



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1

February Session, 2022



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, school psychologists, school counselors and
6 school nurses by such local or regional board of education. Such survey
7 shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) the total number of (A)
8 school social workers employed by each local or regional board of
9 education, (B) school psychologists employed by each local or regional
10 board of education, (C) school counselors employed by each local and
11 regional board of education, and (D) school nurses employed by each
12 local and regional board of education; (2) the number of (A) school social
13 workers assigned to each school under the jurisdiction of the local or
14 regional board of education, including whether any such school social
15 worker is assigned solely to that school or whether such school social
16 worker is assigned to multiple schools, (B) school psychologists
17 assigned to each school under the jurisdiction of the local or regional
18 board of education, including whether any such school psychologist is
19 assigned solely to that school or whether such school psychologist is

20 assigned to multiple schools, (C) school counselors assigned to each
21 school under the jurisdiction of the local or regional board of education,
22 including whether any such school counselor is assigned solely to that
23 school or whether such school counselor is assigned to multiple schools,
24 and (D) school nurses assigned to each school under the jurisdiction of
25 the local or regional board of education, including whether any such
26 school nurse is assigned solely to that school or whether such school
27 nurse is assigned to multiple schools; (3) the geographic area covered by
28 (A) any such school social worker who provides services to more than
29 one local or regional board of education, (B) any such school
30 psychologist who provides services to more than one local or regional
31 board of education, (C) any such school counselor who provides
32 services to more than one local or regional board of education, and (D)
33 any such school nurse who provides services to more than one local or
34 regional board of education; and (4) an estimate of the annual number
35 of students who have received direct services from each individual (A)
36 school social worker employed by a local or regional board of education
37 during the five-year period preceding completion of the survey, (B)
38 school psychologist employed by a local or regional board of education
39 during the five-year period preceding completion of the survey, (C)
40 school counselor employed by a local or regional board of education
41 during the five-year period preceding completion of the survey, and (D)
42 school nurse employed by a local or regional board of education during
43 the five-year period preceding completion of the survey.

44 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year
45 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall annually
46 complete the survey developed and distributed pursuant to subsection
47 (a) of this section to the commissioner, and submit such completed
48 survey to the commissioner, at such time and in such manner as the
49 commissioner prescribes.

50 (c) Following the receipt of a completed survey from a local or
51 regional board of education, the commissioner shall annually calculate
52 (1) a student-to-school social worker ratio for (A) such board of

53 education, and (B) each school under the jurisdiction of such board of
54 education, (2) a student-to-school psychologist ratio for (A) such board
55 of education, and (B) each school under the jurisdiction of such board of
56 education, (3) a student-to-school counselor ratio for (A) such board of
57 education, and (B) each school under the jurisdiction of such board of
58 education, and (4) a student-to-school nurse ratio for (A) such board of
59 education, and (B) each school under the jurisdiction of such board of
60 education.

61 (d) Not later than January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the
62 commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions
63 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the results of the survey
64 completed under this section and the student-to-school social worker
65 ratios, student-to-school psychologist ratios, student-to-school
66 counselor ratios and student-to-school nurse ratios calculated pursuant
67 to subsection (c) of this section, to the joint standing committees of the
68 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
69 and children.

70 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) For the fiscal years ending
71 June 30, 2023, to June 30, 2025, inclusive, the Department of Education
72 shall administer a grant program to provide grants to local and regional
73 boards of education for the purpose of hiring and retaining additional
74 school social workers, school psychologists, school counselors and
75 school nurses. For purposes of this section, "school social worker" means
76 a person who holds a professional educator certificate issued by the
77 State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-145b of the general
78 statutes, with a school social worker endorsement.

79 (b) Applications for grants pursuant to subsection (a) of this section
80 shall be filed with the Commissioner of Education at such time and in
81 such manner as the commissioner prescribes. As part of the application,
82 an applicant shall submit a (1) plan for the expenditure of grant funds,
83 and (2) copy of the completed survey described in section 1 of this act.
84 Such plan shall include, but need not be limited to, the number of
85 additional school social workers, school psychologists, school

86 counselors or school nurses to be hired, the number of school social
87 workers, school psychologists, school counselors or school nurses being
88 retained who were previously hired with the assistance of grant funds
89 awarded under this section, whether such school social workers, school
90 psychologists, school counselors or school nurses will be conducting
91 assessments of students or providing services to students based on the
92 results of assessments, and the type of services that will be provided by
93 such school social workers, school psychologists, school counselors and
94 school nurses.

95 (c) In determining whether to award an applicant a grant under this
96 section, the commissioner shall give priority to those school districts (1)
97 with large student-to-school social worker ratios, student-to-school
98 psychologist ratios, student-to-school counselor ratios, or student-to-
99 school nurse ratios, or (2) that have a high volume of student utilization
100 of mental health services.

101 (d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the commissioner may
102 award a grant to an applicant and shall determine the amount of the
103 grant award based on the plan submitted by such applicant pursuant to
104 subsection (b) of this section. The commissioner shall pay a grant to each
105 grant recipient in each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2023, to June
106 30, 2025, inclusive, as follows: (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023,
107 the amount of the grant shall be as determined by the commissioner
108 under this subsection; (2) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the
109 amount of the grant shall be the same amount as the grant awarded for
110 the prior fiscal year; and (3) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the
111 amount of the grant shall be seventy per cent of the amount of the grant
112 awarded for the prior fiscal year.

113 (e) Grant recipients shall file annual expenditure reports with the
114 department at such time and in such manner as the commissioner
115 prescribes. Grant recipients shall refund to the department (1) any
116 unexpended amounts at the close of the fiscal year in which the grant
117 was awarded, and (2) any amounts not expended in accordance with
118 the plan for which such grant application was approved.

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

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

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

132 (h) (1) Not later than January 1, 2024, and each January first thereafter
133 until and including January 1, 2026, the commissioner shall submit a
134 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
135 statutes, on the utilization rate for each grant recipient and the return on
136 investment for the grant program, calculated pursuant to subsection (f)
137 of this section, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
138 having cognizance of matters relating to education and children.

139 (2) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Education
140 shall develop recommendations concerning (A) whether such grant
141 program should be extended and funded for the fiscal year ending June
142 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, and (B) the amount of the grant
143 award under the program. The commissioner shall submit such
144 recommendations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of
145 the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General
146 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and
147 children.

148 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) The State Board of Education,
149 upon the request of a local or regional board of education or a regional

150 educational service center, may issue a human services permit to any
151 applicant with specialized training, experience or expertise in social
152 work, human services, psychology or sociology. Such permit shall
153 authorize a person to be employed by a local or regional board of
154 education or a regional educational service center and to provide, in
155 accordance with such person's scope of practice or within such person's
156 area of expertise or specialty, mental health and human services to
157 students. Such applicant shall (1) hold a bachelor's degree in social
158 work, human services, psychology, sociology or other equivalent
159 subject area from an institution of higher education accredited by the
160 Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or
161 regionally accredited, and (2) have a minimum of four years of work
162 experience in such subject areas, or one year of work experience and two
163 years of specialized schooling in such subject areas.

