

HIGHLIGHTING EDUCATION

Dear Neighbor,

This session we were able to pass a number of policy initiatives that will benefit both students in Waterbury and throughout the state. This special newsletter provides an update on recent laws made at the state level that better support our children's educational needs and future.

From grade school to higher education and job training opportunities, I have made it my goal to ensure that the youth of Waterbury receive the resources and tools necessary for them to learn, grow, and thrive in the future as productive members of our state's job force.

If you have a question or concerns, or if I can support you in any way, feel free to call my direct line at 860-240-8590 or email me at Geraldo.Reyes@cga.ct.gov.

Best regards,



Geraldo Reyes



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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AFRICAN-AMERICAN & BLACK, PUERTO RICAN & LATINO STUDIES

Under *PA 19-12*, all public school districts must include African-American and Black and Puerto Rican and Latino studies in their curriculum beginning with the 2021-22 school year and offer a Black and Latino studies high school course in the 2022-23 school year. The State Education Resource Center must develop the high school course to be reviewed and approved by the State Board of Education.

DEBT-FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

We adopted a plan to provide debt-free community college to first-time students from Connecticut. The Board of Regents for Higher Education must develop a program to provide these students with fall and spring semester awards that cover the portion of tuition and fees that are not covered by scholarships, grants, or government aid. Awards under this program apply to the first 72 credit hours earned by a student in the first 36 months of community college enrollment in a program leading to a degree or certificate.

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 STATE REPRESENTATIVE GERALDO REYES

ECS FUNDING

Town	2019 Estimated	2020 Budgeted	2021 Budgeted
Waterbury	136,201,264	143,020,652	149,840,041

Waterbury schools will receive \$6.8 million more than last year in 2020 and \$13.6 million more in 2021.

MINORITY TEACHER RECRUITMENT

I was a major proponent of *PA 19-74* which will facilitate minority teacher recruitment and retention across the state. Using existing resources, this bill requires the implementation of strategies to ensure local and regional boards of education hire and employ at least 250 new minority teachers and administrators each year beginning with the 2020-21 school year. A more diverse faculty will help to expose children to a broader and richer cultural learning experience. This is a positive step toward making our public schools a place where all students, regardless of cultural background, feel welcomed, valued and can focus on learning.

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING PIPELINE

PA 19-103 expands the pilot program for the Advanced Manufacturing Certificate Programs, which will provide opportunities for high school students & adults to access the training needed to compete for the 12,000 good-paying manufacturing jobs currently open in our state.

