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**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

TO BE PROPOSED:
November 5, 2014

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to the instructions from the Office of Policy and Management, approves the Budget Expansion Options for Fiscal Years 2015-16 and 2016-17, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of _____ this fifth day of November, Two Thousand Fourteen.

Signed: _____
Stefan Pryor, Secretary

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

TO: State Board of Education
 FROM: Stefan Pryor, Commissioner of Education
 DATE: November 5, 2014
 SUBJECT: Budget Expansion Options – Fiscal Years 2015-16 and 2016-17

In developing our Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16 and 2016-17 biennial expansion options, the State Department of Education (SDE) and the State Board recognize the fiscal challenges affecting the State budget in the upcoming biennium. It should be noted that the total expansion request for 2015-16 reflects less than .5 percent of our current services request, and less than .7 percent for 2016-17.

Below is the summary of our expansion options grouped into four categories:

- Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Capacity
- Expansion of School Choice Programs
- Curriculum and Social Support Programs
- Connecticut Technical High Schools (CTHSS)

CSDE Capacity

The department is requesting the restoration of funding for the TEAM program and the creation of four new operations and three new program positions as detailed below.

	Expansion Request <u>2015-16</u>	Expansion Request <u>2016-17</u>
Central Office		
Restore Funding for Teacher Educ. & Mentoring Staff	\$ 672,000	\$ 680,000
New – Associate Education Consultants (3)	260,643	268,463
New - Accounting Career Trainee	45,000	47,000
New - Human Resource Assistant	55,000	57,000
New - Contract Specialist	74,000	77,000
New - IT Analyst 2	<u>73,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>
Total Central Office	\$1,179,643	\$1,204,463

Talent Office - Restore funding for Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) program staff, which was eliminated during the 2014 legislative session. The FY 2015 budget as passed eliminated the funding for staff who manage the new teacher mentor program. The cost of the seven staff members was absorbed in the Talent Office budget line, thereby limiting funding available for the implementation of the new teacher evaluation and professional development efforts underway as part of the Education Reform agenda.

The TEAM program is a two-year induction program for beginning teachers that includes mentorship and professional development. Beginning teachers participating in the program are assigned a trained mentor to guide them through developing individualized growth plans, uniquely based on their own needs as educators. The unifying framework for the program is a series of five modules aligned to the Connecticut Common Core of Teaching.

Create an Associate Education Consultant for the Talent Office. The Talent Office spans a continuum of strategies to recruit, select, prepare, support, evaluate retain and advance effective, diverse teachers and administrators for Connecticut schools. These efforts span two Bureaus: the Bureau of Educator Certification and Standards and the Bureau of Educator Effectiveness and Professional Learning. Large scale transformative initiatives are occurring in both Bureaus. It is increasingly apparent that one critical aspect of transforming CT systems is to create a more seamless system between pre-service and PK-12 in-service. Human Capital Development and Talent Management in the education profession must become more coordinated and aligned across these systems in order to develop and support the educator workforce needed to educate Connecticut's students. The CSDE Talent Office is structurally designed to facilitate this alignment. However, in order to operationalize the vision, we need additional capacity to dedicate a single person to bridge these two Bureaus in order to make the practical connections between pre-service/in-service.

Academic Office – Create an Associate Education Consultant for EL/Bilingual and world languages. The staff member would support the implementation of Title III and the Bilingual Grant, support standards instruction and assessment implementation for students who are identified as English Learners and be responsible for standards, instruction, and assessment in the area of World Languages. This staff member would serve primarily in our ESEA unit and would improve our ability to support students who are English Language Learners (one of our largest achievement gaps) and promote college and career readiness through a contemporary focus on World Languages, which currently is not staffed at all at the CSDE.

Turnaround Office - Create an Associate Education Consultant position to function as the Early Literacy Liaison to support K-3 Literacy expansion in Alliance Districts. Responsibilities include oversight of expansion of K-3 Literacy program in Alliance Districts as well as liaison to the Academic Office regarding literacy in turnaround schools and districts.