164 (b) Each such human services permit shall be valid for three years
165 and may be renewed by the Commissioner of Education for good cause
166 upon the request of the superintendent of schools for the district
167 employing such person or the regional educational service center
168 employing such person.

169 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) Not later than July 1, 2023, the
170 Department of Education, in collaboration with the governing authority
171 for intramural and interscholastic athletics, shall develop a mental
172 health plan for student athletes to raise awareness of mental health
173 resources available to student athletes. Such plan shall be made
174 available to local and regional boards of education and implemented in
175 accordance with the provisions of section 5 of this act. Such plan shall
176 include, but need not be limited to, provisions relating to (1) access to
177 the mental health services team for the school district, (2) screening and
178 recognizing appropriate referrals for student athletes, (3)
179 communication among members of the mental health services team, (4)
180 the management of medications of student athletes, (5) crisis
181 intervention services, (6) the mitigation of risk to student athletes, and
182 (7) transition care for those student athletes leaving intramural or

183 interscholastic athletics by means of graduation, dismissal or
184 suspension. The department shall make such plan available on its
185 Internet web site and provide technical assistance to local and regional
186 boards of education in the implementation of the plan.

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

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

194 (a) (1) A school nurse or, in the absence of such nurse, any other nurse
195 licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 378, including a nurse
196 employed by, or providing services under the direction of a local or
197 regional board of education at, a school-based health clinic, who shall
198 administer medical preparations only to students enrolled in such
199 school-based health clinic in the absence of a school nurse, the principal,
200 any teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational
201 therapist employed by a school district, or coach of intramural and
202 interscholastic athletics of a school may administer, subject to the
203 provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection, medicinal preparations,
204 including such controlled drugs as the Commissioner of Consumer
205 Protection may, by regulation, designate, to any student at such school
206 pursuant to the written order of a physician licensed to practice
207 medicine, or a dentist licensed to practice dental medicine in this or
208 another state, or an optometrist licensed to practice optometry in this
209 state under chapter 380, or an advanced practice registered nurse
210 licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a, or a physician
211 assistant licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-12d, and the
212 written authorization of a parent or guardian of such child. The
213 administration of medicinal preparations by a nurse licensed pursuant
214 to the provisions of chapter 378, a principal, teacher, licensed athletic
215 trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a

216 school district, or coach shall be under the general supervision of a
217 school nurse. No such school nurse or other nurse, principal, teacher,
218 licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist
219 employed by a school district, coach or school paraprofessional
220 administering medication pursuant to this section shall be liable to such
221 student or a parent or guardian of such student for civil damages for
222 any personal injuries that result from acts or omissions of such school
223 nurse or other nurse, principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer,
224 licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school
225 district, coach or school paraprofessional administering medication
226 pursuant to this section in administering such preparations that may
227 constitute ordinary negligence. This immunity does not apply to acts or
228 omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence.

229 (2) Each local and regional board of education that allows a school
230 nurse or, in the absence of such nurse, any other nurse licensed pursuant
231 to the provisions of chapter 378, including a nurse employed by, or
232 providing services under the direction of a local or regional board of
233 education at, a school-based health clinic, who shall administer medical
234 preparations only to students enrolled in such school-based health clinic
235 in the absence of a school nurse, the principal, any teacher, licensed
236 athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by
237 a school district, coach of intramural and interscholastic athletics or
238 school paraprofessional of a school to administer medicine or that
239 allows a student to possess, self-administer or possess and self-
240 administer medicine, including medicine administered through the use
241 of an asthmatic inhaler or an automatic prefilled cartridge injector or
242 similar automatic injectable equipment, shall adopt written policies and
243 procedures, in accordance with this section and the regulations adopted
244 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, that shall be approved by the
245 school medical advisor, if any, or other qualified licensed physician.
246 Once so approved, such administration of medication shall be in
247 accordance with such policies and procedures.

248 (3) A director of a school readiness program as defined in section 10-

249 16p, as amended by this act, or a before or after school program exempt
250 from licensure by the Department of Public Health pursuant to
251 subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 19a-77, or the director's
252 designee, may administer medications to a child enrolled in such a
253 program in accordance with regulations adopted by the State Board of
254 Education in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. No
255 individual administering medications pursuant to this subdivision shall
256 be liable to such child or a parent or guardian of such child for civil
257 damages for any personal injuries that result from acts or omissions of
258 such individual in administering such medications which may
259 constitute ordinary negligence. This immunity shall not apply to acts or
260 omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence.

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

266 (c) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
267 Commissioner of Public Health, shall adopt regulations, in accordance
268 with the provisions of chapter 54, determined to be necessary by the
269 board to carry out the provisions of this section, including, but not
270 limited to, regulations that (1) specify conditions under which a coach
271 of intramural and interscholastic athletics may administer medicinal
272 preparations, including controlled drugs specified in the regulations
273 adopted by the commissioner, to a child participating in such intramural
274 and interscholastic athletics, (2) specify conditions and procedures for
275 the administration of medication by school personnel to students,
276 including, but not limited to, (A) the conditions and procedures for the
277 storage and administration of epinephrine by school personnel to
278 students for the purpose of emergency first aid to students who
279 experience allergic reactions and who do not have a prior written
280 authorization for the administration of epinephrine, in accordance with
281 the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section, and (B)

282 the conditions and procedures for the storage and administration of
283 opioid antagonists by school personnel to students who experience an
284 opioid-related drug overdose and who do not have a prior written
285 authorization for the administration of an opioid antagonist, in
286 accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of
287 this section, and (3) specify conditions for the possession, self-
288 administration or possession and self-administration of medication by
289 students, including permitting a child diagnosed with: (A) Asthma to
290 retain possession of an asthmatic inhaler at all times while attending
291 school for prompt treatment of the child's asthma and to protect the
292 child against serious harm or death provided a written authorization for
293 self-administration of medication signed by the child's parent or
294 guardian and an authorized prescriber is submitted to the school nurse;
295 and (B) an allergic condition to retain possession of an automatic
296 prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment at
297 all times, including while attending school or receiving school
298 transportation services, for prompt treatment of the child's allergic
299 condition and to protect the child against serious harm or death
300 provided a written authorization for self-administration of medication
301 signed by the child's parent or guardian and an authorized prescriber is
302 submitted to the school nurse. The regulations shall require
303 authorization pursuant to: (i) The written order of a physician licensed
304 to practice medicine in this or another state, a dentist licensed to practice
305 dental medicine in this or another state, an advanced practice registered
306 nurse licensed under chapter 378, a physician assistant licensed under
307 chapter 370, a podiatrist licensed under chapter 375, or an optometrist
308 licensed under chapter 380; and (ii) the written authorization of a parent
309 or guardian of such child.

310 (d) (1) (A) With the written authorization of a student's parent or
311 guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order of a qualified medical
312 professional, a school nurse and a school medical advisor, if any, may
313 jointly approve and provide general supervision to an identified school
314 paraprofessional to administer medication, including, but not limited to,
315 medication administered with a cartridge injector, to a specific student

316 with a medically diagnosed allergic condition that may require prompt
317 treatment in order to protect the student against serious harm or death.

