



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Raised Bill No. 6618**

LCO No. 4877



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN FUNDING ISSUES AFFECTING  
BOARDS OF EDUCATION.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 10-262u of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
3 *2021*):

4 (d) The local or regional board of education for a town designated as  
5 an alliance district may apply to the Commissioner of Education, at such  
6 time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes, to receive any  
7 increase in funds received over the amount the town received for the  
8 prior fiscal year pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-262i.  
9 Applications pursuant to this subsection shall include objectives and  
10 performance targets and a plan that are developed, in part, on the  
11 strategic use of student academic performance data. Such plan may  
12 include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) A tiered system of  
13 interventions for the schools under the jurisdiction of such board based  
14 on the needs of such schools, (2) ways to strengthen the foundational  
15 programs in reading, through the intensive reading instruction program

16 pursuant to section 10-14u, to ensure reading mastery in kindergarten  
17 to grade three, inclusive, with a focus on standards and instruction,  
18 proper use of data, intervention strategies, current information for  
19 teachers, parental engagement, and teacher professional development,  
20 (3) additional learning time, including extended school day or school  
21 year programming administered by school personnel or external  
22 partners, (4) a talent strategy that includes, but is not limited to, teacher  
23 and school leader recruitment and assignment, career ladder policies  
24 that draw upon guidelines for a model teacher evaluation program  
25 adopted by the State Board of Education, pursuant to section 10-151b,  
26 and adopted by each local or regional board of education. Such talent  
27 strategy may include provisions that demonstrate increased ability to  
28 attract, retain, promote and bolster the performance of staff in  
29 accordance with performance evaluation findings and, in the case of  
30 new personnel, other indicators of effectiveness, (5) training for school  
31 leaders and other staff on new teacher evaluation models, (6) provisions  
32 for the cooperation and coordination with early childhood education  
33 providers to ensure alignment with district expectations for student  
34 entry into kindergarten, including funding for an existing local Head  
35 Start program, (7) provisions for the cooperation and coordination with  
36 other governmental and community programs to ensure that students  
37 receive adequate support and wraparound services, including  
38 community school models, (8) provisions for implementing and  
39 furthering state-wide education standards adopted by the State Board  
40 of Education and all activities and initiatives associated with such  
41 standards, (9) strategies for attracting and recruiting minority teachers  
42 and administrators, (10) provisions for the enhancement of bilingual  
43 education programs, pursuant to section 10-17f, or other language  
44 acquisition services to English language learners, including, but not  
45 limited to, participation in the English language learner pilot program,  
46 established pursuant to section 10-17n, (11) entering into the model  
47 school district responsibilities agreement, described in section 10-223l,  
48 (12) leadership succession plans that provide training and learning  
49 opportunities for administrators and are designed to assist in the  
50 seamless transition of school and district personnel in and out of

51 leadership positions in the school district and the continuous  
52 implementation of plans developed under this subsection, and (13) any  
53 additional categories or goals as determined by the commissioner. Such  
54 plan shall demonstrate collaboration with key stakeholders, as  
55 identified by the commissioner, with the goal of achieving efficiencies  
56 and the alignment of intent and practice of current programs with  
57 conditional programs identified in this subsection. The commissioner  
58 may (A) require changes in any plan submitted by a local or regional  
59 board of education before the commissioner approves an application  
60 under this subsection, [and] (B) permit a local or regional board of  
61 education, as part of such plan, to use a portion of any funds received  
62 under this section for the purposes of paying tuition charged to such  
63 board pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (k) of section 10-264l or  
64 subsection (b) of section 10-264o, or (C) permit a local or regional board  
65 of education to expend up to ten per cent of the portion of any increase  
66 of funds received under this section over the amount such board  
67 received for the prior fiscal year, in a manner not included in the plan  
68 submitted by such board or otherwise prescribed under this subsection,  
69 provided such board (i) expends such funds in accordance with the  
70 provisions of section 10-262i, and (ii) increases its local appropriation for  
71 education for such fiscal year in an amount equal to the amount the  
72 commissioner permits such board expend under this subparagraph.

73       Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) For the fiscal years ending June  
74 30, 2021, to June 30, 2023, inclusive, the balance of any remaining federal  
75 funds received by a local or regional board of education for the purpose  
76 of covering costs associated with COVID-19 expenditures, including,  
77 but not limited to, funds received pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid,  
78 Relief, and Economic Security Act, P.L. 116-136, as amended from time  
79 to time, and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental  
80 Appropriations Act, P.L. 116-260, as amended from time to time, that  
81 have not been expended by such board at the end of the fiscal year shall  
82 not lapse and shall be carried forward and used by such board in the  
83 next fiscal year. As used in this section, "COVID-19" means the  
84 respiratory disease designated by the World Health Organization on

85 February 11, 2020, as coronavirus 2019, and any related mutation thereof  
86 recognized by the World Health Organization as a communicable  
87 respiratory disease.

88 Sec. 3. Subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 10-51 of the general  
89 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
90 (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

91 (2) On and after June 7, 2006, a regional board of education, by a  
92 majority vote of its members, may create a reserve fund for capital and  
93 nonrecurring expenditures. Such fund shall thereafter be termed  
94 "reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures". The aggregate  
95 amount of annual and supplemental appropriations by a district to such  
96 fund shall not exceed [one] two per cent of the annual district budget  
97 for such fiscal year. Annual appropriations to such fund shall be  
98 included in the share of net expenses to be paid by each member town.  
99 Supplemental appropriations to such fund may be made from estimated  
100 fiscal year end surplus in operating funds. Interest and investment  
101 earnings received with respect to amounts held in the fund shall be  
102 credited to such fund. The board shall annually submit a complete and  
103 detailed report of the condition of such fund to the member towns.  
104 Upon the recommendation and approval by the regional board of  
105 education, any part or the whole of such fund may be used for capital  
106 and nonrecurring expenditures, but such use shall be restricted to the  
107 funding of all or part of the planning, construction, reconstruction or  
108 acquisition of any specific capital improvement or the acquisition of any  
109 specific item of equipment. Upon the approval of any such expenditure  
110 an appropriation shall be set up, plainly designated for the project or  
111 acquisition for which it has been authorized, and such unexpended  
112 appropriation may be continued until such project or acquisition is  
113 completed. Any unexpended portion of such appropriation remaining  
114 after such completion shall revert to said fund. If any authorized  
115 appropriation is set up pursuant to the provisions of this subsection and  
116 through unforeseen circumstances the completion of the project or  
117 acquisition for which such appropriation has been designated is  
118 impossible to attain the board, by a majority vote of its members, may

119 terminate such appropriation which then shall no longer be in effect.  
120 Such fund may be discontinued, after the recommendation and  
121 approval by the regional board of education, and any amounts held in  
122 the fund shall be transferred to the general fund of the district.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-262u(d)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-51(d)(2)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) provide boards of education for alliance districts flexibility in how they utilize and expend their alliance district funds, (2) permit boards of education to carry forward any unexpended federal funds received for the purpose of covering costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic into the next fiscal year, and (3) permit a regional board of education to deposit into a nonlapsing account any unexpended funds from the prior fiscal year from the budgeted appropriation for education for the regional school district, provided such deposited amount does not exceed two per cent of the total budgeted appropriation for education for such prior fiscal year.

*[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.]*