

Special Education Excess Cost Cooperative

SCHOOL + STATE FINANCE PROJECT

For many of Connecticut's municipalities and local school districts, budget planning is an annual challenge as a result of high and volatile costs related to supporting students with extraordinary special education needs with the education services they need and deserve.

The Special Education Excess Cost Cooperative (the Co-op) is a finance system that addresses this challenge by allowing the state and local governments to share in these special education costs while keeping decisions and delivery of special education services local.

PREDICTABILITY FOR ALL TOWNS

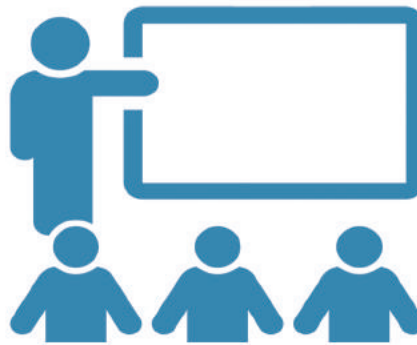


Removes excess costs from the MBR to provide towns with fiscal stability and control property tax increases

Provides ALL districts with the exact amount of funding they need to cover their excess costs so additional funding from their town to cover unexpected excess costs will not be needed

Establishes predictability in budgeting for towns and prevents school districts from having unexpected budget deficits due to excess costs

FUNDING FOR ALL STUDENTS



Ensures adequate funds for services for ALL students with extraordinary special education needs, no matter where they live or what their needs are

Stabilizes general education funding by ensuring districts don't have to dip into their general education budgets to cover unexpected excess costs

Provides predictability and stability for students with extraordinary disabilities by ensuring funding for their services, even during financially uncertain times

STABILITY FOR ALL DISTRICTS



Guarantees ALL school districts 100% of the funding they need to cover their excess costs

Provides school districts with funding for excess cost students as a grant to the school district, meaning towns will not be allowed to retain the grant for non-special education purposes

Prevents school districts from having unexpected budget deficits due to excess costs and establishes predictability in budgeting

Step-by-Step: How the Co-op Works



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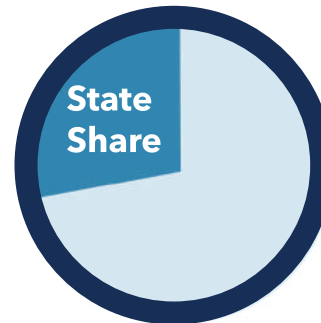
1 TOTAL FUNDING DETERMINED



Each year, actuaries determine the total excess costs for the next school year, which equals the Co-op's annual funding



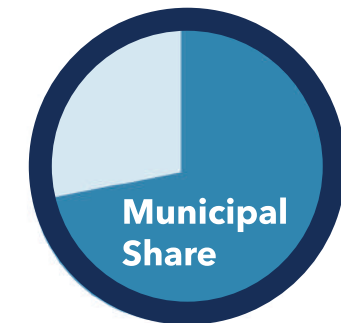
2 STATE SHARE DETERMINED



The State's contribution to the Co-op is made by re-allocating the current Excess Cost grant



3 MUNICIPAL SHARE DETERMINED



The remaining piece of Co-op funding, the municipal share, is then determined and split between all the state's towns



5 DISTRICTS REIMBURSED 100%



Districts are directly reimbursed for 100% of their excess costs

The reimbursement amount (in total dollars) a district receives will change each year based on its actual excess costs



4 TOWNS MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS



Each town's contribution to the Co-op may be based on its:

1. # of resident public school students
2. % of resident students identified as students with disabilities
3. Ability to pay (PIC index score)
4. Designation as an Alliance District