318 (2) A school nurse or, in the absence of a school nurse, a qualified
319 school employee shall maintain epinephrine in cartridge injectors for the
320 purpose of emergency first aid to students who experience allergic
321 reactions and do not have a prior written authorization of a parent or
322 guardian or a prior written order of a qualified medical professional for
323 the administration of epinephrine. A school nurse or a school principal
324 shall select qualified school employees to administer such epinephrine
325 under this subdivision, and there shall be at least one such qualified
326 school employee on the grounds of the school during regular school
327 hours in the absence of a school nurse. A school nurse or, in the absence
328 of such school nurse, such qualified school employee may administer
329 such epinephrine under this subdivision, provided such administration
330 of epinephrine is in accordance with policies and procedures adopted
331 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such administration of
332 epinephrine by a qualified school employee shall be limited to situations
333 when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. No qualified school
334 employee shall administer such epinephrine under this subdivision
335 unless such qualified school employee annually completes the training
336 program described in section 10-212g. The parent or guardian of a
337 student may submit, in writing, to the school nurse and school medical
338 advisor, if any, that epinephrine shall not be administered to such
339 student under this subdivision.

340 (3) In the case of a student with a medically diagnosed life-
341 threatening allergic condition, (A) with the written authorization of
342 such student's parent or guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order
343 of a qualified medical professional, such student may possess, self-
344 administer or possess and self-administer medication, including, but
345 not limited to, medication administered with a cartridge injector, to
346 protect such student against serious harm or death.

347 (4) For purposes of this subsection, (A) "cartridge injector" means an
348 automatic prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable

349 equipment used to deliver epinephrine in a standard dose for
350 emergency first aid response to allergic reactions, (B) "qualified school
351 employee" means a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed
352 physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach
353 or school paraprofessional, and (C) "qualified medical professional"
354 means (i) a physician licensed under chapter 370, (ii) an optometrist
355 licensed to practice optometry under chapter 380, (iii) an advanced
356 practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance with
357 section 20-94a, or (iv) a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in
358 accordance with section 20-12d.

359 (e) (1) With the written authorization of a student's parent or
360 guardian, and (2) pursuant to a written order of the student's physician
361 licensed under chapter 370 or the student's advanced practice registered
362 nurse licensed under chapter 378, a school nurse or a school principal
363 shall select, and a school nurse shall provide general supervision to, a
364 qualified school employee to administer medication with injectable
365 equipment used to administer glucagon to a student with diabetes that
366 may require prompt treatment in order to protect the student against
367 serious harm or death. Such authorization shall be limited to situations
368 when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. No qualified school
369 employee shall administer medication under this subsection unless (A)
370 such qualified school employee annually completes any training
371 required by the school nurse and school medical advisor, if any, in the
372 administration of medication with injectable equipment used to
373 administer glucagon, (B) the school nurse and school medical advisor,
374 if any, have attested, in writing, that such qualified school employee has
375 completed such training, and (C) such qualified school employee
376 voluntarily agrees to serve as a qualified school employee. For purposes
377 of this subsection, "injectable equipment used to administer glucagon"
378 means an injector or injectable equipment used to deliver glucagon in
379 an appropriate dose for emergency first aid response to diabetes. 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 (f) (1) (A) With the written authorization of a student's parent or
385 guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order of a physician licensed
386 under chapter 370 or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed
387 under chapter 378, a school nurse and a school medical advisor, if any,
388 shall select, and a school nurse shall provide general supervision to, a
389 qualified school employee to administer antiepileptic medication,
390 including by rectal syringe, to a specific student with a medically
391 diagnosed epileptic condition that requires prompt treatment in
392 accordance with the student's individual seizure action plan. Such
393 authorization shall be limited to situations when the school nurse is
394 absent or unavailable. No qualified school employee shall administer
395 medication under this subsection unless (i) such qualified school
396 employee annually completes the training program described in
397 subdivision (2) of this subsection, (ii) the school nurse and school
398 medical advisor, if any, have attested, in writing, that such qualified
399 school employee has completed such training, (iii) such qualified school
400 employee receives monthly reviews by the school nurse to confirm such
401 qualified school employee's competency to administer antiepileptic
402 medication under this subsection, and (iv) such qualified school
403 employee voluntarily agrees to serve as a qualified school employee. For
404 purposes of this subsection, "qualified school employee" means a
405 principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or
406 occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or school
407 paraprofessional.

408 (2) The Department of Education, in consultation with the School
409 Nurse Advisory Council, established pursuant to section 10-212f, and
410 the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut, shall develop an
411 antiepileptic medication administrating training program. Such training
412 program shall include instruction in (A) an overview of childhood
413 epilepsy and types of seizure disorders, (B) interpretation of individual
414 student's emergency seizure action plan and recognition of individual
415 student's seizure activity, (C) emergency management procedures for

416 seizure activity, including administration techniques for emergency
417 seizure medication, (D) when to activate emergency medical services
418 and postseizure procedures and follow-up, (E) reporting procedures
419 after a student has required such delegated emergency seizure
420 medication, and (F) any other relevant issues or topics related to
421 emergency interventions for students who experience seizures.

422 (g) (1) A school nurse or, in the absence of a school nurse, a qualified
423 school employee may maintain opioid antagonists for the purpose of
424 emergency first aid to students who experience an opioid-related drug
425 overdose and do not have a prior written authorization of a parent or
426 guardian or a prior written order of a qualified medical professional for
427 the administration of such opioid antagonist. A school nurse or a school
428 principal shall select qualified school employees to administer such
429 opioid antagonist under this subdivision, and there shall be at least one
430 such qualified school employee on the grounds of the school during
431 regular school hours in the absence of a school nurse. A school nurse or,
432 in the absence of such school nurse, such qualified school employee may
433 administer such opioid antagonist under this subdivision, provided
434 such administration of the opioid antagonist is in accordance with
435 policies and procedures adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of this
436 section. Such administration of an opioid antagonist by a qualified
437 school employee shall be limited to situations when the school nurse is
438 absent or unavailable. No school nurse or qualified school employee
439 shall administer such opioid antagonist under this subdivision unless
440 such school nurse or qualified school employee completes a training
441 program in the distribution and administration of an opioid antagonist
442 developed by the Department of Education, Department of Public
443 Health and the Department of Consumer Protection, or under an
444 agreement entered into pursuant to section 21a-286, as amended by this
445 act. The parent or guardian of a student may submit a request, in
446 writing, to the school nurse and school medical advisor, if any, that an
447 opioid antagonist shall not be administered to such student under this
448 subdivision.

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

454 (3) For purposes of this subsection, (A) "opioid antagonist" means
455 naloxone hydrochloride or any other similarly acting and equally safe
456 drug approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for the
457 treatment of a drug overdose, (B) "qualified school employee" means a
458 principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or
459 occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or school
460 paraprofessional, and (C) "qualified medical professional" means (i) a
461 physician licensed under chapter 370, (ii) an optometrist licensed to
462 practice optometry under chapter 380, (iii) an advanced practice
463 registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a,
464 or (iv) a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in accordance with
465 section 20-12d.

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

468 (a) For purposes of this section:

469 (1) "Opioid antagonist" shall have the meaning set forth in section
470 17a-714a.

