

**Suzanne Krodel**

---

**To:** Suzanne Krodel  
**Subject:** FW: Appropriations Committee Approves Budget

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Connecticut Council of Small Towns <[bgara@ctcost.org](mailto:bgara@ctcost.org)>  
**To:** "richard.weingart@snet.net" <[richard.weingart@snet.net](mailto:richard.weingart@snet.net)>  
**Sent:** Wed Apr 21 2021 20:44:26 GMT-0400 (EDT)  
**Subject:** Appropriations Committee Approves Budget



# Impact on Municipal Aid

---

The legislature's Appropriations Committee approved a revised **state budget** in a party line vote today.

Under the Governor's proposed budget, the changes to the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula negotiated in 2017 to address certain inequities in the formula and to move to fully fund ECS by FY28 were put on hold. The changes negotiated in 2017 were intended to address concerns that the formula resulted in some towns being underfunded and others overfunded.

The Appropriations Committee's budget maintains the implementation of the ECS formula changes and makes the following additional changes in the formula:

- Increases the English Language Learner (ELL) weight from 15% to 25% to provide additional funding to towns with ELL students;
- Lowers the low-income concentration threshold at which towns receive an added weight from 75% to 60% of students receiving Free or Reduced Price Lunch, which makes more towns eligible for additional resources; and
- Increases the added weight for the towns receiving the low-income concentration weight, from 5% to 15%, which affects the eligible towns.

The Appropriations Committee budget increases ECS funding by approximately \$4.7 million in FY 22 and \$9.4 million in FY 23 to reflect these adjustments.

**However, many towns will see a reduction - in some cases sizable - in ECS funding from what the Governor had proposed because the Appropriations Committee budget maintains the scheduled phase-in of changes to the formula.**

The Appropriations Committee budget also increases the per pupil grant for vo-ag students by \$1,000 and increases the per pupil grant for charter school students to \$11,525.

*CT Mirror* provided a **town-by-town run** of municipal aid to see how your town fares.

**Education Funding Analysis** - CT School & State Finance Project also shared its independent analysis with town-by-town specific information.

The budget heads to the House for further action.

In addition to the budget, the Appropriations Committee approved the following education-related bills:

**HB-6618 - An Act Concerning Funding Issues Related to Public Education in Connecticut**, which includes changes to the following:

- **Minimum Budget Requirement** - Extends the minimum budget requirement (MBR) statutes to apply to all future years rather than the two-year extension which is typically granted. The bill also clarifies that federal stimulus funds as well as school security infrastructure grants may be excluded from MBR calculations in the fiscal year following receipt of funds.
- **Open Choice** - Extends the Open Choice program to Danbury and Norwalk and allows for up to 50 students from each district to participate in the 2022-23 school year.
- **Regional Boards of Education - Budget Reserves** - Increases the amount that a regional board of education can put into its reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures from 1% to 2% of the annual district budget for a fiscal year.
- **Farm to School** - Requires the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) to administer the "CT Grown for CT Kids Grant Program" to help boards of education develop farm-to-school programs.

**HB 6619 - An Act Concerning the Development of a Kindergarten to Eight Grade Model Curriculum** – Requires the State Department of Education (SDE), by January 1, 2023, in collaboration with the State Education Resource Center, to develop a model curriculum for grades kindergarten through grade eight.

**SB 1034 - An Act Concerning Minority Teacher Recruitment and Retention** - Requires Alliance Districts to participate in a residency program focused on minority candidates for teaching. It also requires, beginning in FY 22, the State Department of Education to annually withhold ten percent of each Alliance District's increase (AD) in those funds (from FY 20), and the funds will be released to each town for residency program-related costs, including hiring and retention



Connecticut Council of Small Towns | 1245 Farmington Avenue, 101, West Hartford, CT 06107

[Unsubscribe richard.weingart@snet.net](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Customer Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [bgara@ctcost.org](#) powered by



**Constant  
Contact**

[Try email marketing for free today!](#)