Bureau of Grants Management - Create an Accounting Career Trainee position to be trained in the calculation of the major education grants, such as the Education Cost Sharing Grant, Special Education - Excess Cost, federal Title grants, including Title I, Public and Nonpublic Transportation, and Adult Education grants. The bureau currently has one staff person, with no backup, responsible for the calculation of these grants which distribute almost \$2.5 billion in state and federal funds to districts annually. It is critically important that capacity be expanded in this area.

Bureau of Fiscal Services - Create a Contracting Specialist position. After much consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, beginning in fiscal year 2014, our grants process with regional education organizations was changed to a contracting process. This shifted grants work formerly being done by the program managers to the Bureau of Fiscal Services. In addition, SDE statutorily took on the role of administrative agency for the newly created Office of Early Childhood (OEC). Currently there is one person assigned to the contracting function for not only the central office but also the Technical High School System and OEC.

In fiscal year 2014, the bureau processed 94 new contracts and 90 contract amendments. The amendments were mainly related to the surrogate parent program and hearing officers. Additionally, the office oversaw the payment functions for the OEC for an additional 53 child day care contracts and 8 other contracts. This created an additional \$53 million in contractual payments from SDE, and additional \$43 million in payments on behalf of OEC.

Bureau of Human Resources - Create a Human Resource Assistant position to assist with the significant increase in work associated with the SDE's new responsibilities as administrative agency to the newly created OEC and the large increase in staffing in the technical high school system, including the re-opening of J.M. Wright in Stamford. The Bureau of Human Resources manages employee/labor relations, payroll, staff recruitment and professional development for central office, the CTHSS, and the OEC, which comprises almost 1,900 full-time staff.

Bureau of Information Technology - Create an Information Technology Analyst 2 position to begin to address several gaps in the office, both in the services and support we provide and in the basic practices for IT regarding best practices. The bureau is in the midst of putting together a risk analysis for both the production systems they currently support and for the multitude of projects currently under development. There are several immediate areas of concern particularly in the areas of production failures, delay in project implementation, and maintenance of new systems as they go live, due to a lack of staffing resources.

The Bureau is responsible for the application development, infrastructure support, including security and statewide educational technology needs not only for central office, but also the 18 CT Technical High Schools and the Office of Early Childhood. They currently support over 70 operations-based applications with more in development.

Expansion of School Choice Programs

Charter Schools - Currently 21 state charter schools are in operation with two additional schools having been approved by the State Board to begin operation in school year 2015-16, bringing the total approved state charter schools to 23. The relatively small size of charter schools, innovative instruction by carefully selected staff and the high degree of parental involvement has enabled charter schools to provide a unique educational environment. The schools serve over 8,000 students with many more remaining on waitlists with a desire to experience the educational opportunities offered by the charter school program. The Department is requesting funding for one additional charter school for school year 2015-16, beyond the two currently scheduled to open, and three additional charter schools for the 2016-17 school year.

This school year has seen the opening of the state's only local charter school, Elm City Montessori School in New Haven. The school will serve high-need students between the ages of 3 and 13 over time. To encourage more local school districts to work collaboratively at the local level to develop charter opportunities, the Department is requesting funds for two additional local charter schools to open in the 2016-17 school year.

Magnet Schools - The Department is currently developing a statewide plan to guide the creation of new magnet school programs outside of the Sheff region. There has been a statutory moratorium on the creation of new magnet schools outside of the Sheff region since 2009, which only allowed programs approved prior to this time to open until such plan was developed. The plan was delayed while the implementation of the education reform efforts such as the Alliance District and Commissioner's Network programs were deployed to allow time to understand how these new programs would change the offerings for families in the educational landscape. During this time several districts have approached the Department with proposals that would complement the education reform efforts currently being deployed. To accommodate the opportunity for some of these programs to be developed, the Department is proposing adding \$5 million in each year of the biennium.

	Expansion Request <u>2015-16</u>	Expansion Request <u>2016-17</u>
Charter Schools:		
Local Charters	\$ 0	\$ 1,020,000
State Charters	1,870,000	8,140,000
Magnet Schools	<u>5,000,000</u>	<u>5,000,000</u>
Total School Choice Programs	\$6,870,000	\$14,160,000

Curriculum and Social Support Programs

Arts Grants - The SDE, the Department of Economic and Community Development – Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA), and the Connecticut Arts Council have partnered to provide mini-grants to schools and districts to strengthen their arts programming through meaningful partnerships with local and statewide arts organizations and institutions. The Office of the Arts, which administers the nationally recognized Higher Order Thinking (HOT) Schools model, offers expertise in arts integration in schools. In combination with the substantial support of the CSDE, this partnership will assist Connecticut districts in re-envisioning how arts programming can be developed, integrated and sustained in their schools.

