



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Committee Bill No. 1

LCO No. 3207



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDHOOD MENTAL AND PHYSICAL
HEALTH SERVICES IN SCHOOLS.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than January 1,
2 2023, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Education shall,
3 within available appropriations, develop and distribute a survey to each
4 local and regional board of education concerning the employment of
5 school social workers and school psychologists by such local or regional
6 board of education. Such survey shall include, but need not be limited
7 to, (1) the total number of school social workers employed by each local
8 or regional board of education, (2) the total number of school
9 psychologists employed by each local or regional board of education, (3)
10 the number of school social workers assigned to each school under the
11 jurisdiction of the local or regional board of education, including
12 whether any such school social worker is assigned solely to that school
13 or whether such school social worker is assigned to multiple schools, (4)
14 the number of school psychologists assigned to each school under the
15 jurisdiction of the local or regional board of education, including

16 whether any such school psychologist is assigned solely to that school
17 or whether such school psychologist is assigned to multiple schools, (5)
18 the geographic area covered by any such school social worker who
19 provides services to more than one local or regional board of education,
20 (6) the geographic area covered by any such school psychologist who
21 provides services to more than one local or regional board of education,
22 (7) an estimate of the annual number of students who have received
23 direct services from each individual school social worker employed by
24 a local or regional board of education during the five-year period
25 preceding completion of the survey, and (8) an estimate of the annual
26 number of students who have received direct services from each
27 individual school psychologist employed by a local or regional board of
28 education during the five-year period preceding completion of the
29 survey.

30 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year
31 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall annually
32 complete the survey developed and distributed pursuant to subsection
33 (a) of this section to the commissioner, and submit such completed
34 survey to the commissioner, at such time and in such manner as the
35 commissioner prescribes.

36 (c) Following the receipt of a completed survey from a local or
37 regional board of education, the commissioner shall annually calculate
38 (1) a student-to-school social worker ratio for (A) such board of
39 education, and (B) each school under the jurisdiction of such board of
40 education, and (2) a student-to-school psychologist ratio for (A) such
41 board of education, and (B) each school under the jurisdiction of such
42 board of education.

43 (d) Not later than January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the
44 commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions
45 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the results of the survey
46 completed under this section and the student-to-school social worker
47 ratios and student-to-school psychologist ratios calculated pursuant to

48 subsection (c) of this section, to the joint standing committees of the
49 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
50 and children.

51 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) For the fiscal years ending
52 June 30, 2023, to June 30, 2025, inclusive, the Department of Education
53 shall administer a grant program to provide grants to local and regional
54 boards of education for the purpose of hiring and retaining additional
55 school social workers and school psychologists. For purposes of this
56 section, "school social worker" means a person who holds a professional
57 educator certificate issued by the State Board of Education pursuant to
58 section 10-145b of the general statutes, with a school social worker
59 endorsement.

60 (b) Applications for grants pursuant to subsection (a) of this section
61 shall be filed with the Commissioner of Education at such time and in
62 such manner as the commissioner prescribes. As part of the application,
63 an applicant shall submit a (1) plan for the expenditure of grant funds,
64 and (2) copy of the completed survey described in section 1 of this act.
65 Such plan shall include, but need not be limited to, the number of
66 additional school social workers or school psychologists to be hired, the
67 number of school social workers or school psychologists being retained
68 who were previously hired with the assistance of grant funds awarded
69 under this section, whether such school social workers and school
70 psychologists will be conducting assessments of students or providing
71 services to students based on the results of assessments, and the type of
72 services that will be provided by such school social workers and school
73 psychologists.

74 (c) In determining whether to award an applicant a grant under this
75 section, the commissioner shall give priority to those school districts (1)
76 with large student-to-school social worker ratios or student-to-school
77 psychologist ratios, or (2) that have a high volume of student utilization
78 of mental health services.

79 (d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the commissioner may

80 award a grant to an applicant and shall determine the amount of the
81 grant award based on the plan submitted by such applicant pursuant to
82 subsection (b) of this section. The commissioner shall pay a grant to each
83 grant recipient in each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2023, to June
84 30, 2025, inclusive, as follows: (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023,
85 the amount of the grant shall be as determined by the commissioner
86 under this subsection; (2) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the
87 amount of the grant shall be the same amount as the grant awarded for
88 the prior fiscal year; and (3) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the
89 amount of the grant shall be seventy per cent of the amount of the grant
90 awarded for the prior fiscal year.

91 (e) Grant recipients shall file annual expenditure reports with the
92 department at such time and in such manner as the commissioner
93 prescribes. Grant recipients shall refund to the department (1) any
94 unexpended amounts at the close of the fiscal year in which the grant
95 was awarded, and (2) any amounts not expended in accordance with
96 the plan for which such grant application was approved.

97 (f) (1) The department shall annually track and calculate the
98 utilization rate of the grant program for each grant recipient. Such
99 utilization rate shall be calculated using metrics that include, but need
100 not be limited to, the number of students served and the hours of service
101 provided using grant funds awarded under the program.

102 (2) The department shall annually calculate the return on investment
103 for the grant program using the expenditure reports filed pursuant to
104 subsection (e) of this section and the utilization rates calculated
105 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

106 (g) For purposes of carrying out the provisions of this section, the
107 Department of Education may accept funds from private sources or any
108 state agency, gifts, grants and donations, including, but not limited to,
109 in-kind donations.

110 (h) (1) Not later than January 1, 2024, and each January first thereafter

111 until and including January 1, 2026, the commissioner shall submit a
112 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
113 statutes, on the utilization rate for each grant recipient and the return on
114 investment for the grant program, calculated pursuant to subsection (f)
115 of this section, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
116 having cognizance of matters relating to education and children.

117 (2) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Education
118 shall develop recommendations concerning (A) whether such grant
119 program should be extended and funded for the fiscal year ending June
120 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, and (B) the amount of the grant
121 award under the program. The commissioner shall submit such
122 recommendations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of
123 the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General
124 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and
125 children.

126 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) The State Board of Education,
127 upon the request of a local or regional board of education or a regional
128 educational service center, may issue a human services permit to any
129 applicant with specialized training, experience or expertise in social
130 work, human services, psychology or sociology. Such permit shall
131 authorize a person to be employed by a local or regional board of
132 education or a regional educational service center and to provide mental
133 health and human services to students. Such applicant shall (1) hold a
134 bachelor's degree in social work, human services, psychology, sociology
135 or other equivalent subject area from an institution of higher education
136 accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of
137 Higher Education or regionally accredited, and (2) have a minimum of
138 four years of work experience in such subject areas, or one year of work
139 experience and two years of specialized schooling in such subject areas.

140 (b) Each such human services permit shall be valid for three years
141 and may be renewed by the Commissioner of Education for good cause
142 upon the request of the superintendent of schools for the district

143 employing such person or the regional educational service center
144 employing such person.

145 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) Not later than July 1, 2023, the
146 Department of Education, in collaboration with the governing authority
147 for intramural and interscholastic athletics, shall develop a mental
148 health plan for student athletes to raise awareness of mental health
149 resources available to student athletes. Such plan shall be made
150 available to local and regional boards of education and implemented in
151 accordance with the provisions of section 5 of this act. Such plan shall
152 include, but need not be limited to, provisions relating to (1) access to
153 the mental health services team for the school district, (2) screening and
154 recognizing appropriate referrals for student athletes, (3)
155 communication among members of the mental health services team, (4)
156 the management of medications of student athletes, (5) crisis
157 intervention services, (6) the mitigation of risk to student athletes, and
158 (7) transition care for those student athletes leaving intramural or
159 interscholastic athletics by means of graduation, dismissal or
160 suspension. The department shall make such plan available on its
161 Internet web site and provide technical assistance to local and regional
162 boards of education in the implementation of the plan.

163 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) For the school year commencing
164 July 1, 2023, and each school year thereafter, each local and regional
165 board of education shall implement the mental health plan for student
166 athletes, developed pursuant to section 4 of this act, for the school
167 district.

