



Important Update: Urgent Action Needed on Raised Bill 7277

The Connecticut Select Committee on Special Education has proposed a new bill that would drastically change how special education services are provided, and not for the better. We believe this bill, likely influenced by pressure to cut costs, will **seriously harm many students with disabilities** and limit families' ability to get the education their children need.

What's at Risk:

- **Outplacement Decisions:**
 - PPT teams will **no longer be able to recommend outplacement** to non-approved programs.
 - Families and school districts must go through **costly and time-consuming legal hearings** to seek outplacements.
 - **Mediation and settlement options for tuition cost sharing between parents and schools will be restricted.**
 - **Hearing officers can't place a student in a school that's not approved by the state unless they first look at all the state-approved options and find that none of them can meet the student's needs.** This will likely result in hearing officers being forced to consider facts (such as what each approved program does and does not offer) that were never introduced into evidence. In other words, there will be **secret facts** that parents won't be able to respond to or address that will impact the placement decision.
 - Students may be forced to **stay in inappropriate placements** while waiting for hearings or spots to open, possibly with **no clear plan** after the school year ends.
- **Outplacement Rate Caps:**
 - **State-approved programs will have their tuition capped** by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM).
 - If schools cannot operate under these caps to support students' needs, they may **drop their approval status**, causing great disruption for students.
 - Even if your child is already placed by a PPT decision at an approved program, they may lose their spot after the school year ends if the program raises its rates




beyond the tuition cap. There is **no guarantee of appropriate services** moving forward.

What This Means for Your Child:

- Many families will **lose access to appropriate placements**.
- The process to secure needed services will become longer, harder, and more expensive.
- Students could be left **without a school** to attend in the fall.

There Is One Positive Note:

- The bill does include **important protections on reducing the use of restraint and seclusion**, which is a huge step forward. But it does **not make up for the serious risks to access and equity** in special education.

 **There is a public hearing this Monday, April 21, 2025.** We need many others to show up and speak out. Please help us protect the rights and education of our children.

Use this [link](#) to register to testify in person or virtually, or to submit written testimony. **The registration deadline is 3 pm on Sunday, April 20, 2025.** You can also use this link to register to **watch** the hearing virtually. The hearing will begin at 11 am, and testimonies will start around 2 pm. Each person gets 3 minutes to testify.

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/SEDdata/pha/pdf/2025pha00421-R001100SED-pha.pdf>