FoodCorps: Provide grants-in-aid to FoodCorps, a nationwide team of AmeriCorps leaders who connect kids to real food and help them grow up healthy. Through its partnership with AmeriCorps, they recruit, train and place emerging leaders into limited-resource schools for a year of service implementing our three-ingredient recipe for healthy kids. Service Members: teach hands-on lessons about food and nutrition; build and tend school gardens and teach cooking lessons so kids can taste the fresh food they've grown; and change what's on children's lunch trays, giving them healthy food from local farms.

FoodCorps service sites operate under 17 host sites, each of which is located in a different state or district. Host sites act as statewide managers of the FoodCorps program, providing training and programmatic resources for service members and overseeing all the service sites in the state. Service sites are the community organizations that supervise FoodCorps service members on a day-to-day basis. FoodCorps service sites are chosen by host sites, with support from FoodCorps, through an evaluation of need, readiness, and opportunity for impact.

Developing Tomorrow's Professionals: Developing Tomorrow's Professionals (DTP) is a carefully constructed program of education skill-set instruction/assessment and support services designed to address the needs of young men of color, leading to four-year college matriculation, retention and graduation. Structured around an initial ten week "Academic Saturday" schedule, the program combines academic skill-set training, wrap-around mentoring, along with the necessary tools and resources for high academic achievement and social development.

	Expansion Request <u>2015-16</u>	Expansion Request <u>2016-17</u>
Arts Grants	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
Food Corps	50,000	50,000
Developing Tomorrow's Professionals	<u>225,000</u>	<u>225,000</u>
Total – Curriculum & Social Support Programs	\$ 775,000	\$ 775,000

Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) Proposals

The budget expansion proposals for the CTHSS were approved by its Board on September 16, 2014, and are as follows.

CTHSS Staffing

School Resource Officers	\$ 850,000	\$ 850,000
Transfer of Head Cook Positions to General Fund	200,000	206,000
New - Instructional Positions	880,000	1,210,600
New - Department Heads	607,500	764,500
New - Human Resource Manager	130,000	130,000
New - Associate Consultant - Nutritionist	90,000	95,000
Total – CTHHS	\$2,757,500	\$3,256,100

School Resource Officer (SRO) Program: Due to a spring 2010 budget reduction directive funding for the SRO program in the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) was eliminated. The SROs were a critical link in providing a safe learning environment for our students and a secure workplace for our staff. Given the numerous security issues that have taken place in schools and workplaces throughout the nation and here in Connecticut, it is critical that students and staff feel safe in school and at work.

Although the CTHSS is currently funding two rotating patrol officers at Bullard Havens in Bridgeport, one at Eli Whitney in Hamden and one at H.C. Wilcox in Meriden due to ongoing security issues, the current operating budget is not sufficient to fund additional SROs in the district's other 14 comprehensive high schools.

In addition, discussions with the DESPP regarding the SRO program have identified that they would need legislative approval to increase their full-time position count in order to satisfy our demand for a consistent presence in our buildings.

Thus, an increase of \$980,000 is requested in the CTHSS line item budget to address this critical need and we respectfully support the efforts of the DESPP to restart the SRO program.

Transfer of Head Cook Positions: As of June 2014, the percentage of CTHSS students eligible for free or reduced meal benefits was at 51 percent and continues to increase year over year. However, 78 percent of the actual lunches sold and 95 percent of the qualifying breakfasts sold last year were to students eligible for free or reduced meal benefits.

Unfortunately, the annual increase in the per meal federal reimbursement rates fails to keep pace with the increased cost of personnel employed in the program and rising food and commodity costs. During the 2013-14 school year, the revenue variance between a paid lunch and a federally subsidized lunch was \$.60 and \$.64 for breakfast.

