



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Legislative Agenda Update

February 18, 2020

Members of the New Haven delegation recommended the following key tenets for potential legislative change in the current session:

- State is projecting a \$60 million deficit; unlikely educational grant programs will increase beyond current projected levels.
- Short legislative session will greatly limit ability to introduce new legislation.
- Target incremental changes that would benefit both New Haven and other communities, to increase likelihood of support from other delegations.

What Were We Seeking?



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Attempt to drive a change in the state statute governing the Alliance Grant – C.G.S. 10-262u(d) – to:

- Put numeracy on an equal footing with literacy, enabling New Haven to use the grant to purchase the new Mathematics curriculum.
- Deploy new/upgraded technology to classrooms.
- Explore new methods of early childhood education, including learning through play.

- State Department of Education and Office of Early Childhood testify before the Appropriations Committee on the morning of February 13, 2020.
- NHPS CFO and lobbyist prepare written testimony for the Committee advocating for additional permitted spending of the Alliance Grant.
- Following the hearing, brief conversation with the Commissioner of Education.

- More lengthy conversations with members of the New Haven delegation (Walker, Candelaria, Porter) regarding the grant, as well as Appropriations Committee members from Bridgeport and Willimantic.
- Conversations were positive and supportive; also received assurances that the primary grant supporting EL would not be cut.
- Lobbyist for the City of New Haven and New Haven Advocates testify during the public hearing portion of the day.

Additional Developments after the Hearing



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- Originally began drafting language to alter the Alliance Grant portion of the state statutes.
- Subsequent conversations with City of New Haven and BOE lobbyists indicate more flexibility in the grant than the statute would suggest.
- Commissioner of Education specifically cites work of Meriden and Vernon in utilizing the grant.
- Grant uses targeting Talent, Academics, Climate and Operations (TACO) are likely to be approved by the Commissioner.
- Reconfirmed that the grant cannot be used to supplant General Fund expenditures.

- Will work with School Improvement Office to determine what 2020-21 proposed expenditures can be covered by the grant.
- Proposed additional EL supports and Health teachers can definitely be covered by the grant.
- Will work with Meriden and Vernon to see how their grant applications are structured.
- Revise 2020-21 'new spending' request as appropriate for February 19 Special Meeting of the BOE.
- Testify before Education Committee hearing (tentatively scheduled for Friday, February 21).