

DRIP Program Update, Legislature Passes Omnibus K-12 Bill

From Lisa Thomas <lthomas@coventry-ct.gov>

Date Thu 3/12/2026 11:57 AM

To Alex Taylor <ataylor@coventry-ct.gov>; James Drumm <jdrumm@coventry-ct.gov>

Please attach under correspondence on March 16 agenda.

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From: Lisa Thomas <lthomas@coventry-ct.gov>

Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2026 11:56:10

To: James Drumm <jdrumm@coventry-ct.gov>; Alex Taylor <ataylor@coventry-ct.gov>; Cherie Trahan <ctrahan@coventry-ct.gov>

Cc: Jennifer Beausoleil <jebeausoleil@coventryct.org>

Subject: Fw: (EXTERNAL MESSAGE)DRIP Program Update, Legislature Passes Omnibus K-12 Bill

I am showing this in case it has not come directly to your inbox. This is great news and I wonder if we can take advantage of it.

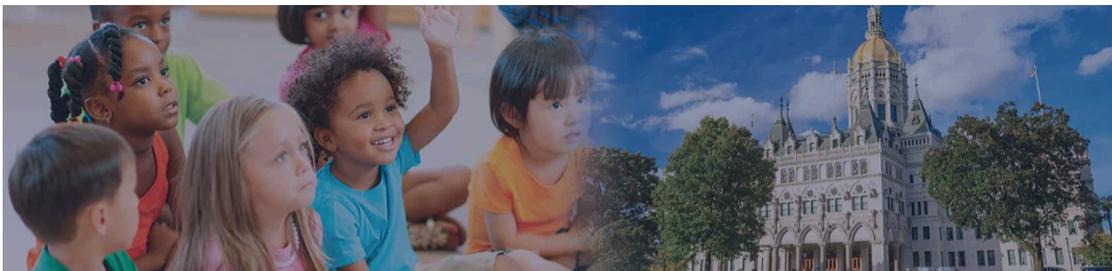
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From: Lisa Hammersley <info@schoolstatefinance.org>

Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2026 10:23:24

To: Lisa Thomas <lthomas@coventry-ct.gov>

Subject: (EXTERNAL MESSAGE)DRIP Program Update, Legislature Passes Omnibus K-12 Bill



News & Updates

School + State Finance Project

**DRIP Program Gets Up and Running,
Education Bill Passes General Assembly**



Last year, we worked with legislators, superintendents, board of education members, and other town and school district leaders to pass legislation establishing the [District Repair and Improvement Project \(DRIP\) program](#).

Our team is delighted to share the DRIP program is up and running and districts can expect to **receive their first DRIP program funds in the coming months!**

The DRIP program provides a **dedicated, annual stream of state funding to support minor capital repair and renovation projects** that have historically been paid entirely by local taxpayers — projects such as repairing a leaky roof, replacing a gym floor, or retrofitting classrooms to better serve students.

Last June, the **General Assembly authorized \$60 million** in state general obligation bonds — \$30 million in both fiscal years 2026 and 2027 — for the DRIP program to support Connecticut's school districts.

At the beginning of March, the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) released the [DRIP program grant amounts for each school district](#) for FY 2026 (2025-26 school year). The OPM also published the [calculation for each district's DRIP grant](#) as well as a [best practices guide](#).

Additionally, the OPM released a [presentation on the DRIP program](#) with information and next steps for school district leadership.

We're excited for DRIP program funds to get to schools and **can't wait to see the improvements districts make with these funds** and the benefits students and educators will experience as a result!





Legislature Passes Omnibus Education Bill

On March 3, 2026, Governor Ned Lamont signed and line-item vetoed [Public Act 26-1](#) — formerly Senate Bill (S.B.) 298 — *An Act Concerning the Reallocation of Certain State Funds and Various Provisions Relating to Education, Public Safety, General Government, Elections, Intermediate Care Facilities and Warehouse Distribution Centers*.

While Gov. Lamont did execute his line-item veto authority and strike six specific earmarks from the legislation, he left intact a [collection of education policy provisions](#) that address — among other issues — student data transparency, school climate and safety, and school district budget protocols.

Many of the education-related provisions in Public Act 26-1 were first introduced during the 2025 regular legislative session as part of [H.B. 7009](#), which was passed by the House of Representatives but failed to advance in the Senate.

While Public Act 26-1 may be 123 pages, we've put together a [much shorter overview](#) that dives into the legislation's key education policy changes. Click the button below to access our analysis and see how the legislation impacts students, schools, and communities across Connecticut.

[Public Act 26-1 Analysis](#)

Some of Our Recent Reports & Publications

To view each report or publication, click its associated button or image

Impacts of Rising Costs on Students & Teachers

As school districts work to meet increasing student needs and maintain high-quality educational programs, the purchasing power of state and local dollars has eroded under the cumulative effects of persistent inflation.

To understand how rising costs are impacting the classroom, we conducted interviews with district superintendents and CFOs across the state.

This report highlights themes as well as a solution to addressing the direct impacts of inflation that districts are experiencing.

[View the Impacts](#)



Property Revaluation & the ECS Grant

Surging home prices have created large year-over-year swings in property values. These fluctuations have affected the property wealth component of the ECS formula's Base Aid Ratio.

While, historically, small fluctuations in property values did not significantly impact ECS grants, recent property value increases have contributed to volatility in town ECS grant amounts.

This FAQ dives into this complex issue, the property revaluation process, and its relationship to the ECS formula.

[View the FAQs](#)



Implications of ECS Grant "Full Funding"

Over the course of the phase-in of the ECS formula, many districts experienced annual increases to their ECS grants.

While the "full funding" of the ECS formula represents a milestone for the State, it also represents a different environment for state funding for some school districts.

This report identifies how reaching "full" ECS funding will alter what education funding school districts can expect from the State each year.

[View the Implications](#)





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About the School and State Finance Project

The School and State Finance Project is a nonpartisan, nonprofit policy organization that works collaboratively with policymakers, communities, and other key stakeholders to develop data-driven solutions that ensure all public school students receive equitable education funding that supports their learning needs.

The School and State Finance Project is a fiscally sponsored organization of Third Sector New England, Inc. (TSNE).

Learn more about our organization at www.schoolstatefinance.org.



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