Over the past two years, despite price increases in the school lunch and breakfast programs, total revenues have declined by more than \$175,000 while program costs have increased by more than \$205,000. As a direct result, the district must rely on the State of Connecticut to subsidize the lunch program by charging the salaries of several head cook positions to the general fund.

Increase in Instructional Staff:

Durational Instructors - The district continues to struggle with providing appropriate instructional support to our students given the continued growth in enrollment in many of our schools. In fact, the district is currently utilizing or plans to fill 11 full-time durational instructor positions to meet our current instructional obligations. This action has been taken as our current general fund position count is not sufficient to fulfill instructional demands. An increase in our legislatively authorized position count is necessary to address this issue.

Deans of Students - The district also requests additional Department Head positions to serve as Deans of Students (DOS). Within our existing full-time position count, nine DOS positions are provided. While the Deans of Students serve at the School Attendance Officer, they also provide leadership in School-to Career activities including Work Based Learning (WBL).

As it is a goal of the CTHSS Board to increase the number of transitional programs available to juniors and seniors within the Work Based Learning (WBL) program, a DOS is needed in all 17 comprehensive high schools. Thus, CTHSS respectively requests eight additional full-time Department Head positions beginning in fiscal year 2016.

Literacy and Numeracy Coaches - CTHSS is requesting four additional instructor positions to serve as Literacy and Numeracy Coaches to provide technical support and onsite assistance to academic instructors to ensure alignment to Connecticut Common Core Standards. Approval of this request will ensure students identified as at risk for academic failure will be provided additional supports.

Other Expansion Needs - The substantial completion of the school renovation project at Eli Whitney in Hamden will enable the school to offer a new Information Systems Technology (IST) program beginning with the 2015-16 school year. The program will require a full-time Department Head position for FY 2016 and a full-time instructor position for FY 2017.

As the current operating budget has enabled the district to start several new programs with a Department Head, additional instructor positions are required.

School	Program	Position Required
Bullard Havens	Manufacturing	One instructor
Henry Abbott	Health Tech.	One instructor
E.C. Goodwin	IST	One instructor
Norwich	Bio Tech	One instructor
Ella. T. Grasso	Welding	One instructor
A.I. Prince	BET – Sheff	One instructor

Increase in Central Office Educational Staff:

Human Resource Manager - As identified in the CTHSS Strategic Plan for 2014 – 2017, the district requires a Human Resources Manager to “oversee the recruitment of the system’s 2,300 plus workforce” and “create an aligned talent management system that recruits, hires, develops and evaluates highly effective and diverse staff members and educators.”

Healthy Food Certification - In order to participate in the SDE's Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Program, the CTHSS requires a qualified nutritionist to analyze the culinary arts menus and food service offerings for compliance with HFC guidelines. Therefore, CTHSS requests an Associate Consultant position.

Prepared by Kathy Demsey
Kathy Demsey, Chief Financial Officer
Finance and Internal Operations Office

**Connecticut State Department of Education
Proposed Expansions FY 2015-16 & FY 2016-17**

Account	Proposed New Positions	Current Services Request FY 2016	Proposed Expansion	Adjusted FY 2016	Proposed New Positions	Current Services Request FY 2017	Proposed Expansion	Adjusted FY 2017
10010 - Personal Services	7	19,976,493	1,179,643	21,156,136	0	20,140,280	1,204,463	21,344,743
12519 - CT Technical High Schools	36	165,376,986	2,757,500	168,134,486	2	169,326,602	3,256,100	172,582,702
17040 - ECS - State Charter Schools		105,677,000	1,870,000	107,547,000		116,479,000	8,140,000	124,619,000
17041 - ECS - Local Charter Schools		339,000	0	339,000		420,000	1,020,000	1,440,000
17057 - Magnet Schools		339,604,896	5,000,000	344,604,896		343,035,401	5,000,000	348,035,401
NEW - Art Grants		250,000	250,000	500,000		250,000	250,000	500,000
NEW - Developing Tomorrow's Professionals		0	225,000	225,000		0	225,000	225,000
NEW - Food Corps		0	<u>50,000</u>	50,000		0	<u>50,000</u>	50,000
Total Expansion Request	43		\$11,332,143		2		\$19,145,563	

X.A.