168 Sec. 6. Section 10-212a of the general statutes is repealed and the
169 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

170 (a) (1) A school nurse or, in the absence of such nurse, any other nurse
171 licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 378, including a nurse
172 employed by, or providing services under the direction of a local or
173 regional board of education at, a school-based health clinic, who shall
174 administer medical preparations only to students enrolled in such

175 school-based health clinic in the absence of a school nurse, the principal,
176 any teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational
177 therapist employed by a school district, or coach of intramural and
178 interscholastic athletics of a school may administer, subject to the
179 provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection, medicinal preparations,
180 including such controlled drugs as the Commissioner of Consumer
181 Protection may, by regulation, designate, to any student at such school
182 pursuant to the written order of a physician licensed to practice
183 medicine, or a dentist licensed to practice dental medicine in this or
184 another state, or an optometrist licensed to practice optometry in this
185 state under chapter 380, or an advanced practice registered nurse
186 licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a, or a physician
187 assistant licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-12d, and the
188 written authorization of a parent or guardian of such child. The
189 administration of medicinal preparations by a nurse licensed pursuant
190 to the provisions of chapter 378, a principal, teacher, licensed athletic
191 trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a
192 school district, or coach shall be under the general supervision of a
193 school nurse. No such school nurse or other nurse, principal, teacher,
194 licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist
195 employed by a school district, coach or school paraprofessional
196 administering medication pursuant to this section shall be liable to such
197 student or a parent or guardian of such student for civil damages for
198 any personal injuries that result from acts or omissions of such school
199 nurse or other nurse, principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer,
200 licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school
201 district, coach or school paraprofessional administering medication
202 pursuant to this section in administering such preparations that may
203 constitute ordinary negligence. This immunity does not apply to acts or
204 omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence.

205 (2) Each local and regional board of education that allows a school
206 nurse or, in the absence of such nurse, any other nurse licensed pursuant
207 to the provisions of chapter 378, including a nurse employed by, or
208 providing services under the direction of a local or regional board of

209 education at, a school-based health clinic, who shall administer medical
210 preparations only to students enrolled in such school-based health clinic
211 in the absence of a school nurse, the principal, any teacher, licensed
212 athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by
213 a school district, coach of intramural and interscholastic athletics or
214 school paraprofessional of a school to administer medicine or that
215 allows a student to possess, self-administer or possess and self-
216 administer medicine, including medicine administered through the use
217 of an asthmatic inhaler or an automatic prefilled cartridge injector or
218 similar automatic injectable equipment, shall adopt written policies and
219 procedures, in accordance with this section and the regulations adopted
220 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, that shall be approved by the
221 school medical advisor, if any, or other qualified licensed physician.
222 Once so approved, such administration of medication shall be in
223 accordance with such policies and procedures.

224 (3) A director of a school readiness program as defined in section 10-
225 16p, as amended by this act, or a before or after school program exempt
226 from licensure by the Department of Public Health pursuant to
227 subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 19a-77, or the director's
228 designee, may administer medications to a child enrolled in such a
229 program in accordance with regulations adopted by the State Board of
230 Education in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. No
231 individual administering medications pursuant to this subdivision shall
232 be liable to such child or a parent or guardian of such child for civil
233 damages for any personal injuries that result from acts or omissions of
234 such individual in administering such medications which may
235 constitute ordinary negligence. This immunity shall not apply to acts or
236 omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence.

237 (b) Each school wherein any controlled drug is administered under
238 the provisions of this section shall keep such records thereof as are
239 required of hospitals under the provisions of subsections (f) and (h) of
240 section 21a-254 and shall store such drug in such manner as the
241 Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall, by regulation, require.

242 (c) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
243 Commissioner of Public Health, shall adopt regulations, in accordance
244 with the provisions of chapter 54, determined to be necessary by the
245 board to carry out the provisions of this section, including, but not
246 limited to, regulations that (1) specify conditions under which a coach
247 of intramural and interscholastic athletics may administer medicinal
248 preparations, including controlled drugs specified in the regulations
249 adopted by the commissioner, to a child participating in such intramural
250 and interscholastic athletics, (2) specify conditions and procedures for
251 the administration of medication by school personnel to students,
252 including, but not limited to, (A) the conditions and procedures for the
253 storage and administration of epinephrine by school personnel to
254 students for the purpose of emergency first aid to students who
255 experience allergic reactions and who do not have a prior written
256 authorization for the administration of epinephrine, in accordance with
257 the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section, and (B)
258 the conditions and procedures for the storage and administration of
259 opioid antagonists by school personnel to students who experience an
260 opioid-related drug overdose and who do not have a prior written
261 authorization for the administration of an opioid antagonist, in
262 accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of
263 this section, and (3) specify conditions for the possession, self-
264 administration or possession and self-administration of medication by
265 students, including permitting a child diagnosed with: (A) Asthma to
266 retain possession of an asthmatic inhaler at all times while attending
267 school for prompt treatment of the child's asthma and to protect the
268 child against serious harm or death provided a written authorization for
269 self-administration of medication signed by the child's parent or
270 guardian and an authorized prescriber is submitted to the school nurse;
271 and (B) an allergic condition to retain possession of an automatic
272 prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment at
273 all times, including while attending school or receiving school
274 transportation services, for prompt treatment of the child's allergic
275 condition and to protect the child against serious harm or death

276 provided a written authorization for self-administration of medication
277 signed by the child's parent or guardian and an authorized prescriber is
278 submitted to the school nurse. The regulations shall require
279 authorization pursuant to: (i) The written order of a physician licensed
280 to practice medicine in this or another state, a dentist licensed to practice
281 dental medicine in this or another state, an advanced practice registered
282 nurse licensed under chapter 378, a physician assistant licensed under
283 chapter 370, a podiatrist licensed under chapter 375, or an optometrist
284 licensed under chapter 380; and (ii) the written authorization of a parent
285 or guardian of such child.

286 (d) (1) (A) With the written authorization of a student's parent or
287 guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order of a qualified medical
288 professional, a school nurse and a school medical advisor, if any, may
289 jointly approve and provide general supervision to an identified school
290 paraprofessional to administer medication, including, but not limited to,
291 medication administered with a cartridge injector, to a specific student
292 with a medically diagnosed allergic condition that may require prompt
293 treatment in order to protect the student against serious harm or death.

294 (2) A school nurse or, in the absence of a school nurse, a qualified
295 school employee shall maintain epinephrine in cartridge injectors for the
296 purpose of emergency first aid to students who experience allergic
297 reactions and do not have a prior written authorization of a parent or
298 guardian or a prior written order of a qualified medical professional for
299 the administration of epinephrine. A school nurse or a school principal
300 shall select qualified school employees to administer such epinephrine
301 under this subdivision, and there shall be at least one such qualified
302 school employee on the grounds of the school during regular school
303 hours in the absence of a school nurse. A school nurse or, in the absence
304 of such school nurse, such qualified school employee may administer
305 such epinephrine under this subdivision, provided such administration
306 of epinephrine is in accordance with policies and procedures adopted
307 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such administration of
308 epinephrine by a qualified school employee shall be limited to situations

309 when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. No qualified school
310 employee shall administer such epinephrine under this subdivision
311 unless such qualified school employee annually completes the training
312 program described in section 10-212g. The parent or guardian of a
313 student may submit, in writing, to the school nurse and school medical
314 advisor, if any, that epinephrine shall not be administered to such
315 student under this subdivision.

316 (3) In the case of a student with a medically diagnosed life-
317 threatening allergic condition, (A) with the written authorization of
318 such student's parent or guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order
319 of a qualified medical professional, such student may possess, self-
320 administer or possess and self-administer medication, including, but
321 not limited to, medication administered with a cartridge injector, to
322 protect such student against serious harm or death.

