

The Connecticut General Assembly



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Contact: Ted Glanzer
860-240-8378

STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS POULOS VOTES TO SECURE \$653,705 IN SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING

Critical funding injection will deliver immediate relief to cover excess special education costs

Tonight, State Rep. **Chris Poulos** voted to bring hundreds of thousands of dollars of special education funding relief to Southington schools and taxpayers.

Poulos' vote was part of the House's bipartisan approval of an immediate \$40 million injection of state funding to municipalities to support special education expenses for the current fiscal year.

With the bill's passage, the [School and State Finance Project](#) estimates that Southington will receive \$653,705 to cover excess special education costs incurred this academic year, including expenses related to staffing, programming, and outplacements for students. Providing high-quality special education services is an obligation that can be extremely costly, placing unexpected pressure on town and city budgets.

The Senate will convene on Tuesday, Feb. 25, to vote on the measure, which is expected to pass.

Rep. Poulos, Vice-Chair of the Select Committee on Special Education, recently joined a statewide listening tour to gather input from stakeholders—including students, parents, teachers, school administrators, and town leaders. The overwhelming consensus was that districts need more funding, not only for the future but also to address shortfalls this year.

"This funding injection is just one step in a broader commitment to supporting special education," said Rep. **Poulos**. "While this immediate relief will help ease the financial strain on municipal governments, our focus remains on implementing systemic solutions for long-term stability and sustainable support."

Southington Superintendent of Schools **Steven Madancy** said he was pleased with the additional funding the district is expected to receive.

"The passage of this bill will provide immediate relief to our district and I am grateful to the legislature for taking this action," **Madancy** said. "This funding will greatly assist in making the district whole for excess special education costs and will help cover the shortfall from our budgeted projection. It will also aid in offsetting costs associated with the unexpected outplacement of students."

Earlier this session, House and Senate Democrats introduced priority bills that aim to reform Connecticut's system of special education—reducing costs, improving services, and increasing financial support.

"As an educator, I am committed to supporting school districts in their efforts to meet the needs of all learners," said Rep. **Poulos**.

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