CABE Connecticut Association of Boards of Education

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2027 Legislative Issues

Governor's Blue-Ribbon Commission on K12 Education Funding and Accountability

How much funding flows to school districts and how that total is determined

How well is that funding is used to enable student learning

-Update and fully implement the ECS formula

-Restructure special education funding

-Strengthen state supports and accountability mechanisms for RESC's

-Build on and evolve state accountability mechanisms to ensure service efficacy

-Expand the state's fiscal accountability mechanisms

Connecticut Career Pathways Commission

-Assess Connecticut's current education and career pathways system.

-Engage stakeholders across the state to understand needs and barriers.

-Identify opportunities to strengthen alignment across education, workforce, and industry.

-Develop 5-year strategic plan

CT Citizen's Assembly on Property Tax

-Mandates shall become effective 1 year after enactment to reduce the burden of unexpected, last-minute costs imposed on municipalities' current fiscal budgets

-The ECS formula shall increase at a measure of inflation consistent with the rolling 12-month average of the Employment Cost Index

-Cooperatively design and legislate a school district plan that incentivizes regionalization and removes barriers.

-Special Education costs are equitably and fully funded and distributed by the State.

-An act concerning a review process for municipal mandate fiscal impact and accountability.

RESC Critical Issues Group

1. Investing in the Success of Every Student

Ensure that schools have the resources, services, and support necessary to meet the increasingly complex needs of today's students.

Critical issues:

- Special Education
- Student Engagement and Mental Health
- Equitable and Adequate School Funding

2. Preparing for a Changing World

Rethink how we teach, what students need to learn, and how we measure success while ensuring a strong educator workforce.

Critical issues:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability
- Educator Recruitment, Preparation, and Retention

3. Ensuring Efficient Use of Every Dollar

Modernize school operations, control escalating costs, protect essential services, and find smarter ways to use public resources.

Critical issues:

- Health Insurance Costs
- Cybersecurity and Data Protection
- Collaborative Purchasing and Personnel Services

CABE's Day on the Hill March 10th

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Thank you to Ashley from Norwalk —

Following the last CABE Office Hours about the Commission, I reached out to get some numbers for advocacy purposes. Please see below from NPS District Officials regarding our per-pupil expenditures and special education costs. (As you know, Special Education costs are very nuanced, so there are a variety of scenarios and numbers shared here.)

Norwalk's average per-pupil expenditure is approximately $24,696. This number is inclusive of students with IEPs. The cost of educating a student receiving special education services varies considerably because services are based on each student's IEP and individual needs. For example, one of our specialized in-district programs has annual staffing costs of approximately $381,708 for seven students. That equals about $54,530 per student in specialized program costs.

The cost can increase significantly when a student requires dedicated support. Two examples from our analysis show:

- Approximately $32,061 in annual costs for a student receiving one-to-one paraprofessional support.

- Approximately $100,990 in annual costs for a student receiving one-to-one RBT and BCBA support.

Out-of-district placements vary even more widely depending on the program and the services required. The examples in our analysis range from approximately $78,000 annually at the lower end to approximately $518,000 at the higher end. These are examples of individual placement costs, not the district's total outplacement expenditure. The total cost of OOD is estimated at $13,476,16 for FY27. These costs do not include transportation. This variation is exactly why it is important for the Commission and the legislature to hear from various stakeholders. A single statewide estimate cannot fully reflect the range of student needs or the actual costs districts are required to cover. The Excess cost threshold has also been raised to $111,131. This means that the reimbursement will be even harder to attain.