323 (4) For purposes of this subsection, (A) "cartridge injector" means an
324 automatic prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable
325 equipment used to deliver epinephrine in a standard dose for
326 emergency first aid response to allergic reactions, (B) "qualified school
327 employee" means a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed
328 physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach
329 or school paraprofessional, and (C) "qualified medical professional"
330 means (i) a physician licensed under chapter 370, (ii) an optometrist
331 licensed to practice optometry under chapter 380, (iii) an advanced
332 practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance with
333 section 20-94a, or (iv) a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in
334 accordance with section 20-12d.

335 (e) (1) With the written authorization of a student's parent or
336 guardian, and (2) pursuant to a written order of the student's physician
337 licensed under chapter 370 or the student's advanced practice registered
338 nurse licensed under chapter 378, a school nurse or a school principal
339 shall select, and a school nurse shall provide general supervision to, a
340 qualified school employee to administer medication with injectable

341 equipment used to administer glucagon to a student with diabetes that
342 may require prompt treatment in order to protect the student against
343 serious harm or death. Such authorization shall be limited to situations
344 when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. No qualified school
345 employee shall administer medication under this subsection unless (A)
346 such qualified school employee annually completes any training
347 required by the school nurse and school medical advisor, if any, in the
348 administration of medication with injectable equipment used to
349 administer glucagon, (B) the school nurse and school medical advisor,
350 if any, have attested, in writing, that such qualified school employee has
351 completed such training, and (C) such qualified school employee
352 voluntarily agrees to serve as a qualified school employee. For purposes
353 of this subsection, "injectable equipment used to administer glucagon"
354 means an injector or injectable equipment used to deliver glucagon in
355 an appropriate dose for emergency first aid response to diabetes. For
356 purposes of this subsection, "qualified school employee" means a
357 principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or
358 occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or school
359 paraprofessional.

360 (f) (1) (A) With the written authorization of a student's parent or
361 guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order of a physician licensed
362 under chapter 370 or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed
363 under chapter 378, a school nurse and a school medical advisor, if any,
364 shall select, and a school nurse shall provide general supervision to, a
365 qualified school employee to administer antiepileptic medication,
366 including by rectal syringe, to a specific student with a medically
367 diagnosed epileptic condition that requires prompt treatment in
368 accordance with the student's individual seizure action plan. Such
369 authorization shall be limited to situations when the school nurse is
370 absent or unavailable. No qualified school employee shall administer
371 medication under this subsection unless (i) such qualified school
372 employee annually completes the training program described in
373 subdivision (2) of this subsection, (ii) the school nurse and school
374 medical advisor, if any, have attested, in writing, that such qualified

375 school employee has completed such training, (iii) such qualified school
376 employee receives monthly reviews by the school nurse to confirm such
377 qualified school employee's competency to administer antiepileptic
378 medication under this subsection, and (iv) such qualified school
379 employee voluntarily agrees to serve as a qualified school employee. For
380 purposes of this subsection, "qualified school employee" means a
381 principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or
382 occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or school
383 paraprofessional.

384 (2) The Department of Education, in consultation with the School
385 Nurse Advisory Council, established pursuant to section 10-212f, and
386 the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut, shall develop an
387 antiepileptic medication administrating training program. Such training
388 program shall include instruction in (A) an overview of childhood
389 epilepsy and types of seizure disorders, (B) interpretation of individual
390 student's emergency seizure action plan and recognition of individual
391 student's seizure activity, (C) emergency management procedures for
392 seizure activity, including administration techniques for emergency
393 seizure medication, (D) when to activate emergency medical services
394 and postseizure procedures and follow-up, (E) reporting procedures
395 after a student has required such delegated emergency seizure
396 medication, and (F) any other relevant issues or topics related to
397 emergency interventions for students who experience seizures.

398 (g) (1) A school nurse or, in the absence of a school nurse, a qualified
399 school employee may maintain opioid antagonists for the purpose of
400 emergency first aid to students who experience an opioid-related drug
401 overdose and do not have a prior written authorization of a parent or
402 guardian or a prior written order of a qualified medical professional for
403 the administration of such opioid antagonist. A school nurse or a school
404 principal shall select qualified school employees to administer such
405 opioid antagonist under this subdivision, and there shall be at least one
406 such qualified school employee on the grounds of the school during
407 regular school hours in the absence of a school nurse. A school nurse or,

408 in the absence of such school nurse, such qualified school employee may
409 administer such opioid antagonist under this subdivision, provided
410 such administration of the opioid antagonist is in accordance with
411 policies and procedures adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of this
412 section. Such administration of an opioid antagonist by a qualified
413 school employee shall be limited to situations when the school nurse is
414 absent or unavailable. No school nurse or qualified school employee
415 shall administer such opioid antagonist under this subdivision unless
416 such school nurse or qualified school employee completes a training
417 program in the distribution and administration of an opioid antagonist
418 developed by the Department of Education, Department of Public
419 Health and the Department of Consumer Protection, or under an
420 agreement entered into pursuant to section 21a-286, as amended by this
421 act. The parent or guardian of a student may submit a request, in
422 writing, to the school nurse and school medical advisor, if any, that an
423 opioid antagonist shall not be administered to such student under this
424 subdivision.

425 (2) Not later than October 1, 2022, the Department of Education, in
426 consultation with the Departments of Consumer Protection and Public
427 Health, shall develop guidelines for use by local and regional boards of
428 education on the storage and administration of opioid antagonists in
429 schools in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

430 (3) For purposes of this subsection, (A) "opioid antagonist" means
431 naloxone hydrochloride or any other similarly acting and equally safe
432 drug approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for the
433 treatment of a drug overdose, (B) "qualified school employee" means a
434 principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or
435 occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or school
436 paraprofessional, and (C) "qualified medical professional" means (i) a
437 physician licensed under chapter 370, (ii) an optometrist licensed to
438 practice optometry under chapter 380, (iii) an advanced practice
439 registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a,
440 or (iv) a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in accordance with

441 section 20-12d.

442 Sec. 7. Section 21a-286 of the general statutes is repealed and the
443 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

444 (a) For purposes of this section:

445 (1) "Opioid antagonist" shall have the meaning set forth in section
446 17a-714a.

447 (2) "Prescribing practitioner" shall have the meaning set forth in
448 section 20-14c.

449 (3) "Pharmacist" shall have the meaning set forth in section 20-609a.

450 (b) A prescribing practitioner or a pharmacist certified to prescribe
451 naloxone pursuant to section 20-633c may enter into an agreement with
452 a law enforcement agency, emergency medical service provider,
453 government agency, [or] community health organization or local or
454 regional board of education related to the distribution and
455 administration of an opioid antagonist for the reversal of an opioid
456 overdose. The prescribing practitioner or pharmacist shall provide
457 training to persons who will distribute or administer the opioid
458 antagonist pursuant to the terms of the agreement. Persons other than
459 the prescribing practitioner or pharmacist shall receive training in the
460 distribution or administration of opioid antagonists prior to distributing
461 or administering an opioid antagonist. The agreement shall address the
462 storage, handling, labeling, recalls and recordkeeping of opioid
463 antagonists by the law enforcement agency, emergency medical service
464 provider, government agency, [or] community health organization or
465 local or regional board of education which is party to the agreement.

466 (c) A prescribing practitioner or pharmacist who enters into an
467 agreement pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall not be liable
468 for damages in a civil action or subject to administrative or criminal
469 prosecution for the administration or dispensing of an opioid antagonist
470 by such law enforcement agency, emergency medical service provider,

471 government agency, [or] community health organization or local or
472 regional board of education.

473 (d) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt
474 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
475 implement the provisions of this section.

476 Sec. 8. (*Effective July 1, 2022*) For the school year ending July 1, 2022,
477 the Department of Consumer Protection, in collaboration with the
478 Department of Education, shall provide information to local and
479 regional boards of education regarding where such boards can acquire
480 opioid antagonists, as defined in section 10-212a of the general statutes,
481 as amended by this act, including the name and contact information of
482 any manufacturer of opioid antagonists that is providing such opioid
483 antagonists at no cost to school districts.