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

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

474 (b) A prescribing practitioner or a pharmacist certified to prescribe
475 naloxone pursuant to section 20-633c may enter into an agreement with
476 a law enforcement agency, emergency medical service provider,
477 government agency, [or] community health organization or local or
478 regional board of education related to the distribution and

479 administration of an opioid antagonist for the reversal of an opioid
480 overdose. The prescribing practitioner or pharmacist shall provide
481 training to persons who will distribute or administer the opioid
482 antagonist pursuant to the terms of the agreement. Persons other than
483 the prescribing practitioner or pharmacist shall receive training in the
484 distribution or administration of opioid antagonists prior to distributing
485 or administering an opioid antagonist. The agreement shall address the
486 storage, handling, labeling, recalls and recordkeeping of opioid
487 antagonists by the law enforcement agency, emergency medical service
488 provider, government agency, [or] community health organization or
489 local or regional board of education which is party to the agreement.

490 (c) A prescribing practitioner or pharmacist who enters into an
491 agreement pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall not be liable
492 for damages in a civil action or subject to administrative or criminal
493 prosecution for the administration or dispensing of an opioid antagonist
494 by such law enforcement agency, emergency medical service provider,
495 government agency, [or] community health organization or local or
496 regional board of education.

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

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

508 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) There is established a minority
509 teacher candidate scholarship program administered by the
510 Department of Education, in consultation with the Office of Higher

511 Education. The program shall provide an annual scholarship to
512 minority students who (1) graduated from a public high school in a
513 priority school district, as described in section 10-266p of the general
514 statutes, and (2) are enrolled in a teacher preparation program at any
515 four-year institution of higher education. Maximum grants shall not
516 exceed twenty thousand dollars per year. The department shall ensure
517 that at least fifty per cent of the scholarship recipients are men.

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

524 (c) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year
525 thereafter, the department shall award scholarships in accordance with
526 the provisions of this section and the guidelines developed pursuant to
527 section (b) of this section.

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

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

532 (1) "Ableism" means the bias, prejudice or discrimination, intentional
533 or unintentional, against people with physical, psychiatric or
534 intellectual disabilities; and

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

537 (b) There is established a task force to combat ableism. The task force
538 shall identify (1) current efforts to educate all students on disability and
539 combat ableism in the public school curriculum and classrooms, and (2)
540 opportunities to expand such efforts and integrate them into social-

541 emotional learning.

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

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

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

552 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
553 Representatives who is a school administrator employed by a local or
554 regional board of education;

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

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

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

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

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

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

569 (10) The Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court
570 Administrator's designee; and

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

573 (d) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
574 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (c) of this section may be a member of
575 the General Assembly.

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

579 (f) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
580 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
581 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
582 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
583 days after the effective date of this section.

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

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

593 Sec. 11. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
594 study the governance structure and internal procedures of the
595 Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference. Such study shall
596 include, but need not be limited to, an examination of the leadership
597 structure of the conference and how leadership positions are filled, and
598 how the conference receives and resolves complaints filed by members

599 of the conference and individuals.

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

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

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

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

608 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is an
609 athletic director for a school district that is a member of the Connecticut
610 Interscholastic Athletic Conference;

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

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

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

619 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
620 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
621 of the General Assembly.

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

625 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro

626 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
627 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
628 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
629 days after the effective date of this section.

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

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

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

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

642 (2) "Competitive municipality" means, for the fiscal year ending June
643 30, 2024, a municipality that is among the lowest fifty municipalities
644 when ranked by wealth, as determined by the Commissioner of Early
645 Childhood, and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, a municipality
646 that is among the lowest one hundred municipalities when ranked by
647 wealth, as determined by the commissioner.

648 (b) For the fiscal year ending July 1, 2023, and each fiscal year
649 thereafter, the Commissioner of Early Childhood shall coordinate with
650 local and regional school readiness councils to conduct needs
651 assessments for infant, toddler and preschool spaces in school readiness
652 programs throughout the state. The commissioner shall use the results
653 of such needs assessments to increase or adjust the number of infant,
654 toddler and preschool spaces in school readiness programs to meet the
655 need or demand of each community and to provide grants under section
656 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this act, in accordance

657 with subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of this section.

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

665 (d) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2025, and June 30, 2026, the
666 commissioner shall increase or adjust the number of infant, toddler and
667 preschool spaces, in accordance with the needs assessments conducted
668 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, in competitive municipalities.
669 The commissioner shall provide grants under section 10-16p of the
670 general statutes, as amended by this act, to accomplish such increase or
671 adjustment in such spaces.

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

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

682 (b) (1) [For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, the per child cost of
683 the Office of Early Childhood school readiness program offered by a
684 school readiness provider shall not exceed eight thousand nine hundred
685 twenty-seven dollars.] For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2021] 2023,
686 and each fiscal year thereafter, the per child cost of the Office of Early
687 Childhood school readiness program offered by a school readiness

688 provider shall not exceed [nine thousand twenty-seven dollars] (A)
689 sixteen thousand dollars for each child three years of age or under who
690 is in infant or toddler care and not in a preschool program, and (B)
691 fourteen thousand five hundred dollars for each child three years of age
692 or older who is in a preschool program.

693 Sec. 14. Section 10-16p of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes
694 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
695 *1, 2022*):

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

698 (1) "School readiness program" means a [nonsectarian] program that
699 (A) meets the standards set by the Office of Early Childhood pursuant
700 to subsection (b) of this section and the requirements of section 10-16q,
701 as amended by this act, and (B) provides a developmentally appropriate
702 learning experience of not less than four hundred fifty hours and one
703 hundred eighty days for eligible children, except as provided in
704 subsection (d) of section 10-16q;

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

709 (3) "Priority school" means a school in which forty per cent or more
710 of the lunches served are served to students who are eligible for free or
711 reduced price lunches pursuant to federal law and regulations,
712 excluding such a school located in a priority school district pursuant to
713 section 10-266p or in a former priority school district receiving a grant
714 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and, on and after July 1, 2001,
715 excluding such a school in a transitional school district receiving a grant
716 pursuant to section 10-16u;

717 (4) "Severe need school" means a school in a priority school district
718 pursuant to section 10-266p or in a former priority school district in

719 which forty per cent or more of the lunches served are served to students
720 who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches;

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

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

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

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

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

737 (10) "Concentration in early childhood education" means a program
738 of study in early childhood education, including, but not limited to,
739 early childhood education, child study, child development or human
740 growth and development.

741 (b) (1) The office shall be the lead agency for school readiness. For
742 purposes of this section and section 10-16u, school readiness program
743 providers eligible for funding from the office shall include local and
744 regional boards of education, regional educational service centers,
745 family resource centers and providers of child care centers, group child
746 care homes and family child care homes, as described in section 19a-77,
747 as amended by this act, Head Start programs, preschool programs and
748 other programs that meet any standards established by the

749 commissioner. The office shall establish standards for school readiness
750 programs. The standards may include, but need not be limited to,
751 guidelines for staff-child interactions, curriculum content, including
752 preliteracy development, lesson plans, parental involvement, staff
753 qualifications and training, transition to school and administration. The
754 office shall develop age-appropriate developmental skills and goals for
755 children attending such programs. The commissioner, in consultation
756 with the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities,
757 the Commissioners of Education and Social Services and other
758 appropriate entities, shall develop a professional development program
759 for the staff of school readiness programs.

