

Department of Education SDE64000

Permanent Full-Time Positions

Fund	Actual FY 21	Actual FY 22	Appropriation FY 23	Governor Recommended		Legislative	
				FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25
General Fund	1,770	1,802	275	275	275	284	284

Budget Summary

Account	Actual FY 21	Actual FY 22	Appropriation FY 23	Governor Recommended		Legislative	
				FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25
Personal Services	15,772,145	15,620,189	17,845,594	19,081,195	19,300,254	20,361,195	20,580,254
Other Expenses	2,223,158	3,602,481	2,078,463	2,078,463	2,078,463	8,910,963	10,075,963
Other Current Expenses							
Admin - Magnet Schools	90,000	476,500	-	-	-	-	-
Admin - Adult Education	616,664	815,265	-	-	-	-	-
Development of Mastery Exams Grades 4, 6, and 8	10,363,997	8,872,798	10,534,750	10,630,694	10,643,533	10,630,694	10,643,533
Primary Mental Health	335,640	330,707	345,288	345,288	345,288	345,288	345,288
Leadership, Education, Athletics in Partnership (LEAP)	280,990	312,211	312,211	312,211	312,211	312,211	312,211
Adult Education Action	62,050	93,822	194,534	194,534	194,534	194,534	194,534
Connecticut Writing Project	-	20,000	20,250	-	-	95,250	95,250
CT Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs	552,479	613,866	613,866	613,866	613,866	1,000,000	1,000,000
Sheff Settlement	11,045,144	9,679,031	22,633,895	23,068,530	18,684,967	23,068,530	18,684,967
Admin - After School Programs	57,207	57,207	-	-	-	-	-
Parent Trust Fund Program	240,474	238,898	267,193	267,193	267,193	267,193	267,193
Regional Vocational-Technical School System	138,091,207	143,905,600	-	-	-	-	-
Commissioner's Network	9,870,080	9,735,784	10,009,398	9,869,398	9,869,398	9,869,398	9,869,398
Local Charter Schools	690,000	801,000	957,000	957,000	957,000	957,000	957,000
Bridges to Success	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000
Talent Development	1,880,358	1,899,419	2,205,573	2,252,524	2,257,823	2,252,524	2,257,823
School-Based Diversion Initiative	740,109	759,613	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000
Technical High Schools Other Expenses	22,050,045	25,069,904	-	-	-	-	-
EdSight	1,094,802	1,025,475	1,105,756	1,131,361	1,133,236	1,131,361	1,133,236
Sheff Transportation	45,781,798	51,843,244	54,240,688	70,825,009	75,465,173	70,825,009	75,465,173
Curriculum and Standards	2,093,791	1,727,751	2,215,782	2,215,782	2,215,782	2,215,782	2,215,782
Non-Sheff Transportation	-	8,280,834	10,078,550	14,944,797	15,675,787	14,944,797	15,675,787
Minority Teacher Scholarship	-	-	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	-
Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program	-	-	-	-	-	4,000,000	10,000,000
Education Finance Reform	-	-	-	-	-	-	150,000,000
Assistance to Paraeducators	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000,000
Other Than Payments to Local Governments							
American School For The Deaf	7,932,514	8,957,514	9,157,514	9,157,514	9,157,514	10,757,514	11,557,514
Regional Education Services	262,500	262,500	262,500	262,500	262,500	262,500	262,500
Family Resource Centers	5,796,490	5,742,565	5,802,710	5,802,710	5,802,710	6,802,710	6,352,710
Charter Schools	118,417,500	124,537,357	134,477,285	134,477,285	134,477,285	135,077,285	137,514,785
Child Nutrition State Match	2,354,000	2,354,000	2,354,000	2,354,000	2,354,000	2,354,000	2,354,000
Health Foods Initiative	4,151,463	4,151,463	4,151,463	4,151,463	4,151,463	4,151,463	4,151,463
Grant Payments to Local Governments							

