



Connecticut State Senator

28TH DISTRICT

Tony Hwang

Bethel • Easton • Fairfield • Newtown



Chief Deputy Republican Leader



My Education Policy Priorities for the 2025 Legislative Session

As your State Senator, I am deeply committed to ensuring that every child in Connecticut has the opportunity to receive a quality education. Education is not just a budgetary priority—it's the foundation of our state's future. This legislative session, I'm proud to support and have introduced several initiatives that reflect my belief in equitable access, innovative workforce development, and responsible fiscal stewardship. Here's what I'm fighting for.

Championing Special Education Funding

I support [HB 7067](#), which boosts funding for special education through Excess Education Cost Grants by \$40 million. Every child, regardless of their learning needs, deserves a quality education. This additional funding is vital for our municipalities to provide the resources students with special needs require. I've always said that education must be a top priority in our state budget, and through this bill, the legislative branch is asserting its voice as an equal partner with the Executive branch to make that a reality.

Improving Dyslexia Education

I introduced [SB 536](#), which calls for a task force to study the effectiveness of our dyslexia education statutes. This is about getting it right for students who learn differently—evaluating what works, recommending improvements, and ensuring accountability. It's a step toward making sure no child falls through the cracks because of unmet educational needs.

Building Career Pathways and Workforce Opportunities

I introduced [SB 538](#), a bill that aligns education with the practical needs of our workforce. It requires the Department of Education to create a rubric for career pathway programs and develop an accelerated teacher certification path for trades professionals—folks who bring real-world experience into our classrooms. The bill also tackles transportation barriers in work-based learning programs through a dedicated task force. Beyond that, it adjusts regulations for trades like electrical and plumbing work, setting a two-to-one journeyman-to-apprentice ratio from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027, while increasing fines for violations and creating flexible standards to address workforce shortages. A state audit will ensure these programs deliver results, reflecting my commitment to preparing students for meaningful careers.

Supporting Our School Bus Drivers

I introduced [SB 586](#), which helps local school boards recruit and retain school bus drivers by offering grants to cover health insurance costs. Reliable transportation is essential to getting kids to school safely and on time—it's a practical investment in their education that I'm proud to champion.

Early Childhood Education: Opportunity with Caution

I generally support the governor's plan to set aside \$300 million from the 2025 surplus, with future surpluses added, to fund universal pre-K through an endowment. Early education is critical, and I want to see it thrive. But I'm wary of placing this money outside our normal budget framework. We've worked hard to establish fiscal guardrails that protect Connecticut's financial stability, and circumventing them could set a dangerous precedent. I'll keep pushing for a balanced approach that invests in our youngest learners without compromising our fiscal responsibility.

As your Senator, I'm dedicated to making education work for every student—from special needs to career training to early childhood. These policies, including the bills I've introduced, reflect my vision for a stronger, fairer Connecticut, and I'll continue to advocate for them with conviction this session.

