

# CONNECTICUT

## Budget Implementer Bill: Climate Change Education Requirement in Connecticut Public Schools



### OVERVIEW

**HB 5506,  
SECTION  
265 & 266**

**ENACTED  
5/3/22**

- This bill requires all public schools in Connecticut to teach climate change content aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards.
- The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) will develop the climate change curriculum with assistance from the Department of Education (DE).
- The Connecticut DE Science Coordinator partnered with DEEP staff to develop training and resources to support the implementation of the climate change curriculum.

**YOUTH VOICE  
IS CENTRAL TO  
THIS BILL**

### COALITION

Sena Wazer, an 18-year-old leader of Sunrise Movement Connecticut (a youth-led advocacy group focusing on climate change), organized students to advocate for this bill. Youth advocates engaged with legislators and testified during the public hearing, which proved vital for gaining support for this bill.

### FUNDING

No funding is associated with this bill; however, the State Board of Education can make appropriations or resources available if necessary to implement the climate change content.

### TARGET AUDIENCE

Approximately 530,000 Connecticut students are now required to learn about climate change in their science courses as early as kindergarten. The Department of Education and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection have partnered to support educators' climate change curriculum training and resource development.

### IMPACT

HB 5506 supports the Connecticut Environmental Literacy Plan and Green LEAF Program (a Green Ribbon feeder program). Further, most schools in Connecticut already include climate change in their curriculum, and schools that did not teach about climate change must now abide by this requirement.



**Coalition for Climate  
Education Policy**

**Link to find  
more  
information**

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