Account	Actual FY 21	Actual FY 22	Appropriation FY 23	Governor Recommended		Legislative	
				FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25
Vocational Agriculture	15,124,200	18,824,200	18,824,200	18,824,200	18,824,200	18,824,200	18,824,200
Adult Education	19,764,762	20,155,868	22,333,248	22,326,496	22,326,496	23,263,310	23,386,642
Health and Welfare Services							
Pupils Private Schools	3,438,415	3,438,415	3,438,415	3,438,415	3,438,415	3,438,415	3,438,415
Education Equalization Grants	2,098,444,654	2,139,389,820	2,178,800,382	2,224,205,070	2,269,470,702	2,233,420,315	2,287,900,235
Bilingual Education	1,863,518	1,910,606	3,832,260	3,832,260	3,832,260	3,832,260	3,832,260
Priority School Districts	30,818,777	30,818,778	30,818,778	30,818,778	30,818,778	30,818,778	30,818,778
Interdistrict Cooperation	1,456,067	1,991,353	1,537,500	1,537,500	1,537,500	1,537,500	1,537,500
School Breakfast Program	2,191,487	2,158,900	2,158,900	2,158,900	2,158,900	2,158,900	2,158,900
Excess Cost - Student Based	140,619,782	140,777,987	156,119,782	156,119,782	156,119,782	181,119,782	181,119,782
Open Choice Program	24,124,904	24,204,856	38,360,327	28,588,386	29,921,705	31,189,780	31,472,503
Magnet Schools	279,866,464	276,021,365	292,926,486	282,542,141	292,984,265	284,942,141	287,484,265
After School Program	4,999,485	5,520,667	5,750,695	5,750,695	5,750,695	5,750,695	5,750,695
Extended School Hours	2,915,158	2,888,288	2,919,883	2,919,883	2,919,883	2,919,883	2,919,883
School Accountability	3,412,207	3,365,949	3,412,207	3,412,207	3,412,207	3,412,207	3,412,207
Agency Total - General Fund	3,031,913,485	3,103,281,050	3,055,024,326	3,103,395,030	3,161,662,768	3,158,342,367	3,381,949,629
Additional Funds Available							
Carry Forward Funding	-	-	425,000	-	-	700,000	-
American Rescue Plan Act	-	10,316,750	116,959,750	33,360,000	-	51,705,000	1,500,000
Agency Grand Total	3,031,913,485	3,113,597,800	3,172,409,076	3,136,755,030	3,161,662,768	3,210,747,367	3,383,449,629

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25

Policy Revisions

Provide Additional Funding for ECS and Choice Programs

Education Finance Reform	-	-	-	150,000,000	-	150,000,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	-	150,000,000	-	150,000,000

Background

There are five major grants that provide general operating support to entities that operate public schools:

- **ECS:** This is the primary source of state education aid to municipalities. Funding is distributed to all 169 municipalities based on a number of factors including enrollment, number of students eligible for free and reduced price lunch, or considered English learners, and town property and income wealth.
- **Magnet Schools:** These schools are operated by local boards of education, regional education service centers, and other entities. They are designed to attract students from different socioeconomic backgrounds and offer themed educational opportunities. A per student grant is provided that varies based on the type of magnet school, the school's region, and (for magnet schools run by local boards of education), whether the student resides in-district.
- **State Charter Schools:** These schools are authorized by the State Department of Education and funded by the state and private contributions. They offer a range of educational programs based on the needs of their student population. A per student grant is provided to state charter schools that is weighted based on the school's number of English learners and students receiving free and reduced price lunch.
- **Vocational Agriculture:** Various local and regional boards of education around the state operate vocational agriculture programs for students in their region. The state provides a per student grant for these operators.
- **Open Choice:** This program allows students in urban school districts to attend schools in suburban or rural districts, and conversely allows students in suburban or rural districts to attend urban districts. The state provides a per student grant to districts that host such students. The grant amount varies based on the share of the receiving district's enrollment that is composed of Open Choice students and on the district's region.

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25

Legislative

Provide funding of \$150 million in FY 25 for increases in funding for various education grants as follows, per Section 346 of PA 23-204, the FY 24 and FY 25 budget:

- **ECS:** \$68,499,497 to underfunded municipalities to speed up the phase-in to full funding. Underfunded municipalities will receive a greater increase in FY 25 than under previous law and reach full funding in FY 26 (instead of gradually increasing to reach full funding in FY 28).
- **Magnet Schools:** \$53,442,787 to increase per pupil state grant funding to magnet schools.
- **State Charter Schools:** \$9,378,313 to increase the weighted per student grant for charter schools.
- **Vocational Agriculture:** \$7,249,060 to increase per pupil state grant funding to operators of vocational agriculture programs.
- **Open Choice:** \$11,430,343 is provided to increase per pupil state grant funding to Open Choice receiving districts.

Increased grant funding to magnet school and vocational agriculture program operators largely offsets reductions in tuition revenue to those operators. Sections 341, 342 and 344 of PA 23-204 cap tuition that those operators may charge in FY 25 and annually thereafter at 58% of FY 24 per student tuition levels.

Maintain ECS Funding for Overfunded Towns

Education Equalization Grants	-	-	6,577,096	13,153,097	6,577,096	13,153,097
Total - General Fund	-	-	6,577,096	13,153,097	6,577,096	13,153,097

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, overfunded towns are scheduled to receive decreases in funding (resuming in FY 24) until they reach full funding in FY 30. Decreases for overfunded towns were put on hold in FY 22 and FY 23.

Legislative

Provide ECS funding of \$6,577,096 in FY 24 and \$13,153,097 in FY 25 to maintain FY 23 funding levels for overfunded towns through the biennium. Scheduled decreases for overfunded towns will resume beginning in FY 26 and will continue until full funding is reached in FY 32. Certain hold harmless provisions continue to apply to Alliance Districts.