484 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) There is established a minority
485 teacher candidate scholarship program administered by the
486 Department of Education, in consultation with the Office of Higher
487 Education. The program shall provide an annual scholarship to
488 minority students who (1) graduated from a public high school in a
489 priority school district, as described in section 10-266p of the general
490 statutes, and (2) are enrolled in a teacher preparation program at any
491 four-year institution of higher education. Maximum grants shall not
492 exceed twenty thousand dollars per year. The department shall ensure
493 that at least fifty per cent of the scholarship recipients are men.

494 (b) Not later than January 1, 2023, the department shall develop a
495 policy concerning the administration of the scholarship. Such policy
496 shall include, but need not be limited to, provisions regarding (1) any
497 additional eligibility criteria, (2) payment and distribution of the
498 scholarships, and (3) the notification of students in high school in
499 priority school districts of the scholarship program.

500 (c) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year
501 thereafter, the department shall award scholarships in accordance with

502 the provisions of this section and the guidelines developed pursuant to
503 section (b) of this section.

504 (d) The Department of Education may accept gifts, grants and
505 donations, from any source, public or private, for the minority teacher
506 candidate scholarship program.

507 Sec. 10. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

508 (1) "Ableism" means the bias, prejudice or discrimination, intentional
509 or unintentional, against people with physical, psychiatric or
510 intellectual disabilities; and

511 (2) "Social-emotional learning" has the same meaning as provided in
512 section 10-222v of the general statutes.

513 (b) There is established a task force to combat ableism. The task force
514 shall identify (1) current efforts to educate all students on disability and
515 combat ableism in the public school curriculum and classrooms, and (2)
516 opportunities to expand such efforts and integrate them into social-
517 emotional learning.

518 (c) The task force shall consist of the following members:

519 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
520 one of whom is an educator employed by a local or regional board of
521 education and one of whom is a leader in social-emotional learning who
522 works with children;

523 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of
524 whom works as a special education teacher and one of whom is a
525 member of the social and emotional learning and school climate
526 advisory collaborative established pursuant to section 10-222q of the
527 general statutes;

528 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
529 Representatives who is a school administrator employed by a local or

530 regional board of education;

531 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate who is a
532 chairperson of a local or regional board of education;

533 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
534 Representatives who is a director or employee of a private nonprofit
535 organization in the state that provides services or programs for children
536 with disabilities;

537 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate who is a
538 director or employee of a private nonprofit organization in the state that
539 provides disability-related services or programs for children;

540 (7) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

541 (8) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's
542 designee;

543 (9) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
544 commissioner's designee;

545 (10) The Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court
546 Administrator's designee; and

547 (11) The director of Special Education Equity for Kids of Connecticut,
548 or the director's designee.

549 (d) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
550 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (c) of this section may be a member of
551 the General Assembly.

552 (e) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
553 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
554 be filled by the appointing authority.

555 (f) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
556 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from

557 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
558 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
559 days after the effective date of this section.

560 (g) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
561 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children
562 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

563 (h) Not later than January 1, 2023, the task force shall submit a report
564 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
565 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children
566 and education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
567 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
568 submits such report or January 1, 2023, whichever is later.

569 Sec. 11. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
570 study the governance structure and internal procedures of the
571 Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference. Such study shall
572 include, but need not be limited to, an examination of the leadership
573 structure of the conference and how leadership positions are filled, and
574 how the conference receives and resolves complaints filed by members
575 of the conference and individuals.

576 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

577 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
578 who has expertise in coaching;

579 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
580 has expertise in sports management;

581 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
582 Representatives, who is a coach for a member of the Connecticut
583 Interscholastic Athletic Conference;

584 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is an
585 athletic director for a school district that is a member of the Connecticut

586 Interscholastic Athletic Conference;

587 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
588 Representatives, who is an administrator at a school that is a member of
589 the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference;

590 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a
591 parent of a student athlete for a school that is a member of the
592 Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference; and

593 (7) The director of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic
594 Conference, or the director's designee.

595 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
596 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
597 of the General Assembly.

598 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
599 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
600 be filled by the appointing authority.

601 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
602 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
603 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
604 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
605 days after the effective date of this section.

606 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
607 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
608 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

609 (g) Not later than January 1, 2023, the task force shall submit a report,
610 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
611 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
612 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
613 education. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such
614 report or January 1, 2023, whichever is later.

615 Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) As used in this section:

616 (1) "School readiness program" has the same meaning as provided in
617 section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this act; and

618 (2) "Competitive municipality" means, for the fiscal year ending June
619 30, 2024, a municipality that is among the lowest fifty municipalities
620 when ranked by wealth, as determined by the Commissioner of Early
621 Childhood, and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, a municipality
622 that is among the lowest one hundred municipalities when ranked by
623 wealth, as determined by the commissioner.

624 (b) For the fiscal year ending July 1, 2023, and each fiscal year
625 thereafter, the Commissioner of Early Childhood shall coordinate with
626 local and regional school readiness councils to conduct needs
627 assessments for infant, toddler and preschool spaces in school readiness
628 programs throughout the state. The commissioner shall use the results
629 of such needs assessments to increase or adjust the number of infant,
630 toddler and preschool spaces in school readiness programs to meet the
631 need or demand of each community and to provide grants under section
632 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this act, in accordance
633 with subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of this section.

634 (c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the commissioner shall
635 increase or adjust the number of infant, toddler and preschool spaces, in
636 accordance with the needs assessments conducted pursuant to
637 subsection (b) of this section, in priority school districts, as described in
638 section 10-266p of the general statutes. The commissioner shall provide
639 grants under section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this
640 act, to accomplish such increase or adjustment in such spaces.

641 (d) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2025, and June 30, 2026, the
642 commissioner shall increase or adjust the number of infant, toddler and
643 preschool spaces, in accordance with the needs assessments conducted
644 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, in competitive municipalities.
645 The commissioner shall provide grants under section 10-16p of the

646 general statutes, as amended by this act, to accomplish such increase or
647 adjustment in such spaces.

648 (e) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and each fiscal year
649 thereafter, the commissioner shall increase or adjust the number of
650 infant, toddler and preschool spaces, in accordance with the needs
651 assessments conducted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, for
652 each community throughout the state. The commissioner shall provide
653 grants under section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this
654 act, to accomplish such increase or adjustment in such spaces.

655 Sec. 13. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-16q of the
656 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
657 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

658 (b) (1) [For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, the per child cost of
659 the Office of Early Childhood school readiness program offered by a
660 school readiness provider shall not exceed eight thousand nine hundred
661 twenty-seven dollars.] For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2021] 2023,
662 and each fiscal year thereafter, the per child cost of the Office of Early
663 Childhood school readiness program offered by a school readiness
664 provider shall not exceed [nine thousand twenty-seven dollars] (A)
665 sixteen thousand dollars for each child three years of age or under who
666 is in infant or toddler care and not in a preschool program, and (B)
667 fourteen thousand five hundred dollars for each child three years of age
668 or older who is in a preschool program.