760 (2) For purposes of this section:

761 (A) Prior to July 1, 2022, "staff qualifications" means that for each
762 early childhood education program accepting state funds for infant,
763 toddler and preschool spaces associated with such program's child care
764 program or school readiness program, there is in each classroom an
765 individual who has at least the following: (i) A childhood development
766 associate credential or an equivalent credential issued by an
767 organization approved by the commissioner and twelve credits or more
768 in early childhood education or child development, as determined by
769 the commissioner or the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and
770 Universities, after consultation with the commissioner, from an
771 institution of higher education (I) accredited by the Board of Regents for
772 Higher Education or Office of Higher Education, and (II) regionally
773 accredited; (ii) an associate degree with twelve credits or more in early
774 childhood education or child development, as determined by the
775 commissioner or the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and
776 Universities, after consultation with the commissioner, from such an
777 institution; (iii) a four-year degree with twelve credits or more in early
778 childhood education or child development, as determined by the
779 commissioner or the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and
780 Universities, after consultation with the commissioner, from such an
781 institution; (iv) certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an

782 endorsement in early childhood education or special education; (v) an
783 associate degree with a concentration in early childhood education from
784 an institution of higher education that is regionally accredited; or (vi) a
785 bachelor's degree with a concentration in early childhood education
786 from an institution of higher education that is regionally accredited;

787 (B) From July 1, 2022, until June 30, 2025, "staff qualifications" means
788 that for each early childhood education program accepting state funds
789 for infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such program's
790 child care program or school readiness program, (i) at least fifty per cent
791 of those individuals with the primary responsibility for a classroom of
792 children (I) hold certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an
793 endorsement in early childhood education or early childhood special
794 education, (II) have been issued an early childhood teacher credential,
795 pursuant to section 10-520b, (III) hold at least an associate degree with a
796 concentration in early childhood education from an institution of higher
797 education that is regionally accredited, or (IV) satisfy the requirements
798 of subdivision (3), (4) or (5) of this subsection, and (ii) such remaining
799 individuals with the primary responsibility for a classroom of children
800 hold a childhood development associate credential or an equivalent
801 credential issued by an organization approved by the commissioner and
802 twelve credits or more in early childhood education or child
803 development, as determined by the commissioner or the president of
804 the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, after consultation with
805 the commissioner, from an institution of higher education (I) accredited
806 by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher
807 Education, and (II) regionally accredited;

808 (C) From July 1, 2025, until June 30, 2029, "staff qualifications" means
809 that for each early childhood education program accepting state funds
810 for infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such program's
811 child care program or school readiness program, (i) at least fifty per cent
812 of those individuals with the primary responsibility for a classroom of
813 children (I) hold certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an
814 endorsement in early childhood education or early childhood special

815 education, (II) have been issued an early childhood teacher credential,
816 pursuant to subdivision (2) of section 10-520b, (III) hold at least a
817 bachelor's degree with a concentration in early childhood education
818 from an institution of higher education that is regionally accredited, or
819 (IV) satisfy the requirements of subdivision (3), (4) or (5) of this
820 subsection, and (ii) such remaining individuals with the primary
821 responsibility for a classroom of children (I) hold an associate degree
822 with a concentration in early childhood education from an institution of
823 higher education that is regionally accredited, or (II) have been issued
824 an early childhood teacher credential, pursuant to subdivision (1) of
825 section 10-520b; and

826 (D) On and after July 1, 2029, "staff qualifications" means that for each
827 early childhood education program accepting state funds for infant,
828 toddler and preschool spaces associated with such program's child care
829 program or school readiness program, one hundred per cent of those
830 individuals with the primary responsibility for a classroom of children
831 (i) hold certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an endorsement in
832 early childhood education or early childhood special education, (ii) have
833 been issued an early childhood teacher credential, pursuant to
834 subdivision (2) of section 10-520b, (iii) hold at least a bachelor's degree
835 with a concentration in early childhood education from an institution of
836 higher education that is regionally accredited, or (iv) satisfy the
837 requirements of subdivision (3), (4) or (5) of this subsection.

838 (3) Any individual with a bachelor's degree in early childhood
839 education or child development or a bachelor's degree and twelve
840 credits or more in early childhood education or child development,
841 who, on or before June 30, 2015, is employed by an early childhood
842 education program that accepts state funds for infant, toddler and
843 preschool spaces associated with such program's child care program or
844 school readiness program shall be considered to meet the staff
845 qualifications required under subparagraphs (B) to (D), inclusive, of
846 subdivision (2) of this subsection. No such early childhood education
847 program shall terminate any such individual from employment for

848 purposes of meeting the staff qualification requirements set forth in
849 subparagraph (B), (C) or (D) of subdivision (2) of this subsection.

850 (4) Any individual with an associate degree or a bachelor's degree in
851 early childhood education or child development or an associate degree
852 or a bachelor's degree and twelve credits or more in early childhood
853 education or child development from an institution of higher education
854 that is regionally accredited, other than an associate degree or a
855 bachelor's degree with a concentration in early childhood education,
856 may submit documentation concerning such degree for review and
857 assessment by the office as to whether such degree has a sufficient
858 concentration in early childhood education so as to satisfy the
859 requirements set forth in subparagraphs (B) to (D), inclusive, of
860 subdivision (2) of this subsection.

861 (5) Any individual with an associate degree with twelve credits or
862 more in early childhood education or child development, as determined
863 by the commissioner or the president of the Connecticut State Colleges
864 and Universities, after consultation with the commissioner, from an
865 institution of higher education (A) accredited by the Board of Regents
866 for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education, and (B) regionally
867 accredited, who has been employed in the same early childhood
868 education program that accepts state funds for infant, toddler and
869 preschool spaces associated with such program's child care program or
870 school readiness program since 1995 shall be considered to meet the staff
871 qualifications required under subparagraphs (B) to (D), inclusive, of
872 subdivision (2) of this subsection until June 30, 2025. On and after July
873 1, 2025, such individual shall hold a childhood development associate
874 credential or an equivalent credential, described in subparagraph (A) of
875 subdivision (2) of this subsection, or otherwise meet the staff
876 qualifications required under subparagraphs (C) and (D) of subdivision
877 (2) of this subsection. Any such individual who terminates his or her
878 employment with such early childhood education program on or before
879 June 30, 2025, and accepts a position at another early childhood
880 education program accepting state funds for spaces associated with

881 such program's child care program or school readiness program shall
882 submit documentation of such individual's progress toward meeting
883 the staff qualification requirements set forth in subparagraph (B) to (D),
884 inclusive, of subdivision (2) of this subsection in a manner determined
885 by the office.