Adjust Funding for Various Formula Grants

Adult Education	(936,814)	(1,060,146)	-	-	936,814	1,060,146
Health and Welfare Services Pupils						
Private Schools	(2,364,024)	(2,376,209)	(2,364,024)	(2,376,209)	-	-
Excess Cost - Student Based	(23,928,105)	(26,124,689)	1,071,895	(1,124,689)	25,000,000	25,000,000
Total - General Fund	(27,228,943)	(29,561,044)	(1,292,129)	(3,500,898)	25,936,814	26,060,146

Background

Various formulaic grants are established within statute, and these same grants can also be capped in statute. If the grants are capped, funding is distributed based on a proration of the anticipated formula.

- **Adult Education:** Towns are reimbursed for their current costs associated with adult education programs on a sliding scale that varies based on town wealth. This grant was uncapped beginning in FY 23 per PA 22-118, the FY 23 Revised Budget.
- **Health and Welfare Services for Private School Pupils:** School districts are required to provide the same health services to nonpublic school students that are provided to public school students in those districts as long as the majority of the nonpublic school's enrollment resides in Connecticut. Towns are reimbursed for these costs on a sliding scale that varies based on town wealth. This grant is traditionally capped.
- **Excess Cost - Student Based:** Local and regional school districts are reimbursed for current year excess costs associated with the provision of special education services. The state reimburses districts for costs in excess of four-and-a-half times each district's prior year current net expenditures per pupil. This grant is traditionally capped. PA 22-118, the FY 23 Revised Budget, implemented a new method of prorating the Excess Cost grant based on town wealth. Lower wealth towns are reimbursed at a higher reimbursement rate than higher wealth towns when the appropriation is insufficient to fully fund the grant. In February 2023, PA 23-1 made minor adjustments to ensure the distribution of the entire Excess Cost appropriation.

Governor

Reduce funding by \$27,228,943 in FY 24 and \$29,561,044 in FY 25 to reflect capped appropriations for Adult Education, Health and Welfare Services for Private School Pupils, and Excess Cost - Student Based.

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25

Legislative

Reduce funding by a net \$1,292,129 in FY 24 and \$3,500,898 in FY 25 to reflect the following adjustments:

- Adult Education grants are not capped in FY 24 and FY 25.
- Health and Welfare Services for Private School Pupils grants are reduced by \$2,364,024 in FY 24 and by \$2,376,209 in FY 25 to reflect that the grants are capped in both fiscal years.
- Funding for Excess Cost is increased by \$1,071,895 in FY 24 and decreased by \$1,124,689 in FY 25. These adjustments reflect an annual increase in funding for Excess Cost of \$25 million over FY 23 appropriations in both FY 24 and FY 25.

Provide Funding for the Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program

Personal Services	-	-	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program	-	-	3,000,000	9,000,000	3,000,000	9,000,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	3,250,000	9,250,000	3,250,000	9,250,000

Background

Sections 11 and 18 of PA 23-167 establish the Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program (replacing the minority teacher candidate scholarship program) and require at least four existing vacant positions within the State Department of Education (SDE) to be reclassified for the purpose of administering the program. The program provides eligible students with scholarships of up to \$10,000 per year of enrollment in teacher preparation programs.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$3,250,000 in FY 24 and \$9,250,000 in FY 25 for the Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program. Of this amount, \$3 million in FY 24 and \$9 million in FY 25 will be allocated to the program and \$250,000 in both FY 24 and FY 25 will be used for currently authorized positions to be reclassified and administer the program.

Transfer Funding for the Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program

Minority Teacher Scholarship	-	-	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)
Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program	-	-	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-

Legislative

Transfer funding of \$1 million in both FY 24 and FY 25 from the defunct Minority Teacher Scholarship account to the Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program account. The Minority Teacher Scholarship program had not begun awarding scholarships and is replaced by the latter program.

Provide Funding for New Charter Schools

Charter Schools	-	-	600,000	3,037,500	600,000	3,037,500
Magnet Schools	-	-	(600,000)	(5,500,000)	(600,000)	(5,500,000)
Total - General Fund	-	-	-	(2,462,500)	-	(2,462,500)

Legislative

Provide funding of \$600,000 in FY 24 and \$3,037,500 in FY 25 for Charter Schools. These amounts are provided via transfers of \$600,000 in FY 24 and \$3,037,500 in FY 25 from the Magnet Schools account to the Charter Schools account. FY 24 funding is divided equally for one new charter school in each of Norwalk and New Haven (\$300,000 per school). FY 25 funding is designated to new charter schools as follows: \$2.1 million for Norwalk, and \$937,500 for New Haven.

The Magnet Schools account is additionally reduced by \$2,462,500 in FY 25, for a total reduction in that account of \$5.5 million.

Provide Funding for Grants for Paraeducator Health Insurance Costs

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

Legislative

Provide \$5 million in FY 25 to establish two programs providing subsidies to paraeducators for certain health insurance and health care related costs. The first program provides a subsidy reimbursement for costs incurred by paraeducators to initially fund a health savings account (HSA). The second provides a stipend to purchase qualified health insurance for paraeducators who work for a board

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25

of education that does not provide a health insurance plan that meets the federal Affordable Care Act minimum actuarial value standards. (Funding for these programs is additionally provided within the Office of the State Comptroller.)

