



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 6508

LCO No. 3793



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING REMOTE LEARNING ATTENDANCE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) For the school year
2 commencing July 1, 2021, and each school year thereafter, a local or
3 regional board of education may authorize the provision of instruction
4 to students in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, to be conducted on a
5 virtual platform or as part of a remote learning model, provided such
6 board (1) receives permission for such instruction from the
7 Commissioner of Education, and (2) specifies the requirements for what
8 constitutes student attendance during such instruction.

9 Sec. 2. Section 10-16 of the general statutes is repealed and the
10 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

11 Each school district shall provide in each school year no less than one
12 hundred and eighty days of actual school sessions for grades
13 kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, nine hundred hours of actual school
14 work for full-day kindergarten and grades one to twelve, inclusive, and
15 four hundred and fifty hours of half-day kindergarten, provided school

16 districts shall not count more than seven hours of actual school work in
17 any school day towards the total required for the school year.
18 Instruction that is conducted on a virtual platform or as part of a remote
19 learning model shall be considered an actual school session for purposes
20 of this section, provided the Commissioner of Education has granted
21 permission for such instruction. If weather conditions result in an early
22 dismissal or a delayed opening of school, a school district which
23 maintains separate morning and afternoon half-day kindergarten
24 sessions may provide either a morning or afternoon half-day
25 kindergarten session on such day.

26 Sec. 3. Section 10-198b of the general statutes is repealed and the
27 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

28 On or before July 1, 2012, the State Board of Education shall define
29 "excused absence" and "unexcused absence". [and on] On or before
30 January 1, 2016, the State Board of Education shall define "disciplinary
31 absence" for use by local and regional boards of education for the
32 purposes of carrying out the provisions of section 10-198a, reporting
33 truancy, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-220, and calculating the
34 district chronic absenteeism rate and the school chronic absenteeism
35 rate pursuant to section 10-198c. On or before July 1, 2021, the State
36 Board of Education shall amend the definition of "excused absence" and
37 "unexcused absence" to exclude school sessions that are conducted on a
38 virtual platform or as part of a remote learning model pursuant to
39 section 10-16, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-16
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	10-198b

Statement of Purpose:

To allow a local or regional board of education, with the approval of the Commissioner of Education, to provide instruction to high school

students through a virtual platform and to prohibit such boards from deeming a student who attends school on a virtual platform as absent.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]