886 (c) The commissioner shall establish a grant program to provide
887 spaces in accredited school readiness programs located in priority
888 school districts, as described in section 10-266p, or in former priority
889 school districts for eligible children. The state, acting by and in the
890 discretion of the Commissioner of Early Childhood, in consultation with
891 a town or regional school readiness council, may enter into a contract
892 with a municipality, local or regional board of education, regional
893 educational service center, family resource center, provider of a child
894 care center, group child care home or family child care home, as
895 described in section 19a-77, as amended by this act, Head Start program,
896 preschool program or other program that meets such standards
897 established by the commissioner, to provide, within available
898 appropriations, state financial assistance. Eligibility shall be determined
899 for a five-year period based on an applicant's designation as a priority
900 school district for the initial year of application, except that if a school
901 district that receives a grant pursuant to this subsection is no longer
902 designated as a priority school district at the end of such five-year
903 period, such former priority school district shall continue to be eligible
904 to receive a grant pursuant to this subsection. Grant awards shall be
905 made annually contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory
906 annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town and the
907 superintendent of schools for such priority school district or former
908 priority school district shall submit a plan for the expenditure of grant
909 funds and responses to the local request for proposal process to the
910 commissioner. The commissioner shall review and approve such plans.
911 The plan shall: (1) Be developed in consultation with the local or
912 regional school readiness council established pursuant to section 10-16r,
913 as amended by this act; (2) be based on a needs and resource assessment;
914 (3) provide for the issuance of requests for proposals for providers of

915 accredited school readiness programs, provided, after the initial
916 requests for proposals, facilities that have been approved to operate a
917 child care program financed through the Connecticut Health and
918 Education Facilities Authority and have received a commitment for debt
919 service from the Department of Social Services, pursuant to section 17b-
920 749i, on or before June 30, 2014, and on or after July 1, 2014, from the
921 office, are exempt from the requirement for issuance of annual requests
922 for proposals; and (4) identify the need for funding pursuant to section
923 17b-749a in order to extend the hours and days of operation of school
924 readiness programs in order to provide child care services for children
925 attending such programs.

926 (d) (1) The commissioner shall establish a competitive grant program
927 to provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs or school
928 readiness programs seeking accreditation located in (A) an area served
929 by a priority school or a former priority school, (B) a town ranked one
930 to fifty when all towns are ranked in ascending order according to town
931 wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f, whose school
932 district is not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p, (C) a
933 town formerly a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,
934 as provided for in subdivision (2) of this subsection, or (D) a town
935 designated as an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u, whose
936 school district is not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-
937 266p. A town in which a priority school is located, a regional school
938 readiness council, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-16r, as
939 amended by this act, for a region in which such a school is located or a
940 town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision may apply for
941 such a grant in an amount equal to the number of spaces in an accredited
942 school readiness program or a school readiness program seeking
943 accreditation multiplied by the per child cost set forth in subdivision (1)
944 of subsection (b) of section 10-16q, as amended by this act. Eligibility
945 shall be determined for a three-year period based on an applicant's
946 designation as having a priority school or being a town described in
947 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision for the initial year of application.
948 The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of Early

949 Childhood, in consultation with a town or regional school readiness
950 council, may enter into a contract with a municipality, local or regional
951 board of education, regional educational service center, family resource
952 center, provider of a child care center, group child care home or family
953 child care home, as described in section 19a-77, as amended by this act,
954 Head Start program, preschool program or other program that meets
955 such standards established by the commissioner, to provide, within
956 available appropriations, state financial assistance. The chief elected
957 official of such town and the superintendent of schools of the school
958 district or the regional school readiness council shall submit a plan, as
959 described in subsection (c) of this section, for the expenditure of such
960 grant funds to the commissioner. In awarding grants pursuant to this
961 subsection, the commissioner shall give preference to applications
962 submitted by regional school readiness councils and may, within
963 available appropriations, provide a grant to such town or regional
964 school readiness council that increases the number of spaces for eligible
965 children who reside in an area or town described in subparagraphs (A)
966 to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision, in an accredited school readiness
967 program or a school readiness program seeking accreditation.

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

974 (B) The amount of such phase-out grants shall be determined as
975 follows: (i) For the first fiscal year following the fiscal year such town
976 received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in
977 an amount that does not exceed seventy-five per cent of the grant
978 amount such town received for the town or school's final year of
979 eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection; (ii) for the
980 second fiscal year following the fiscal year such town received its final
981 grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that

982 does not exceed fifty per cent of the grant amount such town received
983 for the town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to subdivision
984 (1) of this subsection; and (iii) for the third fiscal year following the fiscal
985 year such town received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of
986 this subsection, in an amount that does not exceed twenty-five per cent
987 of the grant amount such town received for the town's or school's final
988 year of eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

989 (C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, and each fiscal year
990 thereafter, any town that received a grant pursuant to subparagraph (B)
991 of subdivision (1) of this subsection for the fiscal year ending June 30,
992 2010, shall continue to receive a grant under this subsection even if the
993 town no longer meets the criteria for such grant pursuant to
994 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

995 (e) (1) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of this
996 section are not expended, the commissioner may deposit such
997 unexpended funds in the account established under section 10-16aa and
998 use such unexpended funds in accordance with the provisions of section
999 10-16aa.

1000 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, and each fiscal year
1001 thereafter, if funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of
1002 this section are not expended, an amount up to one million dollars of
1003 such unexpended funds may be available for the provision of
1004 scholarships and professional development for early childhood care and
1005 education program providers, and individual staff members employed
1006 in such programs, provided such programs accept state funds for infant,
1007 toddler and preschool slots. Such unexpended funds may be available
1008 for use in accordance with the provisions of this [subparagraph]
1009 subdivision for the subsequent fiscal year. The commissioner may use
1010 such unexpended funds on and after July 1, 2015, to support early
1011 childhood education programs accepting state funds in satisfying the
1012 staff qualifications requirements of subparagraphs (B) and (C) of
1013 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section. The commissioner shall
1014 use any such funds to provide assistance to individual staff members,

1015 giving priority to those staff members (A) attending an institution of
1016 higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher
1017 Education or the Office of Higher Education, and approved by the
1018 Office of Early Childhood, and regionally accredited, at a maximum of
1019 ten thousand dollars per staff member per year for the cost of higher
1020 education courses leading to a bachelor's degree or, not later than
1021 December 31, 2015, an associate degree, as such degrees are described
1022 in said subparagraphs (B) and (C), or (B) receiving noncredit
1023 competency-based training approved by the office, at a maximum of one
1024 thousand dollars per staff member per year, provided such staff
1025 members have applied for all available federal and state scholarships
1026 and grants, and such assistance does not exceed such staff members'
1027 financial need. Individual staff members shall apply for such
1028 unexpended funds in a manner determined by the commissioner. The
1029 commissioner shall determine how such unexpended funds shall be
1030 distributed.