669 Sec. 14. Section 10-16p of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes
670 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
671 *1, 2022*):

672 (a) As used in sections 10-16o to 10-16r, inclusive, as amended by this
673 act, 10-16u, 17b-749a and 17b-749c:

674 (1) "School readiness program" means a [nonsectarian] program that
675 (A) meets the standards set by the Office of Early Childhood pursuant

676 to subsection (b) of this section and the requirements of section 10-16q,
677 as amended by this act, and (B) provides a developmentally appropriate
678 learning experience of not less than four hundred fifty hours and one
679 hundred eighty days for eligible children, except as provided in
680 subsection (d) of section 10-16q;

681 (2) "Eligible children" means children three and four years of age and
682 children five years of age who are not eligible to enroll in school
683 pursuant to section 10-15c, or who are eligible to enroll in school and
684 will attend a school readiness program pursuant to section 10-16t;

685 (3) "Priority school" means a school in which forty per cent or more
686 of the lunches served are served to students who are eligible for free or
687 reduced price lunches pursuant to federal law and regulations,
688 excluding such a school located in a priority school district pursuant to
689 section 10-266p or in a former priority school district receiving a grant
690 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and, on and after July 1, 2001,
691 excluding such a school in a transitional school district receiving a grant
692 pursuant to section 10-16u;

693 (4) "Severe need school" means a school in a priority school district
694 pursuant to section 10-266p or in a former priority school district in
695 which forty per cent or more of the lunches served are served to students
696 who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches;

697 (5) "Accredited" means accredited by the National Association for the
698 Education of Young Children, National Association for Family Child
699 Care, a Head Start on-site program review instrument or a successor
700 instrument pursuant to federal regulations, or otherwise meeting such
701 criteria as may be established by the commissioner, unless the context
702 otherwise requires;

703 (6) "Year-round" means fifty weeks per year, except as provided in
704 subsection (d) of section 10-16q;

705 (7) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Early Childhood;

706 (8) "Office" means the Office of Early Childhood;

707 (9) "Seeking accreditation" means a school readiness program seeking
708 accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young
709 Children, National Association for Family Child Care or a Head Start
710 on-site program review instrument or successor instrument pursuant to
711 federal regulations, or attempting to meet criteria as may be established
712 by the commissioner; and

713 (10) "Concentration in early childhood education" means a program
714 of study in early childhood education, including, but not limited to,
715 early childhood education, child study, child development or human
716 growth and development.

717 (b) (1) The office shall be the lead agency for school readiness. For
718 purposes of this section and section 10-16u, school readiness program
719 providers eligible for funding from the office shall include local and
720 regional boards of education, regional educational service centers,
721 family resource centers and providers of child care centers, group child
722 care homes and family child care homes, as described in section 19a-77,
723 as amended by this act, Head Start programs, preschool programs and
724 other programs that meet any standards established by the
725 commissioner. The office shall establish standards for school readiness
726 programs. The standards may include, but need not be limited to,
727 guidelines for staff-child interactions, curriculum content, including
728 preliteracy development, lesson plans, parental involvement, staff
729 qualifications and training, transition to school and administration. The
730 office shall develop age-appropriate developmental skills and goals for
731 children attending such programs. The commissioner, in consultation
732 with the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities,
733 the Commissioners of Education and Social Services and other
734 appropriate entities, shall develop a professional development program
735 for the staff of school readiness programs.

736 (2) For purposes of this section:

737 (A) Prior to July 1, 2022, "staff qualifications" means that for each
738 early childhood education program accepting state funds for infant,
739 toddler and preschool spaces associated with such program's child care
740 program or school readiness program, there is in each classroom an
741 individual who has at least the following: (i) A childhood development
742 associate credential or an equivalent credential issued by an
743 organization approved by the commissioner and twelve credits or more
744 in early childhood education or child development, as determined by
745 the commissioner or the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and
746 Universities, after consultation with the commissioner, from an
747 institution of higher education (I) accredited by the Board of Regents for
748 Higher Education or Office of Higher Education, and (II) regionally
749 accredited; (ii) an associate degree with twelve credits or more in early
750 childhood education or child development, as determined by the
751 commissioner or the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and
752 Universities, after consultation with the commissioner, from such an
753 institution; (iii) a four-year degree with twelve credits or more in early
754 childhood education or child development, as determined by the
755 commissioner or the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and
756 Universities, after consultation with the commissioner, from such an
757 institution; (iv) certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an
758 endorsement in early childhood education or special education; (v) an
759 associate degree with a concentration in early childhood education from
760 an institution of higher education that is regionally accredited; or (vi) a
761 bachelor's degree with a concentration in early childhood education
762 from an institution of higher education that is regionally accredited;

763 (B) From July 1, 2022, until June 30, 2025, "staff qualifications" means
764 that for each early childhood education program accepting state funds
765 for infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such program's
766 child care program or school readiness program, (i) at least fifty per cent
767 of those individuals with the primary responsibility for a classroom of
768 children (I) hold certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an
769 endorsement in early childhood education or early childhood special
770 education, (II) have been issued an early childhood teacher credential,

771 pursuant to section 10-520b, (III) hold at least an associate degree with a
772 concentration in early childhood education from an institution of higher
773 education that is regionally accredited, or (IV) satisfy the requirements
774 of subdivision (3), (4) or (5) of this subsection, and (ii) such remaining
775 individuals with the primary responsibility for a classroom of children
776 hold a childhood development associate credential or an equivalent
777 credential issued by an organization approved by the commissioner and
778 twelve credits or more in early childhood education or child
779 development, as determined by the commissioner or the president of
780 the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, after consultation with
781 the commissioner, from an institution of higher education (I) accredited
782 by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher
783 Education, and (II) regionally accredited;

784 (C) From July 1, 2025, until June 30, 2029, "staff qualifications" means
785 that for each early childhood education program accepting state funds
786 for infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such program's
787 child care program or school readiness program, (i) at least fifty per cent
788 of those individuals with the primary responsibility for a classroom of
789 children (I) hold certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an
790 endorsement in early childhood education or early childhood special
791 education, (II) have been issued an early childhood teacher credential,
792 pursuant to subdivision (2) of section 10-520b, (III) hold at least a
793 bachelor's degree with a concentration in early childhood education
794 from an institution of higher education that is regionally accredited, or
795 (IV) satisfy the requirements of subdivision (3), (4) or (5) of this
796 subsection, and (ii) such remaining individuals with the primary
797 responsibility for a classroom of children (I) hold an associate degree
798 with a concentration in early childhood education from an institution of
799 higher education that is regionally accredited, or (II) have been issued
800 an early childhood teacher credential, pursuant to subdivision (1) of
801 section 10-520b; and

802 (D) On and after July 1, 2029, "staff qualifications" means that for each
803 early childhood education program accepting state funds for infant,

804 toddler and preschool spaces associated with such program's child care
805 program or school readiness program, one hundred per cent of those
806 individuals with the primary responsibility for a classroom of children
807 (i) hold certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an endorsement in
808 early childhood education or early childhood special education, (ii) have
809 been issued an early childhood teacher credential, pursuant to
810 subdivision (2) of section 10-520b, (iii) hold at least a bachelor's degree
811 with a concentration in early childhood education from an institution of
812 higher education that is regionally accredited, or (iv) satisfy the
813 requirements of subdivision (3), (4) or (5) of this subsection.

814 (3) Any individual with a bachelor's degree in early childhood
815 education or child development or a bachelor's degree and twelve
816 credits or more in early childhood education or child development,
817 who, on or before June 30, 2015, is employed by an early childhood
818 education program that accepts state funds for infant, toddler and
819 preschool spaces associated with such program's child care program or
820 school readiness program shall be considered to meet the staff
821 qualifications required under subparagraphs (B) to (D), inclusive, of
822 subdivision (2) of this subsection. No such early childhood education
823 program shall terminate any such individual from employment for
824 purposes of meeting the staff qualification requirements set forth in
825 subparagraph (B), (C) or (D) of subdivision (2) of this subsection.

826 (4) Any individual with an associate degree or a bachelor's degree in
827 early childhood education or child development or an associate degree
828 or a bachelor's degree and twelve credits or more in early childhood
829 education or child development from an institution of higher education
830 that is regionally accredited, other than an associate degree or a
831 bachelor's degree with a concentration in early childhood education,
832 may submit documentation concerning such degree for review and
833 assessment by the office as to whether such degree has a sufficient
834 concentration in early childhood education so as to satisfy the
835 requirements set forth in subparagraphs (B) to (D), inclusive, of
836 subdivision (2) of this subsection.