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25

Provide Funding for Various Initiatives

Other Expenses	-	-	4,810,000	4,925,000	4,810,000	4,925,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	4,810,000	4,925,000	4,810,000	4,925,000

Legislative

Provide funding of \$4,810,000 in FY 24 and \$4,925,000 in FY 25 to Other Expenses for various programs and initiatives as listed below and specified in Section 47 of PA 23-204, the FY 24 and FY 25 budget.

Organization/Purpose	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Active City	150,000	150,000
BCYL: Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders	75,000	-
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Connecticut	350,000	350,000
Bloomfield Public Schools Summer School	350,000	-
Boys and Girls Club of LNV	100,000	100,000
Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse	-	100,000
ECE Recruitment / After School K-2 Reading Tutoring	2,000,000	2,000,000
Ed Advance School Readiness Council	25,000	25,000
Full Circle Youth Empowerment	-	1,000,000
Greater Hartford Girls on the Run	100,000	100,000
Hartford Knights	100,000	100,000
Hartford Youth Programing	15,000	15,000
Middletown Youth Programming	200,000	200,000
New Britain High School Vo Tech Departments	300,000	-
New Haven Reads	100,000	100,000
Robotics	75,000	75,000
SAVE in Norwalk	100,000	100,000
Sound Waters Summer Camp	50,000	-
Stamford Public Education Foundation	210,000	210,000
Student with Academic Growth	60,000	-
Thompson Alliance District funding	200,000	200,000
We are Village, Inc. Hamden	50,000	-
Youth Summer Workforce	100,000	-

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25

Provide Funding for Magnet School Tuition Assistance

Magnet Schools	-	-	3,000,000	-	3,000,000	-
Total - General Fund	-	-	3,000,000	-	3,000,000	-

Background

Certain magnet schools require towns to pay tuition for magnet school students.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$3 million in FY 24 to the Magnet Schools account for tuition assistance to Bloomfield, New Britain, New London and Windsor. Section 341 of PA 23-204 requires the State Department of Education to provide tuition assistance in FY 24 to these towns. The tuition assistance for each district is equal to \$4,400 of the total tuition per student for each resident student attending an interdistrict magnet school in excess of four percent of each district's total resident student population. If funding is insufficient, then each town's allocation is prorated.

Provide Funding for the Local Food for Schools Incentive Program

Other Expenses	-	-	350,000	1,500,000	350,000	1,500,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	350,000	1,500,000	350,000	1,500,000
Positions - General Fund	-	-	1	1	1	1

Background

Section 26 of PA 23-167 establishes the Local Food for Schools Incentive Program. The program provides partial reimbursement to eligible boards of education for the purchase of locally and regionally sourced food for school meals.

Legislative

Provide one position and funding of \$350,000 in FY 24 and \$1.5 million in FY 25 to Other Expenses for the Local Food for Schools Incentive Program.

Provide Funding for the American School for the Deaf

American School For The Deaf	-	-	1,600,000	2,400,000	1,600,000	2,400,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	1,600,000	2,400,000	1,600,000	2,400,000

Legislative

Provide funding of \$1.6 million in FY 24 and \$2.4 million in FY 25 for the American School for the Deaf.

Provide Funding for Family Resource Centers

Family Resource Centers	-	-	1,000,000	500,000	1,000,000	500,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	1,000,000	500,000	1,000,000	500,000

Background

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.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$1 million in FY 24 and \$500,000 in FY 25 for Family Resource Centers. Of these amounts, \$500,000 in FY 24 is for the North Branford Family Resource Center.

Provide Funding for Family Resource Centers in Alliance Districts

Family Resource Centers	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000

Legislative

Provide funding of \$50,000 in FY 25 for Family Resource Centers in Alliance Districts.

Provide Funding for Wholesome School Meals

Other Expenses	-	-	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25

Background

Section 6 of PA 23-167 establishes a wholesome school meals pilot program for Alliance Districts and requires SDE to provide annual grants of \$150,000 for each of three years (FY 24 through FY 26) to five Alliance Districts for participation in the program.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$750,000 in both FY 24 and FY 25 to Other Expenses for a wholesome school meals grant program to Alliance Districts.

Provide Funding for Certain New Positions

Personal Services	-	-	580,000	580,000	580,000	580,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	580,000	580,000	580,000	580,000
Positions - General Fund	-	-	5	5	5	5

Legislative

Provide five positions and funding of \$580,000 in Personal Services for:

- One position and \$150,000 in both FY 24 and FY 25 for a Curriculum Coordinator, pursuant to Section 45 of PA 23-160
- Two positions and \$215,000 in both FY 24 and FY 25 for a Transition Services Coordinator and an Assistant Transition Services Coordinator pursuant to Section 26 of PA 23-137
- Two positions and \$215,000 in both FY 24 and FY 25 for two staff members for mediation services pursuant to Section 47 of PA 23-137

Provide Funding for Promotion and Marketing of Teaching

Other Expenses	-	-	487,500	487,500	487,500	487,500
Total - General Fund	-	-	487,500	487,500	487,500	487,500

Legislative

Provide funding of \$487,500 in both FY 24 and FY 25 to Other Expenses. Of this amount:

- \$250,000 in both FY 24 and FY 25 is for promoting careers in education to middle school and high school students
- \$237,500 in both FY 24 and FY 25 is for statewide marketing of the teaching profession

Provide Funding for Financial Transparency

Personal Services	-	-	450,000	450,000	450,000	450,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	450,000	450,000	450,000	450,000
Positions - General Fund	-	-	3	3	3	3

Legislative

Provide funding of \$450,000 to Personal Services and three forensic analysis positions for school district financial transparency in both FY 24 and FY 25.

