



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

***Raised Bill No. 5287***

LCO No. 1860



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING REMOTE LEARNING IN CONNECTICUT.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-15k of the 2022 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

4 (a) As used in this section, "remote learning" means instruction by  
5 means of one or more Internet-based software platforms as part of a  
6 remote learning model.

7 (b) The Department of Education shall develop a plan for the creation  
8 and implementation of a state-wide remote learning school that offers  
9 grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, and provides remote learning  
10 to students. In the course of developing such plan, the department shall  
11 (1) consider the findings and recommendations of the report created by  
12 the Connecticut Remote Learning Commission pursuant to section 10-  
13 15j, (2) review remote learning schools and models being implemented  
14 in other states, and (3) estimate the number of students who reside in  
15 Connecticut that may be eligible to enroll in such state-wide remote

16 learning school. The department shall use, to the extent permissible  
17 under federal guidelines, funds received from the Coronavirus  
18 Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, P.L. 116-260, as  
19 amended from time to time, to develop such plan.

20 (c) Any state-wide remote learning school that may be created under  
21 such plan shall (1) be maintained by and under the direction and control  
22 of the State Board of Education, (2) provide in each school year not less  
23 than one hundred eighty days of actual school sessions and nine  
24 hundred hours of actual school work for grades kindergarten to twelve,  
25 inclusive, provided not more than seven hours of actual school work in  
26 any school day shall count toward the total required for the school year,  
27 (3) offer coursework and a curriculum that is rigorous, aligned with  
28 curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education, and in  
29 accordance with the state-wide subject matter content standards,  
30 adopted by the state board pursuant to section 10-4, (4) grant a diploma,  
31 in accordance with the provisions of section 10-5, to any student  
32 enrolled in such state-wide remote learning school who has  
33 satisfactorily completed the high school graduation requirements  
34 described in section 10-221a, and (5) be created with consideration given  
35 to best practices in remote learning, technological capabilities of  
36 students throughout the state and equity.

37 (d) The department shall draft a request for proposals for any items  
38 required to create and implement a state-wide remote learning school.

39 (e) Not later than ~~[July]~~ January 1, 2023, the department shall submit  
40 the plan, the draft request for proposals and any recommendations for  
41 legislation related to the implementation of such plan to the joint  
42 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
43 matters relating to education and appropriations, in accordance with the  
44 provisions of section 11-4a.

45 Sec. 2. Section 10-4w of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is  
46 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
47 *2022*):

48 (a) As used in this section, "remote learning" means instruction by  
49 means of one or more Internet-based software platforms as part of a  
50 remote learning model.

51 (b) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Education  
52 shall develop, and update as necessary, standards for remote learning.  
53 [The standards shall not be deemed to be regulations, as defined in  
54 section 4-166.]

55 (c) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year  
56 thereafter, a local or regional board of education may authorize remote  
57 learning to students in grades [nine] kindergarten to twelve, inclusive,  
58 provided such board (1) provides such instruction in compliance with  
59 the standards developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and  
60 (2) adopts a policy regarding the requirements for student attendance  
61 during remote learning, which shall (A) be in compliance with the  
62 Department of Education's guidance on student attendance during  
63 remote learning, and (B) count the attendance of any student who  
64 spends not less than one-half of the school day during such instruction  
65 engaged in (i) virtual classes, (ii) virtual meetings, (iii) activities on time-  
66 logged electronic systems, and (iv) the completion and submission of  
67 assignments.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	10-15k
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	10-4w

**Statement of Purpose:**

To move up the date that the plan for the state-wide remote learning school is due from July 1, 2023, to January 1, 2023, and to permit local and regional boards of education to authorize remote learning to students in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive.

*[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.]*