837 (5) Any individual with an associate degree with twelve credits or
838 more in early childhood education or child development, as determined
839 by the commissioner or the president of the Connecticut State Colleges
840 and Universities, after consultation with the commissioner, from an
841 institution of higher education (A) accredited by the Board of Regents
842 for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education, and (B) regionally
843 accredited, who has been employed in the same early childhood
844 education program that accepts state funds for infant, toddler and
845 preschool spaces associated with such program's child care program or
846 school readiness program since 1995 shall be considered to meet the staff
847 qualifications required under subparagraphs (B) to (D), inclusive, of
848 subdivision (2) of this subsection until June 30, 2025. On and after July
849 1, 2025, such individual shall hold a childhood development associate
850 credential or an equivalent credential, described in subparagraph (A) of
851 subdivision (2) of this subsection, or otherwise meet the staff
852 qualifications required under subparagraphs (C) and (D) of subdivision
853 (2) of this subsection. Any such individual who terminates his or her
854 employment with such early childhood education program on or before
855 June 30, 2025, and accepts a position at another early childhood
856 education program accepting state funds for spaces associated with
857 such program's child care program or school readiness program shall
858 submit documentation of such individual's progress toward meeting
859 the staff qualification requirements set forth in subparagraph (B) to (D),
860 inclusive, of subdivision (2) of this subsection in a manner determined
861 by the office.

862 (c) The commissioner shall establish a grant program to provide
863 spaces in accredited school readiness programs located in priority
864 school districts, as described in section 10-266p, or in former priority
865 school districts for eligible children. The state, acting by and in the
866 discretion of the Commissioner of Early Childhood, in consultation with
867 a town or regional school readiness council, may enter into a contract
868 with a municipality, local or regional board of education, regional
869 educational service center, family resource center, provider of a child
870 care center, group child care home or family child care home, as

871 described in section 19a-77, as amended by this act, Head Start program,
872 preschool program or other program that meets such standards
873 established by the commissioner, to provide, within available
874 appropriations, state financial assistance. Eligibility shall be determined
875 for a five-year period based on an applicant's designation as a priority
876 school district for the initial year of application, except that if a school
877 district that receives a grant pursuant to this subsection is no longer
878 designated as a priority school district at the end of such five-year
879 period, such former priority school district shall continue to be eligible
880 to receive a grant pursuant to this subsection. Grant awards shall be
881 made annually contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory
882 annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town and the
883 superintendent of schools for such priority school district or former
884 priority school district shall submit a plan for the expenditure of grant
885 funds and responses to the local request for proposal process to the
886 commissioner. The commissioner shall review and approve such plans.
887 The plan shall: (1) Be developed in consultation with the local or
888 regional school readiness council established pursuant to section 10-16r,
889 as amended by this act; (2) be based on a needs and resource assessment;
890 (3) provide for the issuance of requests for proposals for providers of
891 accredited school readiness programs, provided, after the initial
892 requests for proposals, facilities that have been approved to operate a
893 child care program financed through the Connecticut Health and
894 Education Facilities Authority and have received a commitment for debt
895 service from the Department of Social Services, pursuant to section 17b-
896 749i, on or before June 30, 2014, and on or after July 1, 2014, from the
897 office, are exempt from the requirement for issuance of annual requests
898 for proposals; and (4) identify the need for funding pursuant to section
899 17b-749a in order to extend the hours and days of operation of school
900 readiness programs in order to provide child care services for children
901 attending such programs.

902 (d) (1) The commissioner shall establish a competitive grant program
903 to provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs or school
904 readiness programs seeking accreditation located in (A) an area served

905 by a priority school or a former priority school, (B) a town ranked one
906 to fifty when all towns are ranked in ascending order according to town
907 wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f, whose school
908 district is not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p, (C) a
909 town formerly a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,
910 as provided for in subdivision (2) of this subsection, or (D) a town
911 designated as an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u, whose
912 school district is not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-
913 266p. A town in which a priority school is located, a regional school
914 readiness council, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-16r, as
915 amended by this act, for a region in which such a school is located or a
916 town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision may apply for
917 such a grant in an amount equal to the number of spaces in an accredited
918 school readiness program or a school readiness program seeking
919 accreditation multiplied by the per child cost set forth in subdivision (1)
920 of subsection (b) of section 10-16q, as amended by this act. Eligibility
921 shall be determined for a three-year period based on an applicant's
922 designation as having a priority school or being a town described in
923 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision for the initial year of application.
924 The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of Early
925 Childhood, in consultation with a town or regional school readiness
926 council, may enter into a contract with a municipality, local or regional
927 board of education, regional educational service center, family resource
928 center, provider of a child care center, group child care home or family
929 child care home, as described in section 19a-77, as amended by this act,
930 Head Start program, preschool program or other program that meets
931 such standards established by the commissioner, to provide, within
932 available appropriations, state financial assistance. The chief elected
933 official of such town and the superintendent of schools of the school
934 district or the regional school readiness council shall submit a plan, as
935 described in subsection (c) of this section, for the expenditure of such
936 grant funds to the commissioner. In awarding grants pursuant to this
937 subsection, the commissioner shall give preference to applications
938 submitted by regional school readiness councils and may, within

939 available appropriations, provide a grant to such town or regional
940 school readiness council that increases the number of spaces for eligible
941 children who reside in an area or town described in subparagraphs (A)
942 to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision, in an accredited school readiness
943 program or a school readiness program seeking accreditation.

944 (2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision,
945 commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, if a town received
946 a grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection and is no longer
947 eligible to receive such a grant, the town may receive a phase-out grant
948 for each of the three fiscal years following the fiscal year such town
949 received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

950 (B) The amount of such phase-out grants shall be determined as
951 follows: (i) For the first fiscal year following the fiscal year such town
952 received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in
953 an amount that does not exceed seventy-five per cent of the grant
954 amount such town received for the town or school's final year of
955 eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection; (ii) for the
956 second fiscal year following the fiscal year such town received its final
957 grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that
958 does not exceed fifty per cent of the grant amount such town received
959 for the town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to subdivision
960 (1) of this subsection; and (iii) for the third fiscal year following the fiscal
961 year such town received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of
962 this subsection, in an amount that does not exceed twenty-five per cent
963 of the grant amount such town received for the town's or school's final
964 year of eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

965 (C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, and each fiscal year
966 thereafter, any town that received a grant pursuant to subparagraph (B)
967 of subdivision (1) of this subsection for the fiscal year ending June 30,
968 2010, shall continue to receive a grant under this subsection even if the
969 town no longer meets the criteria for such grant pursuant to
970 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

971 (e) (1) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of this
972 section are not expended, the commissioner may deposit such
973 unexpended funds in the account established under section 10-16aa and
974 use such unexpended funds in accordance with the provisions of section
975 10-16aa.

976 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, and each fiscal year
977 thereafter, if funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of
978 this section are not expended, an amount up to one million dollars of
979 such unexpended funds may be available for the provision of
980 scholarships and professional development for early childhood care and
981 education program providers, and individual staff members employed
982 in such programs, provided such programs accept state funds for infant,
983 toddler and preschool slots. Such unexpended funds may be available
984 for use in accordance with the provisions of this [subparagraph]
985 subdivision for the subsequent fiscal year. The commissioner may use
986 such unexpended funds on and after July 1, 2015, to support early
987 childhood education programs accepting state funds in satisfying the
988 staff qualifications requirements of subparagraphs (B) and (C) of
989 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section. The commissioner shall
990 use any such funds to provide assistance to individual staff members,
991 giving priority to those staff members (A) attending an institution of
992 higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher
993 Education or the Office of Higher Education, and approved by the
994 Office of Early Childhood, and regionally accredited, at a maximum of
995 ten thousand dollars per staff member per year for the cost of higher
996 education courses leading to a bachelor's degree or, not later than
997 December 31, 2015, an associate degree, as such degrees are described
998 in said subparagraphs (B) and (C), or (B) receiving noncredit
999 competency-based training approved by the office, at a maximum of one
1000 thousand dollars per staff member per year, provided such staff
1001 members have applied for all available federal and state scholarships
1002 and grants, and such assistance does not exceed such staff members'
1003 financial need. Individual staff members shall apply for such
1004 unexpended funds in a manner determined by the commissioner. The

1005 commissioner shall determine how such unexpended funds shall be
1006 distributed.