Provide Funding for CT Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs

CT Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs	-	-	386,134	386,134	386,134	386,134
Total - General Fund	-	-	386,134	386,134	386,134	386,134

Background

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 and 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.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$386,134 in both FY 24 and FY 25 for Neighborhood Youth Centers and rename the account the CT Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs.

Provide Funding for Various Organizations

Other Expenses	-	-	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25

Legislative

Provide funding of \$200,000 in both FY 24 and FY 25 to Other Expenses, of which \$100,000 in both FY 24 and FY 25 is for Solar Youth, and \$100,000 in both FY 24 and FY 25 is for New Haven Reads.

Transfer Non-Sheff Open Choice Transportation Funding to Non-Sheff Transportation

Non-Sheff Transportation	4,670,547	4,887,824	4,670,547	4,887,824	-	-
Open Choice Program	(4,670,547)	(4,887,824)	(4,670,547)	(4,887,824)	-	-
Total - General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-

Background

The Non-Sheff Transportation account was created in SA 21-15, FY 22 and FY 23 Budget, for transportation funding associated with magnet programs located outside the Sheff Region.

The Open Choice program allows urban students to attend public schools in nearby suburban towns, and suburban and rural students to attend public schools in a nearby urban center. Enrollments are offered by school districts on a space-available basis in grades K-12. Lotteries are used to place students when there are more applications than spaces available. The program includes Hartford, Bridgeport and New Haven and the surrounding districts. The FY 22 and FY 23 Budget added Danbury and Norwalk as pilot sites.

Governor

Transfer funding of \$4,670,547 in FY 24 and \$4,887,824 FY 25 from Open Choice to the Non-Sheff Transportation account to reflect the consolidation within one account of transportation funding to magnet and Open Choice programs outside the Sheff region.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Provide Funding for Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference

Other Expenses	-	-	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000

Background

The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) is a nonprofit that governs interscholastic athletic activities in Connecticut. Its activities include developing, maintaining and enforcing rules regarding eligibility, conduct and equitable athletic competition.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$120,000 in both FY 24 and FY 25 to Other Expenses for CIAC.

Provide Funding for Virtual Reality Study

Other Expenses	-	-	100,000	-	100,000	-
Total - General Fund	-	-	100,000	-	100,000	-

Background

Section 7 of PA 23-167 requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to conduct a study of the use of virtual reality in high school classrooms and to report the results by January 1, 2025.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$100,000 in FY 24 to Other Expenses for a study concerning the use of virtual reality in classrooms by January 1, 2025.

Provide Funding for CT Writing Project

Connecticut Writing Project	-	-	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000

Background

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

Legislative

Provide funding of \$75,000 in both FY 24 and FY 25 for the Connecticut Writing Project.

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25

Adjust Funding for the Connecticut Writing Project

Connecticut Writing Project	(20,250)	(20,250)	-	-	20,250	20,250
Total - General Fund	(20,250)	(20,250)	-	-	20,250	20,250

Governor

Eliminate funding of \$20,250 in both FY 24 and FY 25 to the Connecticut Writing Project due to the anticipated use of American Rescue Plan Act funding to support this program. The program received ARPA allocations of \$79,750 in both FY 22 and FY 23. The Governor's Recommended Budget does not include additional ARPA funding to the Connecticut Writing Project.

Legislative

Do not eliminate funding for the Connecticut Writing Project.

Reduce Funding for the Commissioner's Network

Commissioner's Network	(140,000)	(140,000)	(140,000)	(140,000)	-	-
Total - General Fund	(140,000)	(140,000)	(140,000)	(140,000)	-	-

Background

The Commissioner's Network involves partnerships between local stakeholders and the State Department of Education to improve student achievement in low-performing schools. Schools can remain in the network for up to five years.

Governor

Reduce funding by \$140,000 in both FY 24 and FY 25 to reflect administrative savings.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Provide Funding for Teen Talk

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

Background

Section 17 of PA 23-101 requires the State Department of Education to award a grant for the purpose of training school behavioral health providers to identify and provide services for at-risk teenage students.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$15,000 in both FY 24 and FY 25 to Other Expenses for Teen Talk pursuant to Section 17 of PA 23-101.

Distribute Open Choice Excess Funds for Services for Open Choice Participants

Legislative

Provide up to \$2 million of funds appropriated for Open Choice that would otherwise lapse beginning in FY 24 to be used for wraparound services for students participating in Open Choice, pursuant to Section 19 of PA 23-167.