1031 (3) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of this
1032 section are not expended pursuant to subsection (c) of this section,
1033 deposited pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, or used
1034 pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, the commissioner may
1035 use such unexpended funds to support local school readiness programs.
1036 The commissioner may use such funds for purposes including, but not
1037 limited to, (A) assisting local school readiness programs in meeting and
1038 maintaining accreditation requirements, (B) providing training in
1039 implementing the preschool assessment and curriculum frameworks,
1040 including training to enhance literacy teaching skills, (C) developing a
1041 state-wide preschool curriculum, (D) developing student assessments
1042 for students in grades kindergarten to two, inclusive, (E) developing
1043 and implementing best practices for parents in supporting preschool
1044 and kindergarten student learning, (F) developing and implementing
1045 strategies for children to successfully transition to preschool and from
1046 preschool to kindergarten, including through parental engagement and
1047 whole-family supports that may be utilized through the two-
1048 generational initiative, established pursuant to section 17b-112l, or

1049 through other available resources, (G) providing for professional
1050 development, including assisting in career ladder advancement, for
1051 school readiness staff, (H) providing supplemental grants to other
1052 towns that are eligible for grants pursuant to subsection (c) of this
1053 section, and (I) developing a plan to provide spaces in an accredited
1054 school readiness program or a school readiness program seeking
1055 accreditation to all eligible children who reside in an area or town
1056 described in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of
1057 subsection (d) of this section.

1058 (f) Any school readiness program that receives funds pursuant to this
1059 section or section 10-16u shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color,
1060 national origin, gender, religion or disability. For purposes of this
1061 section, a nonsectarian program means any public or private school
1062 readiness program that is not violative of the Establishment Clause of
1063 the Constitution of the State of Connecticut or the Establishment Clause
1064 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

1065 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, no funds received by
1066 a town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-16u
1067 shall be used to supplant federal, state or local funding received by such
1068 town for early childhood education, provided a town may use an
1069 amount determined in accordance with this subsection for coordination,
1070 program evaluation and administration. Such amount shall be at least
1071 five per cent of the total grant allocation, but not more than seventy-five
1072 thousand dollars and shall be determined by the commissioner based
1073 on the school readiness grant award allocated to the town pursuant to
1074 subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-16u and the number of
1075 operating sites for coordination, program evaluation and
1076 administration. Such amount shall be increased by an amount equal to
1077 local funding provided for early childhood education coordination,
1078 program evaluation and administration, not to exceed twenty-five
1079 thousand dollars. Each town that receives a grant pursuant to
1080 subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-16u shall designate a
1081 person to be responsible for such coordination, program evaluation and

1082 administration and to act as a liaison between the town and the
1083 commissioner. Each school readiness program that receives funds
1084 pursuant to this section or section 10-16u shall provide information to
1085 the commissioner or the school readiness council, as requested, that is
1086 necessary for purposes of any school readiness program evaluation.

1087 (h) Any town receiving a grant pursuant to this section may use such
1088 grant, with the approval of the commissioner, to prepare a facility or
1089 staff for operating a school readiness program and shall be adjusted
1090 based on the number of days of operation of a school readiness program
1091 if a shorter term of operation is approved by the commissioner.

1092 (i) A town may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible
1093 children who reside in such town at an accredited school readiness
1094 program located in another town. A regional school readiness council
1095 may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible children who reside
1096 in the region covered by the council at an accredited school readiness
1097 program located outside such region.

1098 (j) Children enrolled in school readiness programs funded pursuant
1099 to this section shall not be counted (1) as resident students for purposes
1100 of subdivision (22) of section 10-262f, or (2) in the determination of
1101 average daily membership pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a)
1102 of section 10-261.

1103 (k) (1) Up to two per cent of the amount of the appropriation for this
1104 section may be allocated to the competitive grant program pursuant to
1105 subsection (d) of this section. The determination of the amount of such
1106 allocation shall be made on or before August first.

1107 (2) Up to two per cent of the amount of the appropriation for this
1108 section may be used by the commissioner in a manner consistent with
1109 the provisions of section 10-509.

1110 [(l) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, and each fiscal year
1111 thereafter, any school readiness program that (1) is licensed by the
1112 Office of Early Childhood pursuant to chapter 368a, (2) provides full-

1113 day and year-round child care and education programs for children,
1114 and (3) receives funds pursuant to this section or section 10-16u, shall
1115 use any amount of the per child cost as described in subdivision (1) of
1116 subsection (b) of section 10-16q that is over the amount of eight
1117 thousand nine hundred twenty-seven dollars, exclusively to increase
1118 the salaries of those individuals with direct responsibility for teaching
1119 or caring for children in a classroom at such school readiness program.]

1120 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) As used in this section and
1121 section 16 of this act:

1122 (1) "Compensation schedule" means the early childhood educator
1123 compensation schedule developed by the Office of Early Childhood
1124 pursuant to section 10-531 of the general statutes, as amended by this
1125 act;

1126 (2) "Early childhood care and education program" means a child care
1127 services provider, early childhood education program or license-exempt
1128 early childhood provider;

1129 (3) "Child care services provider" means a child care center or a group
1130 child care home, as those terms are described in section 19a-77 of the
1131 general statutes, as amended by this act;

1132 (4) "Early childhood education program" means a private preschool
1133 program, a school readiness program or program pursuant to section 8-
1134 210 of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

1135 (5) "School readiness program" has the same meaning as provided in
1136 section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

1137 (6) "License-exempt early childhood provider" means any child care
1138 services provider or school readiness program that accepts state funds
1139 for infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such program
1140 that is not required to be licensed pursuant to subsection (b) of section
1141 19a-77 of the general statutes, and is located in a public school building
1142 but is not administered by a public school system;

1143 (7) "Employee" means a person who is employed by an early
1144 childhood care and education program and meets the eligibility criteria
1145 described in the compensation schedule and policy developed by the
1146 Office of Early Childhood pursuant to subsection (e) of this section;

1147 (8) "Base salary" means the annual salary that an employee was paid
1148 on December 31, 2021, or, if the position was vacant on December 31,
1149 2021, the starting annual salary for such position on said date;

1150 (9) "Benefits amount" means seven thousand five hundred dollars;

1151 (10) "Individual employee salary enhancement amount" means, for
1152 any fiscal year, the sum of (A) the difference between (i) the salary
1153 prescribed in the compensation schedule for an employee, and (ii) the
1154 amount of such employee's base salary, and (B) the benefits amount;

1155 (11) "Salary enhancement amount" means the sum of the total
1156 individual employee salary enhancement amounts for all employees of
1157 an early childhood care and education program for the fiscal year; and

1158 (12) "Family child care home" has the same meaning as provided in
1159 section 19a-77 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

1160 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year
1161 thereafter, the Office of Early Childhood shall administer the early
1162 childhood care and education salary enhancement grant program. The
1163 office shall annually pay to each early childhood care and education
1164 program a salary enhancement grant in the amount of such program's
1165 salary enhancement amount. Such programs shall distribute such grant
1166 funds to its employees in accordance with the policy developed by the
1167 Commissioner of Early Childhood pursuant to subsection (e) of this
1168 section.

1169 (c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year
1170 thereafter, the office shall annually pay to each family child care home
1171 a salary enhancement grant as follows: (1) Twenty thousand dollars for
1172 each licensee of a family child care home, (2) six thousand dollars for

1173 each full-time assistant or substitute staff member approved by the
1174 Commissioner of Early Childhood pursuant to section 19a-87b of the
1175 general statutes, and (3) three thousand dollars for each part-time
1176 assistant or substitute staff member approved by the commissioner
1177 pursuant to section 19a-87b of the general statutes, and employed by the
1178 family child care home. The licensee shall distribute such grant funds in
1179 accordance with the policy developed by the commissioner pursuant to
1180 subsection (e) of this section.

