OLR Bill Analysis
sHB 7109

AN ACT CONCERNING INTERDISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOL PROGRAM FUNDING.

SUMMARY

This bill raises the maximum amount for all per-student interdistrict magnet school operating grants by 2% beginning in FY 20.

By law, the amount of state operating grants for each type of magnet school depends on whether or not (1) the school is run by a local school district (“host magnet”) or a regional educational service center (RESC) or other entity and (2) whether it helps the state achieve the racial integration goals of the Sheff court stipulation (“Sheff magnet”) or not (“non-Sheff magnet”) (see BACKGROUND).

The bill also raises the maximum per student grant amounts for Thomas Edison Magnet Middle School in Meriden by 2% beginning in FY 20.

By law and unchanged by the bill, the amounts of the grants provided must be proportionately adjusted, if necessary, within available appropriations.

It also makes conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

MAGNET SCHOOL GRANT INCREASES

Table 1 shows the various types of magnet schools and their grant amounts under current law and the bill for non-resident students (those attending from outside the host district). Generally, unless otherwise noted, magnet schools currently receive $3,000 for each enrolled student who resides in the host district. The bill raises this per student grant to $3,060 beginning in FY 20. (Magnet school funding is
in addition to Education Cost Sharing and other forms of state education funding.)

Table 1: Magnet School Non-Resident Per-Student Grant Changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of magnet school</th>
<th>Current law maximum amounts</th>
<th>Bill maximum amounts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Sheff host magnet</td>
<td>$7,085</td>
<td>$7,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheff host magnet</td>
<td>13,054</td>
<td>13,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Sheff RESC magnet with less than 55% enrollment from one town</td>
<td>7,900</td>
<td>8,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Sheff RESC magnet with 55% or more of enrollment from one town*</td>
<td>7,085</td>
<td>7,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESC magnet enrolling less than 60% of its students from Hartford (i.e., Sheff magnet)</td>
<td>10,443</td>
<td>10,652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESC magnet enrolling less than 50% of its students from Hartford (i.e., Sheff magnet)</td>
<td>7,900 for half of the non- Hartford students enrolled over 50% of total enrollment, 10,443 for all the other students</td>
<td>8,058 for half of the non- Hartford students enrolled over 50% of total enrollment, 10,652 for all the other students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Excludes Thomas Edison Magnet Middle School, see below.

*Edison Magnet School Per-Student Operating Grant*

Under current law the per-student grant for most students at the Thomas Edison Magnet Middle School in Meriden is $8,180. The grant amount is lower for some of the students depending on (1) where the student resides and (2) whether the student is counted as part of the October 1, 2013 enrollment count or above it.

Under current law, for any additional students enrolled above the October 1, 2013 number, the grant is $3,000 for students who reside in
Meriden and $7,085 for students from outside of Meriden. (The law affects a school that began operations in the 2001-02 school year and, for the 2008-09 school year, enrolled between 55% and 80% of its students from a single town, a description that applies only to the Edison Magnet Middle School.)

The bill increases each of these grant amounts as shown in Table 2.

**Table 2: Edison Magnet Middle School Per-Student Grant Changes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>District Resident Students</th>
<th>District Non-Resident Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Current law maximum amounts</td>
<td>Bill maximum amounts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students at or Below the October 1, 2013 Enrollment Count</td>
<td>$8,180</td>
<td>$8,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students Above the October 1, 2013 Enrollment Count</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,060</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BACKGROUND**

**Sheff v. O'Neill Court Decision and Settlement**

*Sheff* is the 1996 landmark school desegregation case in which the state Supreme Court ruled that Hartford school children were not being given an equal educational opportunity because of racial and economic segregation (238 Conn. 1 (1996)). Settlement agreements subsequent to the *Sheff* decision rely on voluntary desegregation methods with towns in the *Sheff* region. Interdistrict magnet schools are part of the voluntary desegregation plan.

**Interdistrict Magnet School**

By law, 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 (CGS § 10-264l(a)).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference - APP
Yea 37 Nay 0 (03/06/2019)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 35 Nay 13 (05/02/2019)