Provide Magnet School Tuition Assistance for Hartford

Legislative

Provide \$3 million of funds appropriated for Magnet Schools in FY 24 for tuition assistance to the City of Hartford pursuant to Section 162 of PA 23-205.

Provide Funding for CREC Operating Expenses

Legislative

Provide up to \$1 million of the amount appropriated for Magnet Schools in FY 24 for operating expenses of the Capitol Region Education Council, pursuant to Section 47(DD) of PA 23-204, the FY 24 and FY 25 budget.

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25

Current Services

Continue ECS Phase-in to Full Funding

Education Equalization Grants	45,404,688	90,670,320	48,042,837	95,946,756	2,638,149	5,276,436
Total - General Fund	45,404,688	90,670,320	48,042,837	95,946,756	2,638,149	5,276,436

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 28. Overfunded towns, conversely, are scheduled to receive decreases in funding until they reach full funding in FY 30. Decreases for overfunded towns were put on hold in FY 22 and FY 23 and will resume in FY 24. Certain hold harmless provisions apply to Alliance Districts.

Governor

Provide funding of \$45,404,688 in FY 24 and \$90,670,320 in FY 25 to continue the ECS phase-in to full funding as under current law.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$48,042,837 in FY 24 and \$95,946,756 in FY 25 to reflect an updated estimate of ECS current law funding.

Adjust Funding for Certain Choice Programs to Reflect Current Enrollment

Non-Sheff Transportation	195,700	709,413	195,700	709,413	-	-
Open Choice Program	(5,601,394)	(4,550,798)	(3,000,000)	(3,000,000)	2,601,394	1,550,798
Magnet Schools	(11,315,967)	(3,429,837)	(11,315,967)	(3,429,837)	-	-
Total - General Fund	(16,721,661)	(7,271,222)	(14,120,267)	(5,720,424)	2,601,394	1,550,798

Background

The Open Choice and Magnet Schools programs are designed to attract students from different school districts to learn together in settings that offer unique educational opportunities. Some magnet schools have a theme like the arts, while others follow unique models such as career academies.

Enrollment in both Open Choice and magnet schools is anticipated to increase in FY 24 and FY 25, but both programs are being funded in FY 23 at levels higher than required by current enrollment. The Non-Sheff Transportation account is anticipated to require increased funding in FY 24 and FY 25 to accommodate enrollment growth.

Open Choice enrollment is anticipated to increase by 2.2% annually while magnet school enrollment is anticipated to increase by 2.8% in FY 24 and 3.7% in FY 25.

Governor

Reduce funding by a net \$16,721,661 in FY 24 and \$7,271,222 in FY 25 across the Magnet Schools, Open Choice Program, and Non-Sheff Transportation accounts to adjust funding for anticipated enrollment needs.

Legislative

Reduce funding by a net \$14,120,267 in FY 24 and \$5,720,424 in FY 25 across the Magnet Schools, Open Choice Program, and Non-Sheff Transportation accounts to adjust funding for anticipated enrollment needs.

Fund the Requirements of the Sheff Settlement

Sheff Settlement	402,238	(3,986,141)	402,238	(3,986,141)	-	-
Sheff Transportation	401,445	892,886	401,445	892,886	-	-
Open Choice Program	500,000	1,000,000	500,000	1,000,000	-	-
Magnet Schools	931,622	3,487,616	931,622	3,487,616	-	-
Total - General Fund	2,235,305	1,394,361	2,235,305	1,394,361	-	-

Background

In March 2022, the General Assembly approved the Sheff v. O'Neill settlement agreement reached on January 27, 2022, which required the state to take steps to expand educational opportunities for racially isolated students in the City of Hartford. The agreement included an expansion of Open Choice and Magnet Schools seats over a ten-year period. The total cost of the settlement in the biennium is approximately \$29.8 million in FY 24 and \$30.3 million in FY 25, and fluctuates between \$28.1 million and \$30.6 million annually until FY 32.

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25

Governor

Provide funding of \$2,235,305 in FY 24 and \$1,394,361 in FY 25 across the Sheff Settlement, Sheff Transportation, Open Choice and Magnet Schools accounts to fund the requirements of the Sheff settlement in the biennium.

The FY 25 adjustment is a net increase that includes a reduction in the Sheff Settlement account of \$3,986,141, offset by funding increases of \$5,380,502 across three other accounts related to Sheff. The Sheff Settlement account is being reduced in FY 25 due to the expiration of several one-time costs, per the settlement agreement.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Provide Funding for Sheff Transportation Contract

Sheff Transportation	16,182,876	20,331,599	16,182,876	20,331,599	-	-
Total - General Fund	16,182,876	20,331,599	16,182,876	20,331,599	-	-

Background

The Sheff Transportation account provides funds for the transportation of students enrolled in Sheff school choice programs. The new contract increases costs to the state by 4.7% in FY 24 and an additional 4.2% in FY 25.