1181 (d) Each early childhood care and education program shall register,
1182 at such time and in such manner as prescribed by the commissioner,
1183 with the Office of Early Childhood to receive a grant under the program.
1184 Upon registration, such program shall provide any information
1185 required by the office, in accordance with the policy developed by the
1186 commissioner pursuant to subsection (e) of this section.

1187 (e) Not later than October 1, 2022, the commissioner shall develop a
1188 policy for the administration of the early childhood care and education
1189 salary enhancement grant program. The policy shall include, but need
1190 not be limited to, eligibility criteria for the program, the registration
1191 process for the program, the distribution requirements of the grant and
1192 any other requirements the commissioner deems necessary.

1193 Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) On and after July 1, 2022, each
1194 employee of an early childhood care and education program shall be
1195 paid an annual salary as prescribed in the compensation schedule
1196 developed pursuant to section 10-531 of the general statutes, as
1197 amended by this act, except if an employee's salary is greater than the
1198 amount prescribed in such compensation schedule then such employee
1199 shall be paid such greater amount.

1200 Sec. 17. Section 10-531 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1201 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

1202 (a) As used in this section:

1203 (1) "Early childhood education program" means any child care or

1204 school readiness program that accepts state funds for infant, toddler and
1205 preschool spaces associated with such program;

1206 (2) "Employee" means any person who is employed by an early
1207 childhood care and education program and meets the [applicable staff
1208 qualifications requirement, as defined in section 10-16p] eligibility
1209 criteria described in the compensation schedule and policy developed
1210 by the Office of Early Childhood pursuant to subsection (e) of section 1
1211 of this act;

1212 (3) "Compensation" means the salary, wages, benefits and other
1213 forms of valuable consideration earned by and provided to an employee
1214 in remuneration for services rendered; [and]

1215 (4) "Compensation schedule" means a list or lists specifying a series
1216 of compensation steps and ranges; [.]

1217 (5) "Early childhood care and education program" means a child care
1218 services provider or an early childhood education program;

1219 (6) "Child care services provider" means a child care center or a group
1220 child care home, as those terms are described in section 19a-77, as
1221 amended by this act;

1222 (7) "Early childhood education program" means a private preschool
1223 program, a school readiness program or program pursuant to section 8-
1224 210, as amended by this act; and

1225 (8) "School readiness program" has the same meaning as provided in
1226 section 10-16p, as amended by this act.

1227 (b) The Office of Early Childhood shall establish, after notice and
1228 opportunity for public comment, a proposed early childhood educator
1229 compensation schedule for employees of early childhood education
1230 programs.

1231 (c) (1) The office shall consider the following factors in developing the

1232 proposed early childhood educator compensation schedule: (A) Level
1233 of education, (B) training in early childhood education or child
1234 development, (C) relevant employment experience, including the
1235 number of years an individual has been employed in an early childhood
1236 education program, (D) compensation levels for certified teachers
1237 employed in a preschool program operated by a local or regional board
1238 of education or regional educational service center, and (E) cost of living
1239 in the state.

1240 (2) In developing the proposed early childhood educator
1241 compensation schedule, the office may (A) consider the findings and
1242 recommendations provided in "A Plan to Assist Early Education State
1243 Funded Providers to Degree Attainment and Increased Compensation"
1244 created by the office, pursuant to section 4 of public act 15-134, to create
1245 a standardized salary scale and incentive package for early childhood
1246 educators, (B) utilize state and federal funding, and (C) examine existing
1247 programs that address early childhood educator compensation and staff
1248 retention through financial incentives, such as bonuses for degree or
1249 course completion.

1250 (3) The office shall establish a recommended minimum salary for
1251 employees as part of the proposed early childhood educator
1252 compensation schedule.

1253 (d) Not later than January 1, 2021, the office shall submit the proposed
1254 early childhood educator compensation schedule and a report to the
1255 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
1256 of matters relating to education and appropriations and the budgets of
1257 state agencies, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a. Such
1258 report shall include: (1) Any recommendations for legislation relating to
1259 state-wide implementation of the proposed early childhood educator
1260 compensation schedule, (2) an estimate of the cost of implementing the
1261 proposed early childhood educator compensation schedule state-wide,
1262 (3) an analysis of the effect of the state-wide implementation of the
1263 proposed early childhood educator compensation schedule on the
1264 number of available preschool seats, and (4) an explanation of how the

1265 proposed early childhood educator compensation schedule will be
1266 included in any quality rating and improvement system developed by
1267 the office, pursuant to subdivision (15) of subsection (b) of section 10-
1268 500.

1269 (e) Not later than January 1, 2023, the office shall amend the
1270 compensation schedule to include employees of early childhood care
1271 and education programs.

1272 Sec. 18. (*Effective July 1, 2022*) The sum of sixty thousand dollars is
1273 appropriated to the Department of Education from the General Fund,
1274 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, for the purpose of hiring a full-
1275 time employee to administer the grant program to provide grants to
1276 local and regional boards of education for the purpose of hiring and
1277 retaining additional school social workers and school psychologists
1278 described in section 2 of this act.

1279 Sec. 19. (*Effective July 1, 2022*) The sum of thirty thousand dollars is
1280 appropriated to the Department of Education from the General Fund,
1281 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, for the purpose of hiring a full-
1282 time employee to administer the minority teacher candidate scholarship
1283 program established pursuant to section 9 of this act.

1284 Sec. 20. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of five hundred ninety
1285 thousand dollars of the amount appropriated in section 21 of this act to
1286 the Department of Public Health for school-based health clinics, for the
1287 fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, shall be made available for a grant to
1288 each of the thirty-six recommended sites for expanded mental health
1289 services contained in the final report of the School-Based Health Center
1290 Expansion Working Group, established pursuant to section 16 of public
1291 act 21-35.

1292 Sec. 21. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of twenty-one million two
1293 hundred forty thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of
1294 Public Health from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30,
1295 2022, for the purpose of expanding services of existing school-based

1296 health centers to include mental health services in accordance with the
1297 provisions of section 20 of this act.

1298 Sec. 22. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of thirteen million dollars is
1299 allocated, in accordance with the provisions of special act 21-1, from the
1300 federal funds designated for the state pursuant to the provisions of
1301 section 602 of Subtitle M of Title IX of the American Rescue Plan Act of
1302 2021, P.L. 117-2, as amended from time to time, to the Department of
1303 Education, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, for support to the
1304 existing fifteen districts participating in the Learner Engagement and
1305 Attendance Program (LEAP) and expanding participation in the LEAP
1306 program to include five additional high-need districts.

1307 Sec. 23. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of thirteen million dollars is
1308 allocated, in accordance with the provisions of special act 21-1, from the
1309 federal funds designated for the state pursuant to the provisions of
1310 section 602 of Subtitle M of Title IX of the American Rescue Plan Act of
1311 2021, P.L. 117-2, as amended from time to time, to the Department of
1312 Education, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, for support to the
1313 existing twenty districts participating in the Learner Engagement and
1314 Attendance Program (LEAP).

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

ED

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

APP