1007 (3) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of this
1008 section are not expended pursuant to subsection (c) of this section,
1009 deposited pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, or used
1010 pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, the commissioner may
1011 use such unexpended funds to support local school readiness programs.
1012 The commissioner may use such funds for purposes including, but not
1013 limited to, (A) assisting local school readiness programs in meeting and
1014 maintaining accreditation requirements, (B) providing training in
1015 implementing the preschool assessment and curriculum frameworks,
1016 including training to enhance literacy teaching skills, (C) developing a
1017 state-wide preschool curriculum, (D) developing student assessments
1018 for students in grades kindergarten to two, inclusive, (E) developing
1019 and implementing best practices for parents in supporting preschool
1020 and kindergarten student learning, (F) developing and implementing
1021 strategies for children to successfully transition to preschool and from
1022 preschool to kindergarten, including through parental engagement and
1023 whole-family supports that may be utilized through the two-
1024 generational initiative, established pursuant to section 17b-112l, or
1025 through other available resources, (G) providing for professional
1026 development, including assisting in career ladder advancement, for
1027 school readiness staff, (H) providing supplemental grants to other
1028 towns that are eligible for grants pursuant to subsection (c) of this
1029 section, and (I) developing a plan to provide spaces in an accredited
1030 school readiness program or a school readiness program seeking
1031 accreditation to all eligible children who reside in an area or town
1032 described in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of
1033 subsection (d) of this section.

1034 (f) Any school readiness program that receives funds pursuant to this
1035 section or section 10-16u shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color,
1036 national origin, gender, religion or disability. For purposes of this
1037 section, a nonsectarian program means any public or private school

1038 readiness program that is not violative of the Establishment Clause of
1039 the Constitution of the State of Connecticut or the Establishment Clause
1040 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

1041 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, no funds received by
1042 a town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-16u
1043 shall be used to supplant federal, state or local funding received by such
1044 town for early childhood education, provided a town may use an
1045 amount determined in accordance with this subsection for coordination,
1046 program evaluation and administration. Such amount shall be at least
1047 five per cent of the total grant allocation, but not more than seventy-five
1048 thousand dollars and shall be determined by the commissioner based
1049 on the school readiness grant award allocated to the town pursuant to
1050 subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-16u and the number of
1051 operating sites for coordination, program evaluation and
1052 administration. Such amount shall be increased by an amount equal to
1053 local funding provided for early childhood education coordination,
1054 program evaluation and administration, not to exceed twenty-five
1055 thousand dollars. Each town that receives a grant pursuant to
1056 subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-16u shall designate a
1057 person to be responsible for such coordination, program evaluation and
1058 administration and to act as a liaison between the town and the
1059 commissioner. Each school readiness program that receives funds
1060 pursuant to this section or section 10-16u shall provide information to
1061 the commissioner or the school readiness council, as requested, that is
1062 necessary for purposes of any school readiness program evaluation.

1063 (h) Any town receiving a grant pursuant to this section may use such
1064 grant, with the approval of the commissioner, to prepare a facility or
1065 staff for operating a school readiness program and shall be adjusted
1066 based on the number of days of operation of a school readiness program
1067 if a shorter term of operation is approved by the commissioner.

1068 (i) A town may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible
1069 children who reside in such town at an accredited school readiness

1070 program located in another town. A regional school readiness council
1071 may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible children who reside
1072 in the region covered by the council at an accredited school readiness
1073 program located outside such region.

1074 (j) Children enrolled in school readiness programs funded pursuant
1075 to this section shall not be counted (1) as resident students for purposes
1076 of subdivision (22) of section 10-262f, or (2) in the determination of
1077 average daily membership pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a)
1078 of section 10-261.

1079 (k) (1) Up to two per cent of the amount of the appropriation for this
1080 section may be allocated to the competitive grant program pursuant to
1081 subsection (d) of this section. The determination of the amount of such
1082 allocation shall be made on or before August first.

1083 (2) Up to two per cent of the amount of the appropriation for this
1084 section may be used by the commissioner in a manner consistent with
1085 the provisions of section 10-509.

1086 [(l) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, and each fiscal year
1087 thereafter, any school readiness program that (1) is licensed by the
1088 Office of Early Childhood pursuant to chapter 368a, (2) provides full-
1089 day and year-round child care and education programs for children,
1090 and (3) receives funds pursuant to this section or section 10-16u, shall
1091 use any amount of the per child cost as described in subdivision (1) of
1092 subsection (b) of section 10-16q that is over the amount of eight
1093 thousand nine hundred twenty-seven dollars, exclusively to increase
1094 the salaries of those individuals with direct responsibility for teaching
1095 or caring for children in a classroom at such school readiness program.]

1096 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) As used in this section and
1097 section 16 of this act:

1098 (1) "Compensation schedule" means the early childhood educator
1099 compensation schedule developed by the Office of Early Childhood

1100 pursuant to section 10-531 of the general statutes, as amended by this
1101 act;

1102 (2) "Early childhood care and education program" means a child care
1103 services provider, early childhood education program or license-exempt
1104 early childhood provider;

1105 (3) "Child care services provider" means a child care center or a group
1106 child care home, as those terms are described in section 19a-77 of the
1107 general statutes, as amended by this act;

1108 (4) "Early childhood education program" means a private preschool
1109 program, a school readiness program or program pursuant to section 8-
1110 210 of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

1111 (5) "School readiness program" has the same meaning as provided in
1112 section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

1113 (6) "License-exempt early childhood provider" means any child care
1114 services provider or school readiness program that accepts state funds
1115 for infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such program
1116 that is not required to be licensed pursuant to subsection (b) of section
1117 19a-77 of the general statutes, and is located in a public school building
1118 but is not administered by a public school system;

1119 (7) "Employee" means a person who is employed by an early
1120 childhood care and education program and meets the eligibility criteria
1121 described in the compensation schedule and policy developed by the
1122 Office of Early Childhood pursuant to subsection (e) of this section;

1123 (8) "Base salary" means the annual salary that an employee was paid
1124 on December 31, 2021, or, if the position was vacant on December 31,
1125 2021, the starting annual salary for such position on said date;

1126 (9) "Benefits amount" means seven thousand five hundred dollars;

1127 (10) "Individual employee salary enhancement amount" means, for

1128 any fiscal year, the sum of (A) the difference between (i) the salary
1129 prescribed in the compensation schedule for an employee, and (ii) the
1130 amount of such employee's base salary, and (B) the benefits amount;

1131 (11) "Salary enhancement amount" means the sum of the total
1132 individual employee salary enhancement amounts for all employees of
1133 an early childhood care and education program for the fiscal year; and

1134 (12) "Family child care home" has the same meaning as provided in
1135 section 19a-77 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

1136 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year
1137 thereafter, the Office of Early Childhood shall administer the early
1138 childhood care and education salary enhancement grant program. The
1139 office shall annually pay to each early childhood care and education
1140 program a salary enhancement grant in the amount of such program's
1141 salary enhancement amount. Such programs shall distribute such grant
1142 funds to its employees in accordance with the policy developed by the
1143 Commissioner of Early Childhood pursuant to subsection (e) of this
1144 section.

1145 (c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year
1146 thereafter, the office shall annually pay to each family child care home
1147 a salary enhancement grant as follows: (1) Twenty thousand dollars for
1148 each licensee of a family child care home, (2) six thousand dollars for
1149 each full-time assistant or substitute staff member approved by the
1150 Commissioner of Early Childhood pursuant to section 19a-87b of the
1151 general statutes, and (3) three thousand dollars for each part-time
1152 assistant or substitute staff member approved by the commissioner
1153 pursuant to section 19a-87b of the general statutes, and employed by the
1154 family child care home. The licensee shall distribute such grant funds in
1155 accordance with the policy developed by the commissioner pursuant to
1156 subsection (e) of this section.

1157 (d) Each early childhood care and education program shall register,
1158 at such time and in such manner as prescribed by the commissioner,

1159 with the Office of Early Childhood to receive a grant under the program.
1160 Upon registration, such program shall provide any information
1161 required by the office, in accordance with the policy developed by the
1162 commissioner pursuant to subsection (e) of this section.