Governor

Provide funding of \$16,182,876 in FY 24 and \$20,331,599 in FY 25 for the Sheff transportation contract.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Fund Formula Grants at Statutory Level

Adult Education	936,814	1,060,146	936,814	1,060,146	-	-
Health and Welfare Services Pupils						
Private Schools	2,364,024	2,376,209	2,364,024	2,376,209	-	-
Excess Cost - Student Based	23,928,105	26,124,689	23,928,105	26,124,689	-	-
Total - General Fund	27,228,943	29,561,044	27,228,943	29,561,044	-	-

Governor

Provide funding of \$27,228,943 in FY 24 and \$29,561,044 in FY 25 to fund various formula grants at statutorily required levels. The Governor's proposal includes a policy revision that caps the appropriations for these grants.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Provide Funding for Existing Wage Agreements

Personal Services	1,897,891	2,116,950	1,897,891	2,116,950	-	-
Development of Mastery Exams						
Grades 4, 6, and 8	137,124	149,963	137,124	149,963	-	-
Sheff Settlement	50,489	55,305	50,489	55,305	-	-
Talent Development	64,295	69,594	64,295	69,594	-	-
EdSight	30,916	32,791	30,916	32,791	-	-
Total - General Fund	2,180,715	2,424,603	2,180,715	2,424,603	-	-

Background

The Governor's Recommended Budget provides net funding of \$237.2 million in FY 24 and \$394 million in FY 25, across six appropriated funds, to reflect current wage-related adjustments resulting from existing wage agreements.

Governor

Provide funding of \$2,180,715 in FY 24 and \$2,424,603 in FY 25 to reflect this agency's increased wage costs.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25

Remove Funding for 27th Payroll

Personal Services	(662,290)	(662,290)	(662,290)	(662,290)	-	-
Development of Mastery Exams Grades 4, 6, and 8	(41,180)	(41,180)	(41,180)	(41,180)	-	-
Sheff Settlement	(18,092)	(18,092)	(18,092)	(18,092)	-	-
Talent Development	(17,344)	(17,344)	(17,344)	(17,344)	-	-
EdSight	(5,311)	(5,311)	(5,311)	(5,311)	-	-
Adult Education	(6,752)	(6,752)	(6,752)	(6,752)	-	-
Total - General Fund	(750,969)	(750,969)	(750,969)	(750,969)	-	-

Background

The FY 23 Revised Budget included a total of \$128,456,014 for an extra 27th pay period for six appropriated funds. There are usually 26 pay periods in a fiscal year, but every 11 years there is an additional 27th pay period.

Governor

Remove funding of \$750,969 in both FY 24 and FY 25 to reflect 26 pay periods in each fiscal year.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Carryforward

Provide Funding for Charter Oak Boxing Academy

Other Expenses	-	-	300,000	-	300,000	-
Total - Carry Forward Funding	-	-	300,000	-	300,000	-

Background

PA 23-204 (Section 41(b)), the FY 24 and FY 25 budget, and PA 23-205 (Sections 222,228, and 231), the FY 24 and FY 25 bond act, carryforward a total of \$339.6 million in unexpended balances from various FY 23 General Fund accounts for initiatives in FY 24 and FY 25.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$300,000 in FY 24 to Other Expenses for a grant to the Charter Oak Boxing Academy.

Provide Funding to FreeAgentNow

Other Expenses	-	-	200,000	-	200,000	-
Total - Carry Forward Funding	-	-	200,000	-	200,000	-

Background

FreeAgentNow provides educational, marketing and recruitment opportunities to student athletes.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$200,000 in FY 24 to Other Expenses for a grant to FreeAgentNow.

Provide Funding for Food Waste Diversion Program

Other Expenses	-	-	150,000	-	150,000	-
Total - Carry Forward Funding	-	-	150,000	-	150,000	-

Legislative

Provide funding of \$150,000 in FY 24 to Other Expenses for a food waste diversion pilot program in Greenwich public schools.

Provide Funding for Boys & Girls Club of Bristol

Other Expenses	-	-	50,000	-	50,000	-
Total - Carry Forward Funding	-	-	50,000	-	50,000	-

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25

Legislative

Provide funding of \$50,000 in FY 24 to Other Expenses for operational support for the Boys and Girls Club of Bristol.

American Rescue Plan Act

Provide Funding for Education Workforce Development

ARPA - CSFRF	10,000,000	-	5,000,000	-	(5,000,000)	-
Total - American Rescue Plan Act	10,000,000	-	5,000,000	-	(5,000,000)	-

Background

PA 23-204, the FY 24 and FY 25 budget, reallocates federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, resulting in the shifting of approximately \$608.2 million in funding from FY 22 and FY 23 to FY 24 and FY 25.

Governor

Provide funding of \$10 million in FY 24 for a grant program to support school districts with teacher recruitment, retention, and professional development to address staffing shortages (including paraprofessionals).

Legislative

Provide funding of \$5 million in FY 24 for this grant program.

