



AFT Connecticut
AFT, AFL-CIO

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**“Get Creative:” State Education Resources
Signal Need for Continued Investment**

\$170 million in funds benefitting students allocated by state officials should move local school leaders to avert cuts and layoffs that threaten to worsen the student learning crisis

ROCKY HILL - Leaders with AFT Connecticut are recognizing Governor Lamont and state Senate and House leadership for bridging the gap in education funding that many communities are facing. They are expressing appreciation for the allocation of \$170 million in resources as a good first step toward closing deficits in regional and local districts across the state. Additionally, they are urging municipal and school officials to seize the opportunity to reverse recent decisions to cut student services and lay off the educators who deliver them.

“Our teachers and students have been doing more with less for so long,” said Leslie Blatteau, AFT Connecticut Vice President for PreK-12 and New Haven Federation of Teachers President. “This burden shouldn’t rest on their shoulders alone, it should be shared between the state’s legislature and the local municipalities. The state’s lawmakers have stepped up to the plate, but the fact remains that our students still need more support. It’s time for the towns and cities to do the same. They should start to think like their teachers do every day, and get creative. Our students can’t wait.”

“In early April, Meriden highlighted a growing budget gap of nearly \$8 million,” said Matt Banas, AFT Connecticut vice president at-large and Meriden Federation of Teachers President. “Many school officials are facing even larger deficits, with special education tuition being a heavy burden for their districts. The addition of the state’s funds will help ease those challenges, but too many have proposed service and support cut-backs that disproportionately impact their most vulnerable students.”

“This budget package builds on the progress made last year,” said AFT Connecticut Vice President for Paraprofessionals and School-related Personnel (PSRPs) and Hartford Federation of Paraeducators President Shellye Davis. “Many districts are looking at cutting jobs and closing schools. These additional resources will go a long way toward recruiting and retaining the teachers and support staff that our kids and communities depend on.”

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Link -

[April 28, 2026 - Governor Lamont Statement on Significant Increase in State Aid for Municipalities](#)

AFT Connecticut includes more than 100 local unions throughout the state, including three affiliates collectively representing over 5,500 certified educators and non-certified support personnel in Hartford, New Haven and Meriden. Visit aftct.org for more information and follow the labor federation on Instagram at [@aftconnecticut](https://www.instagram.com/aftconnecticut), Facebook at AFT Connecticut and Bluesky at [@aftct.bsky.social](https://www.bsky.social/aftct).

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