1163 (e) Not later than October 1, 2022, the commissioner shall develop a
1164 policy for the administration of the early childhood care and education
1165 salary enhancement grant program. The policy shall include, but need
1166 not be limited to, eligibility criteria for the program, the registration
1167 process for the program, the distribution requirements of the grant and
1168 any other requirements the commissioner deems necessary.

1169 Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) On and after July 1, 2022, each
1170 employee of an early childhood care and education program shall be
1171 paid an annual salary as prescribed in the compensation schedule
1172 developed pursuant to section 10-531 of the general statutes, as
1173 amended by this act, except if an employee's salary is greater than the
1174 amount prescribed in such compensation schedule then such employee
1175 shall be paid such greater amount.

1176 Sec. 17. Section 10-531 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1177 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

1178 (a) As used in this section:

1179 (1) "Early childhood education program" means any child care or
1180 school readiness program that accepts state funds for infant, toddler and
1181 preschool spaces associated with such program;

1182 (2) "Employee" means any person who is employed by an early
1183 childhood care and education program and meets the [applicable staff
1184 qualifications requirement, as defined in section 10-16p] eligibility
1185 criteria described in the compensation schedule and policy developed
1186 by the Office of Early Childhood pursuant to subsection (e) of section 1
1187 of this act;

1188 (3) "Compensation" means the salary, wages, benefits and other

1189 forms of valuable consideration earned by and provided to an employee
1190 in remuneration for services rendered; [and]

1191 (4) "Compensation schedule" means a list or lists specifying a series
1192 of compensation steps and ranges; [.]

1193 (5) "Early childhood care and education program" means a child care
1194 services provider or an early childhood education program;

1195 (6) "Child care services provider" means a child care center or a group
1196 child care home, as those terms are described in section 19a-77, as
1197 amended by this act;

1198 (7) "Early childhood education program" means a private preschool
1199 program, a school readiness program or program pursuant to section 8-
1200 210, as amended by this act; and

1201 (8) "School readiness program" has the same meaning as provided in
1202 section 10-16p, as amended by this act.

1203 (b) The Office of Early Childhood shall establish, after notice and
1204 opportunity for public comment, a proposed early childhood educator
1205 compensation schedule for employees of early childhood education
1206 programs.

1207 (c) (1) The office shall consider the following factors in developing the
1208 proposed early childhood educator compensation schedule: (A) Level
1209 of education, (B) training in early childhood education or child
1210 development, (C) relevant employment experience, including the
1211 number of years an individual has been employed in an early childhood
1212 education program, (D) compensation levels for certified teachers
1213 employed in a preschool program operated by a local or regional board
1214 of education or regional educational service center, and (E) cost of living
1215 in the state.

1216 (2) In developing the proposed early childhood educator
1217 compensation schedule, the office may (A) consider the findings and

1218 recommendations provided in "A Plan to Assist Early Education State
1219 Funded Providers to Degree Attainment and Increased Compensation"
1220 created by the office, pursuant to section 4 of public act 15-134, to create
1221 a standardized salary scale and incentive package for early childhood
1222 educators, (B) utilize state and federal funding, and (C) examine existing
1223 programs that address early childhood educator compensation and staff
1224 retention through financial incentives, such as bonuses for degree or
1225 course completion.

1226 (3) The office shall establish a recommended minimum salary for
1227 employees as part of the proposed early childhood educator
1228 compensation schedule.

1229 (d) Not later than January 1, 2021, the office shall submit the proposed
1230 early childhood educator compensation schedule and a report to the
1231 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
1232 of matters relating to education and appropriations and the budgets of
1233 state agencies, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a. Such
1234 report shall include: (1) Any recommendations for legislation relating to
1235 state-wide implementation of the proposed early childhood educator
1236 compensation schedule, (2) an estimate of the cost of implementing the
1237 proposed early childhood educator compensation schedule state-wide,
1238 (3) an analysis of the effect of the state-wide implementation of the
1239 proposed early childhood educator compensation schedule on the
1240 number of available preschool seats, and (4) an explanation of how the
1241 proposed early childhood educator compensation schedule will be
1242 included in any quality rating and improvement system developed by
1243 the office, pursuant to subdivision (15) of subsection (b) of section 10-
1244 500.

1245 (e) Not later than January 1, 2023, the office shall amend the
1246 compensation schedule to include employees of early childhood care
1247 and education programs.

1248 Sec. 18. (*Effective July 1, 2022*) The sum of sixty thousand dollars is
1249 appropriated to the Department of Education from the General Fund,

1250 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, for the purpose of hiring a full-
1251 time employee to administer the grant program to provide grants to
1252 local and regional boards of education for the purpose of hiring and
1253 retaining additional school social workers and school psychologists
1254 described in section 2 of this act.

1255 Sec. 19. (*Effective July 1, 2022*) The sum of thirty thousand dollars is
1256 appropriated to the Department of Education from the General Fund,
1257 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, for the purpose of hiring a full-
1258 time employee to administer the minority teacher candidate scholarship
1259 program established pursuant to section 9 of this act.

1260 Sec. 20. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of five hundred ninety
1261 thousand dollars of the amount appropriated in section 21 of this act to
1262 the Department of Public Health for school-based health clinics, for the
1263 fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, shall be made available for a grant to
1264 each of the thirty-six recommended sites for expanded mental health
1265 services contained in the final report of the School-Based Health Center
1266 Expansion Working Group, established pursuant to section 16 of public
1267 act 21-35.

1268 Sec. 21. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of twenty-one million two
1269 hundred forty thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of
1270 Public Health from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30,
1271 2022, for the purpose of expanding services of existing school-based
1272 health centers to include mental health services in accordance with the
1273 provisions of section 20 of this act.

1274 Sec. 22. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of thirteen million dollars is
1275 allocated, in accordance with the provisions of special act 21-1, from the
1276 federal funds designated for the state pursuant to the provisions of
1277 section 602 of Subtitle M of Title IX of the American Rescue Plan Act of
1278 2021, P.L. 117-2, as amended from time to time, to the Department of
1279 Education, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, for support to the
1280 existing fifteen districts participating in the Learner Engagement and
1281 Attendance Program (LEAP) and expanding participation in the LEAP

1282 program to include five additional high-need districts.

1283 Sec. 23. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of thirteen million dollars is
 1284 allocated, in accordance with the provisions of special act 21-1, from the
 1285 federal funds designated for the state pursuant to the provisions of
 1286 section 602 of Subtitle M of Title IX of the American Rescue Plan Act of
 1287 2021, P.L. 117-2, as amended from time to time, to the Department of
 1288 Education, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, for support to the
 1289 existing fifteen districts participating in the Learner Engagement and
 1290 Attendance Program (LEAP) and expanding participation in the LEAP
 1291 program to include five additional high-need districts.

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, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	10-212a
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	21a-286
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	10-16q(b)(1)
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	10-16p
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	10-531
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 20	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 21	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 22	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 23	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To expand health services in schools.

[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.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.; SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.
SEN. ANWAR, 3rd Dist.; SEN. CABRERA, 17th Dist.
SEN. CASSANO, 4th Dist.; SEN. COHEN, 12th Dist.
SEN. DAUGHERTY ABRAMS, 13th Dist.; SEN. FLEXER, 29th
Dist.
SEN. FONFARA, 1st Dist.; SEN. HASKELL, 26th Dist.
SEN. KUSHNER, 24th Dist.; SEN. LESSER, 9th Dist.
SEN. LOPES, 6th Dist.; SEN. MCCRORY, 2nd Dist.
SEN. MILLER P., 27th Dist.; SEN. MOORE, 22nd Dist.
SEN. SLAP, 5th Dist.; SEN. WINFIELD, 10th Dist.
REP. WINKLER, 56th Dist.; REP. MICHEL, 146th Dist.
REP. THOMAS, 143rd Dist.; REP. MORRIN BELLO, 28th Dist.
REP. NOLAN, 39th Dist.; REP. TURCO, 27th Dist.
REP. CONCEPCION, 4th Dist.

S.B. 1