



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

***Raised Bill No. 6621***

LCO No. 4675



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ASSORTED REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-238 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 The board of education of any municipality, upon written petition  
4 signed by one per cent of the electors of such municipality or fifty such  
5 electors, whichever is greater, the signatures thereon to be verified by  
6 the clerk of the municipality, shall hold a public hearing on any question  
7 relating to the provision of education offered by such board specified in  
8 such petition. Such hearing shall be held at a time and place to be  
9 designated by such board, not later than three weeks after receipt by the  
10 board of such petition.

11 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-214 of the general statutes is  
12 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
13 *2021*):

14 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide annually

15 to each pupil in kindergarten and grades one and three to five, inclusive,  
16 a vision screening. [.] Such vision screening may be performed using a  
17 Snellen chart [, or equivalent screening device, such as] or an automated  
18 vision screening device. The superintendent of schools shall give  
19 written notice to the parent or guardian of each pupil (1) who is found  
20 to have any defect of vision or disease of the eyes, with a brief statement  
21 describing such defect or disease and a recommendation for the pupil  
22 to be examined by an optometrist licensed under chapter 380 or an  
23 ophthalmologist licensed under chapter 370, and (2) who did not receive  
24 such vision screening, with a brief statement explaining why such pupil  
25 did not receive such vision screening.

26 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) The Department of  
27 Agriculture, in consultation with the advisory committee described in  
28 subsection (c) of this section, shall administer the CT Grown for CT Kids  
29 Grant Program. Such program shall assist local and regional boards of  
30 education to develop farm-to-school programs that will increase the  
31 availability of local foods in child nutrition programs, allow educators  
32 to use hands-on educational techniques to teach students about  
33 nutrition and farm-to-school connections, sustain relationships with  
34 local farmers and producers, enrich the educational experience of  
35 students, improve the health of children in the state, and enhance the  
36 state's economy.

37 (b) A local or regional board of education, regional educational  
38 service center, cooperative arrangement pursuant to section 10-158a of  
39 the general statutes, child care centers, group child care homes and  
40 family child care homes, as such terms are described in section 19a-77 of  
41 the general statutes, or any organization or entity administering or  
42 assisting in the development of a farm-to-school program, may apply,  
43 in a form and manner prescribed by the department, for a grant under  
44 this section. Such grant shall be used to develop or implement a school-  
45 to-farm program, which may include (1) the purchase of equipment,  
46 resources or materials, including, but not limited to, local food products,  
47 gardening supplies, field trips to farms, gleaning on farms and stipends  
48 to visiting farmers, (2) the provision of professional development and

49 skills training for educators, school nutrition professionals, parents,  
50 caregivers, child care providers, and employees and volunteers of  
51 organizations administering or assisting in the development and  
52 implementation of farm-to-school programs, and (3) piloting new  
53 purchasing systems and programs.

54 (c) The department shall convene an advisory committee to assist in  
55 the administration of the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant Program. The  
56 advisory committee shall consist of the Commissioner of Education, or  
57 the commissioner's designee, and individuals representing stakeholder  
58 groups that reflect the demographic and geographic diversity of the  
59 state, selected by the Commissioner of Agriculture. The advisory  
60 committee shall (1) assist the department in reviewing applications and  
61 awarding grants under this section, and (2) provide technical assistance  
62 to grant recipients in the development and implementation of farm-to-  
63 school programs.

64 (d) In awarding grants under this section, the department shall (1)  
65 give priority to applicants (A) located in alliance districts, as defined in  
66 section 10-262u of the general statutes, or who are providers of school  
67 readiness programs, as defined in section 10-16p of the general statutes,  
68 and (B) who demonstrate broad commitment from school  
69 administrators, school nutrition professionals, educators and  
70 community stakeholders, and (2) not award a grant that is in an amount  
71 greater than ten per cent of the total amount available for the fiscal year.

72 (e) The department may accept gifts, grants and donations, including  
73 in-kind donations, for the administration of the CT Grown for CT Kids  
74 Grant Program and to implement the provisions of this section.

75 (f) Not later than January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the  
76 department shall submit a report on the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant  
77 Program to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
78 having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with  
79 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. Such report shall  
80 include, but need not be limited to, an accounting of the funds

81 appropriated and received by the department for the program,  
82 descriptions of each grant awarded under the program and how such  
83 grant was expended by the recipient, and an evaluation of the program  
84 and the success of local farm-to-school programs that have received  
85 grant awards under this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-238
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-214(a)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) clarify the law that requires boards of education to hold public hearings that such public hearings shall be related to the provision of education offered by the board of education, (2) clarify the law how annual vision screenings for students may be performed, and (3) to establish the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant Program to assist in the development and implementation of local farm-to-school programs.

*[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.]*