feasible at one school but not another and consult the craft committees for the program (CGS § 10-95i (b)). • Every five years, TECS must adopt a long-range plan of priorities and goals for TECS (CGS § 10-95i (a)) • TECS superintendent must report at an annual hearing held by the Education, Higher Education, and Labor committees on (1) how the system curriculum is incorporating workforce skills that will be needed over the next 30 years, as identified by the labor commissioner; (2) the employment status of system graduates; (3) the adequacy of TECS resources; (4) recommendations to TECS board; (5) information regarding staffing at each TECS school for the current year; and (6) information regarding the

Table 1 (Continued)

	<p><i>Charter Schools</i> (CGS §§ 10-66aa to -66uu)</p>	<p><i>Interdistrict Magnet School</i> (CGS §§ 10-264h to -264q)</p>	<p><i>Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Centers</i> (CGS §§ 10-64 to -66)</p>	<p><i>Technical Education and Career Schools</i> (formerly the Technical High Schools) (CGS §§ 10-95 to -99g)</p>
<p>Evaluation (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each year, the commissioner must randomly select one charter school for a comprehensive financial audit by an auditor the commissioner selects (CGS § 10-66ll) 			<p>transition process of TECS to an independent agency (CGS § 10-95h as amended by PA 17-237, § 11)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The education commissioner and other specified commissioners, in consultation with the TECS superintendent must evaluate and, as necessary, recommend improvements to the TECS certification and degree programs to ensure they meet the employment needs of business and industry (CGS § 4-124z(a)) SBE must prepare a biennial report to the Education Committee that includes (1) applicant and student demographic information, (2) an assessment of student outcomes including completion rates and postsecondary education, (3) enrollment capacity and projected capacity, and (4) an analysis of enrollment including the likelihood of increases or decreases. SBE must provide opportunity for public comment when preparing the report (CGS § 10-95k) SDE must evaluate and report to the Education Committee by October 1, 2018, whether existing TECS standards are: (1) aligned with professional certification requirements and (2) uniform across the system (PA 17-237, § 14)

Website links:

Technical High School System admissions policy/application:

<http://www.cttech.org/assets/uploads/files/admissions/20172018/application%20class%20of%202022final.pdf>

JM/AB:cmg