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EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSIONS  
HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE INVESTMENT



Joe Courtney  
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**TO:** CONNECTICUT EDUCATORS, FAMILIES, AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS  
**FROM:** CONGRESSMAN JOE COURTNEY  
**DATE:** MARCH 27, 2024  
**SUBJECT:** FENDING OFF GOP ATTACKS ON EDUCATION

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On March 22, 2024, Congress passed the final six Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) spending bills, including the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (L-HHS) package which funds the U.S. Department of Education (ED). The bill's passage (286-134) came after several short-term spending packages from October through last week to keep the federal government funded while negotiations took place.

The bipartisan negotiations, led by top Democratic Appropriator Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (CT-04), resulted in significant improvements for Connecticut's schools and families – a complete reversal of the draconian cuts House Republican originally demanded and passed in November (H.R. 5894).

The original House-passed bill cut the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education budget by \$63.8 billion, 28 percent below FY23. **It was the lowest allocation since 2008.** This was the exact opposite of what eastern Connecticut's schools and families needed. They decimated funding for Title I schools by 80 percent, cut funding for programs that benefit schools in military communities like Groton and Ledyard, flat funded special education for the first in over a decade, and slashed precious slots Head Start. In November, I [detailed](#) (see page 3) how an 80 percent cut would force schools to slash staff, increase class sizes, and decrease resources to almost every K-12 student in CT-02.

Despite an extremely difficult budget environment, House Democrats fought off these cuts and worked with Republicans to at least maintain, if not boost, funding where we could (see table on page 2). In fact, the budget that has now been signed into law is more than \$40 billion above what House Republicans proposed in H.R. 5894.

The bipartisan-negotiated bill prevented a statewide reduction of **1,900 educators**; saved **335 Head Start** slots in Connecticut; and saved **7,300 adult trainings** slots across the state through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. It also restored and increased funding for **Impact Aid Grants** (through both the Departments of Defense and Education, as well as special education funding), which provide 4.5 percent of Groton and Ledyard Public Schools' annual budgets.

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Program	FY24 House-Passed GOP Education Budget (Nov. 2023)		FY24 House-Passed Bipartisan Education Budget (Mar. 2024)	
	<i>Dollar Amount</i>	<i>Percent Change from FY23</i>	<i>Dollar Amount</i>	<i>Percent Change from FY23</i>
Funding for Title I Schools	\$3.7 Billion	↓ 80%	\$18.4 Billion	↑ 1%
Head Start	\$11.2 Billion	↓ 7%	\$12.3 Billion	↑ 2.2%
Funding for Impact Aid <i>Through DOD &amp; ED</i>	\$1.625 Billion	↓ 3.7%	1.695 Billion	↑ .43%
Funding for Special Education (IDEA Grants to States)	\$14.19 billion	0% This was the first time IDEA saw no increase since FY10	\$14.2 billion	↑ 1.5%
Magnet Schools Assistance	\$0	↓ 100%	\$139 Million	Prevented cuts & maintained FY23 funding
WIOA Adult Job Training	\$0	↓ 100%	\$885 Million	Prevented cuts & maintained FY23 funding

This was no small feat in a closely divided Congress and will pay huge dividends for our educators, students, and parents in eastern Connecticut. As a senior Member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, I will continue working alongside Connecticut's educators, students, and parents to fend off any attacks to the education funding our communities rely on.

Sincerely,

JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress

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House Republicans' Proposed Cuts to CT-02 Title I Schools (H.R. 5894)		
School District	FY23-24 Allocation	Allocation with GOP 80% Cut
Andover	\$27,131.00	\$5,426.20
Ashford	77,775.00	15,555.00
Bolton	79,583.00	15,916.60
Bozrah	65,114.00	13,022.80
Brooklyn	300,247.00	60,049.40
Canterbury	157,358.00	31,471.60
Chaplin	32,557.00	6,511.40
Chester	37,983.00	7,596.60
Clinton	220,663.00	44,132.60
Colchester	159,888.00	31,977.60
Columbia	75,966.00	15,193.20
Coventry	240,559.00	48,111.80
Deep River	32,557.00	6,511.40
East Haddam	51,398.00	10,279.60
East Hampton	66,817.00	13,363.40
East Lyme	287,586.00	57,517.20
Eastford	37,983.00	7,596.60
Ellington	104,508.00	20,901.60
Enfield	1,090,655.00	218,131.00
Essex	52,453.00	10,490.60
Franklin	41,600.00	8,320.00
Glastonbury	227,862.00	45,572.40
Griswold	396,109.00	79,221.80
Groton	994,793.00	198,958.60
Hampton	23,513.00	4,702.60
Hebron	29,982.00	5,996.40
Killingly	841,202.00	168,240.40
Lebanon	168,410.00	33,682.00

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Ledyard	303,864.00	60,772.80
Lisbon	97,671.00	19,534.20
Madison	107,725.00	21,545.00
Mansfield	202,576.00	40,515.20
Marlborough	21,210.00	4,242.00
Montville	452,179.00	90,435.80
New London	2,361,382.00	472,276.40
North Stonington	90,436.00	18,087.20
Norwich	3,127,933.00	625,586.60
Old Saybrook	153,741.00	30,748.20
Plainfield	824,298.00	164,859.60
Pomfret	24,162.00	4,832.40
Preston	110,332.00	22,066.40
Putnam	519,481.00	103,896.20
Regional School District 17	90,802.00	18,160.40
Regional School District 18	137,462.00	27,492.40
Regional High School District 4	83,201.00	16,640.20
Regional High School District 8	41,118.00	8,223.60
Regional High School District 11	59,688.00	11,937.60
Regional High School District 19	160,976.00	32,195.20
Salem	28,269.00	5,653.80
Scotland	21,705.00	4,341.00
Somers	139,271.00	27,854.20
Sprague	104,905.00	20,981.00
Stafford	318,334.00	63,666.80
Sterling	190,793.00	38,158.60
Stonington	350,891.00	70,178.20
Suffield	117,608.00	23,521.60
Thompson	265,881.00	53,176.20
Tolland	70,243.00	14,048.60
Vernon	1,348,593.00	269,718.60
Voluntown	52,453.00	10,490.60

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Waterford	430,474.00	86,094.80
Westbrook	115,758.00	23,151.60
Willington	90,436.00	18,087.20
Windham	2,389,532.00	477,906.40
Woodstock	169,222.00	33,844.40