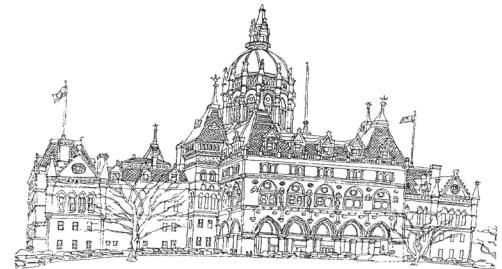




Connecticut Association  
of Boards of Education



## 2026 Legislative Priorities

Connecticut school districts are supporting students and families in unprecedented ways that have many positive implications. To have students thrive they need the continued support of educators and state resources.

### CABE urges the legislature to:

- Increase the ECS foundation - established to rise with inflation, it stands at \$11,525 since 2013.
- Fully fund the special education Excess Cost Reimbursement Grant by removing “within available appropriations” language.
- Invest in programs that promote the training, hiring and retention of educators of diverse backgrounds, increase opportunities for districts’/ RESC’s “grow your own” programs and reduce red tape and cost burdens.
- Support SDE’s funding request for the expansion of the pilot program to enable districts to support the continued need for counselors and mental health staff.

### Relevant Facts from the State Department of Education

CT's enhanced certification reciprocity initiative has agreements with 23 states, bringing more teachers in to CT.

The percentage of educators of color has increased to 12.1% in 2024-2025. The percentage of students of color has increased to 54.9% in 2024-2025.

SDE/DOL created a teacher apprentice program, having more paraeducator fairs and expanding grow-your-own programs.

Over the last 7 years the number of counselors/social workers/school psychologists have grown over 15%.

**CABE Mission Statement:**  
*To assist local and regional boards of education in providing high quality education for all Connecticut children through effective leadership.*

For over a century CABE has been the collective voice of more than 1,300 board of education members across the State. As CABE has grown, so has our prominence as a leader in shaping public education programs – helping Connecticut prepare for the increasingly competitive global society.

CABE's positions reflect the commitment of board of education members to promote public participation through local lay control of public education, to promote equal opportunity and a high quality education for all of Connecticut's public school children, and to increase public awareness of education issues.





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***CABE urges legislators to analyze each piece of legislation by asking:***

“How will this legislation promote student achievement?”  
and

“What is the fiscal and administrative impact  
on local communities?”

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**Wednesday, March 11, 2026**  
**CABE Day on the Hill**  
*More information to come soon!*