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:**

- Accelerate the implementation of the ECS formula grant recognizing the local ability to pay and the impact of rising costs for goods and services.

- Fully fund the Special Education Excess Cost Grant by removing the cap on funding and study the rising costs of outplacements.

- Support the science of reading model by allowing districts flexibility in determining materials to meet student needs.

- Invest in programs that promote the training, hiring and retention of educators from diverse backgrounds. Increase opportunities for district/RESC “grow your own” programs.

- Continue to provide resources to SDE and school districts to support their work on social, emotional and academic development, and invest in violence prevention and early intervention services.

---

**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.

---

**Rising Number of Students With Disabilities**

Rising prevalence rate from 2017-18 to 2021-22, with the following numbers:

- 2017-18: 74,708 (14.5%)
- 2018-19: 76,815 (15%)
- 2019-20: 79,348 (15.6%)
- 2020-21: 79,058 (15.8%)
- 2021-22: 80,946 (18.2%)

Source: Connecticut State Department of Education
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?”

Patrice A. McCarthy
Executive Director and General Counsel
pmccarthy@cabe.org

Sheila McKay
Senior Staff Associate for Government Relations
smckay@cabe.org

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
CABE Lobbying Day