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

TO BE PROPOSED:
November 5, 2014

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to the directive from the Office of Policy and Management, submits Budget Reduction Options for Fiscal Years 2015-16 and 2016-17, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of _____ this fifth day of November, Two Thousand Fourteen.

Signed: _____
Stefan Pryor, Secretary

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Stefan Pryor, Commissioner of Education
DATE: November 5, 2014
SUBJECT: Budget Reduction Options – Fiscal Years 2015-16 and 2016-17

Secretary Barnes' September 5, 2014, budget adjustment instructions require all agencies to submit "realistic and achievable reduction options that will result in reductions to the agency's current services request." Below, subject to discussion and approval of the Board, are proposed adjustments to current services in response to the Office of Policy and Management's (OPM) requirement.

The proposed adjustments would maintain either current funding levels in the case of the statutory grants or cap enrollment increases while maintaining current enrollment levels in magnet school programs. These proposals would generate savings of \$132.9 million in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16 current services budget request of \$3.2 billion, and \$150.3 million in the FY 2016-17 current services budget request of \$3.3 billion. To be clear, the below reductions do not represent the Department's preferred course of action. Instead, they are options to be presented to OPM as required by this budgetary process.

A. Reductions from the Continuation of Grant Caps

In our FY 2015-16 and 2016-17 current services requests, there are five grants that will no longer be subject to statutory grant caps: Transportation of School Children, Adult Education, Health and Welfare Services Private Schools, Excess Cost - Student Based, and Nonpublic School Transportation. The removal of these caps will increase required funding for these grants by \$122.8 million in FY 2015-16 and \$134 million in FY 2016-17. Reinstating the caps would fund the grants at the FY 2014-15 level and save the corresponding increases delineated above.

B. Reductions from Extension of FY 2014-15 Magnet School Enrollment Caps

Section 89 of Public Act 14-217 required the Department to limit in FY 2014-15 payments to an interdistrict magnet school operator to an amount equal to the grant that such operator received in FY 2013-14 based on the enrollment level of the school on October 1, 2013. Approval of funding above such level was subject to the approval of the Department in accordance with the following priorities:

1. increases in enrollment in a school that was adding planned new grade levels;
2. increases in enrollment in a school that was moving into a permanent facility for the school year commencing July 1, 2014;
3. increases in enrollment in a school necessary to meet in-district/out-of-district and racial diversity requirements; and

4. new enrollments agreed to pursuant to the 2013 stipulation and order for *Milo Sheff, et al. v. William A. O'Neill, et al.* An extension of this legislation to FY 2016 and FY 2017 would create \$10 million in savings in the first year of the biennium and \$16 million in the second year.

This proposal would extend the provisions of Section 89 of Public Act 14-217 through the biennium, allowing for enrollment growth only within the above priorities. Under this proposal, all magnet schools would at least maintain their current enrollment levels.

Prepared by 
Kathy Demsey, Chief Financial Officer

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Reduction Options FY 2015-16 and FY 2016-17
(in accordance with OPM instructions of September 5, 2014)

Account	Current Services Request FY 2016	Reduction Options	Adjusted FY 2016	Current Services Request FY 2017	Reduction Options	Adjusted FY 2017
Statutory Grants:						
17027 - Transportation of School Children	91,000,000	(66,115,252)	24,884,748	94,000,000	(69,115,252)	24,884,748
17030 - Adult Education	23,400,000	(2,354,964)	21,045,036	23,700,000	(2,654,964)	21,045,036
17034 - Health and Welfare Services Private Schools	6,300,000	(2,002,500)	4,297,500	6,400,000	(2,102,500)	4,297,500
17047 - Excess Cost - Student Based	191,000,000	(51,194,269)	139,805,731	199,000,000	(59,194,269)	139,805,731
17049 - Nonpublic School Transportation	4,800,000	<u>(1,204,500)</u>	3,595,500	4,900,000	<u>(1,304,500)</u>	3,595,500
Sub-total: Statutory Grants		(\$122,871,485)			(\$134,371,485)	
Other State Grants:						
17057 - Magnet Schools	339,604,896	<u>(10,000,000)</u>	329,604,896	343,035,401	<u>(16,000,000)</u>	327,035,401
Total Reduction Options		(\$132,871,485)			(\$150,371,485)	