Adjust Funding for School Meals

ARPA - CSFRF	-	-	16,000,000	-	16,000,000	-
Total - American Rescue Plan Act	-	-	16,000,000	-	16,000,000	-

Legislative

Provide funding of \$16 million in FY 24 for meals for students. Additionally, reduce the FY 23 allocation for school meals by \$25 million, to \$65 million, based on projected spending.

Extend Support for Learner Engagement and Attendance Program (LEAP)

ARPA - CSFRF	7,000,000	-	7,000,000	-	-	-
Total - American Rescue Plan Act	7,000,000	-	7,000,000	-	-	-

Governor

Provide funding of \$7 million in FY 24 for the Learner Attendance and Engagement Program (LEAP). Funds will support re-engaging students in education by connecting directly with students and their families and offering a variety of summer, after school, and learning programs. The program received a previous ARPA allocation of \$7 million in FY 23.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Extend Support for Dual Enrollment

ARPA - CSFRF	3,500,000	-	3,500,000	-	-	-
Total - American Rescue Plan Act	3,500,000	-	3,500,000	-	-	-

Governor

Provide funding of \$3.5 million in FY 24 to enhance access to dual enrollment courses and other related opportunities. Funding will allow students to graduate high school with college credit. The program received a previous ARPA allocation of \$3.5 million in FY 23.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Provide Funding for Magnet School Tuition Assistance

ARPA - CSFRF	-	-	3,500,000	-	3,500,000	-
Total - American Rescue Plan Act	-	-	3,500,000	-	3,500,000	-

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25

Legislative

Provide funding of \$3.5 million in FY 24 for tuition assistance to Bloomfield, New Britain, New London and Windsor.

Provide Funding for Hartford Public Library

ARPA - CSFRF	-	-	1,795,000	-	1,795,000	-
Total - American Rescue Plan Act	-	-	1,795,000	-	1,795,000	-

Legislative

Provide funding of \$1,795,000 in FY 24 for flood restoration at the Hartford Public Library.

Provide Funding for Connecticut Teacher Residency Program

ARPA - CSFRF	-	-	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Total - American Rescue Plan Act	-	-	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000

Background

The Connecticut Teacher Residency Program (TRP) is intended to increase diversity among teaching staff in Connecticut. The TRP provides training and coursework for underemployed or unemployed adults interested in becoming teachers, with the guarantee of a full-time teaching position upon completion of the program and certification requirements. The program is administered by CREC.

Legislative

Provide \$1.5 million in both FY 24 and FY 25 for the Connecticut Teacher Residency Program operated by CREC.

Provide Funding for SERC

ARPA - CSFRF	-	-	300,000	-	300,000	-
Total - American Rescue Plan Act	-	-	300,000	-	300,000	-

Background

Section 38 of PA 23-137 requires the State Education Resource Center to study each transition program provided by a local and regional school district and regional educational service center and produce a report by February 1, 2024.

Legislative

Provide \$300,000 in FY 24 for the report required by Section 38 of PA 23-137.

Provide Funding for New Haven Police Athletic League

ARPA - CSFRF	-	-	250,000	-	250,000	-
Total - American Rescue Plan Act	-	-	250,000	-	250,000	-

Legislative

Provide \$250,000 in FY 24 for the New Haven Police Athletic League.

Adjust Allocations for Summer Camp**Governor**

Consolidate separate allocations of \$8 million and \$3.5 million, both intended for grants to summer camp operators, into a single \$11.5 million allocation in FY 23 for Summer Camp Enrichment Funds.

Allocations of American Rescue Plan Act funding to the State Department of Education currently include separate allocations of \$8 million in FY 23 for Summer Enrichment, and \$3.5 million in FY 22 for summer camp scholarships for families. Each allocation supports grants to summer camp operators for the purposes of expanding the number of students served, adding additional support services and/or activities, and subsidizing enrollment costs by providing scholarships for low-income families. Priority is given to operators in communities most disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

Legislative

Do not consolidate allocations. For Summer Enrichment, remove from the allocation a requirement that the funds must be used to cover a required match.

Eliminate Allocation for Student Achievement Through Opportunity**Legislative**

Eliminate FY 23 allocation of \$300,000 for Student Achievement Through Opportunity.

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25

Eliminate Funding for New Haven Little League

Legislative

Eliminate FY 22 allocation of \$500,000 for the New Haven Local Little League.

Totals

Budget Components	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25
FY 23 Appropriation - GF	3,055,024,326	3,055,024,326	3,055,024,326	3,055,024,326	-	-
Policy Revisions	(27,389,193)	(29,721,294)	22,318,601	183,738,333	49,707,794	213,459,627
Current Services	75,759,897	136,359,736	80,999,440	143,186,970	5,239,543	6,827,234
Total Recommended - GF	3,103,395,030	3,161,662,768	3,158,342,367	3,381,949,629	54,947,337	220,286,861

Positions	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25	FY 24	FY 25
FY 23 Appropriation - GF	275	275	275	275	-	-
Policy Revisions	-	-	9	9	9	9
Total Recommended - GF	275	275	284	284	9	9