

Dear Neighbor,

The 2026 legislative session focused on strengthening our communities by investing in education, supporting families, and enhancing public safety. We delivered results.

This year, we expanded funding for special education, supported universal free school breakfast, and strengthened safeguards to help keep children connected to educational opportunities while preserving parental choice.

To keep our communities safe, we backed legislation targeting illegal firearm conversion devices, created a voluntary firearm safekeeping program, and supported measures that strengthen protections and benefits for police officers, firefighters, EMS personnel, dispatchers, and other first responders.

I invite you to read more about some of the key accomplishments of the 2026 legislative session and the progress we made on issues important to our community.

Warmest regards,



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN SANTANELLA
PROUDLY SERVING ENFIELD

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UPDATE 2026**

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FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN SANTANELLA
PROUDLY SERVING ENFIELD



SUPPORTING POLICE, FIRE & EMS

- Supported HB 5003, a major public safety package strengthening support for Connecticut's first responders.
- Expanded workers' compensation protections for emergency dispatchers, correction officers, and public works employees.
- Strengthened protections for emergency personnel who are required to report for duty during severe weather events and other emergencies.
- Expanded line-of-duty death benefits to include correction officers and certain state investigators, providing greater support for their families.
- Continued recognizing EMTs and paramedics as first responders under state law and preserving access to first responder benefits and services.
- Supported measures that improve recruitment, retention, and long-term support for the public safety workforce.



FUNDING FOR ENFIELD

Representing Enfield is a privilege,
and when I work with my colleagues
on the state budget, it is always top
of mind.

This year we secured:

- \$1.5 MILLION**
for Porter and Chester Building Restoration
- \$1.2 MILLION**
for Education
- \$800,000**
for Town Aid
- \$300,000**
for EMS Reimbursement
- \$250,000**
for Barnes Boat Launch Revitalization

INVESTING IN KIDS, EDUCATION, & FAMILIES

- Supported funding for universal free school breakfast, ensuring students start the day ready to learn regardless of family income.
- Increased state investment in special education to help school districts meet the needs of students and reduce pressure on local property taxpayers.
- Expanded support for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, helping more families access services and assistance when stepping in to care for children.
- Established clearer procedures to help ensure children remain connected to educational opportunities when transitioning to parent-managed learning.
- Supported legislation targeting illegal firearm conversion devices that can turn semiautomatic pistols into machine guns, helping keep dangerous weapons out of our communities and away from children.
- Created a voluntary firearm safekeeping program to help prevent accidents, unauthorized access, and self-harm during times of crisis.

