



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

***Raised Bill No. 231***

LCO No. 1838



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-357b of the 2022 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

4 (a) The purposes of the State Education Resource Center, established  
5 pursuant to section 10-357a, shall be to assist the State Board of  
6 Education in the provision of programs and activities that will promote  
7 educational equity and excellence. Such activities shall be limited to:  
8 Training, technical assistance and professional development for local  
9 and regional boards of education, school leaders, teachers, families and  
10 community partners in the form of seminars, publications, site visits, on-  
11 line content and other appropriate means; maintaining a state education  
12 resource center library; publication of technical materials; research and  
13 evaluation; writing, managing, administering and coordinating grants  
14 for the purposes described in this subsection; and any other related  
15 activities directly related to the purposes described in this subsection.

16 The center shall support local educational agencies serving the needs of  
17 families, communities and service providers. The center [may] shall  
18 support programs and activities concerning early childhood education,  
19 in collaboration with the Office of Early Childhood, improving school  
20 and district academic performance, and closing [academic achievement]  
21 opportunity gaps between socio-economic subgroups, and other related  
22 programs and activities. The center shall support and collaborate with  
23 other state agencies for the purposes described in this subsection. For  
24 such purposes the center is authorized and empowered to:

25 (1) Have perpetual succession as a body politic and corporate and to  
26 adopt bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its  
27 business;

28 (2) Adopt an official seal and alter the same at pleasure;

29 (3) Maintain an office at such place or places as it may designate;

30 (4) Sue and be sued in its own name and plead and be impleaded;

31 (5) (A) Employ such assistants, agents and other employees as may  
32 be necessary or desirable who shall not be employees, as defined in  
33 subsection (b) of section 5-270; (B) establish all necessary or appropriate  
34 personnel practices and policies, including those relating to hiring,  
35 promotion, compensation, retirement and collective bargaining, which  
36 need not be in accordance with chapter 68, and the center shall not be  
37 an employer as defined in subsection (a) of section 5-270; and (C) engage  
38 consultants, attorneys and appraisers as may be necessary or desirable  
39 to carry out its purposes in accordance with this section and sections 10-  
40 357a, 10-357c and 10-357d;

41 (6) Receive and accept aid or contributions from any source of money,  
42 property, labor or other things of value, to be held, used and applied to  
43 carry out the purposes of this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c and  
44 10-357d, subject to such conditions upon which such grants and  
45 contributions may be made, including, but not limited to, gifts or grants  
46 from any department, agency or instrumentality of the United States or

47 this state for any purpose consistent with this section and sections 10-  
48 357a, 10-357c and 10-357d;

49 (7) Make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or  
50 incidental to the performance of its duties and the execution of its  
51 powers under this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c and 10-357d,  
52 including contracts and agreements for such professional services as the  
53 center deems necessary, including, but not limited to, those services  
54 provided by financial consultants, underwriters and technical  
55 specialists;

56 (8) Acquire, lease, purchase, own, manage, hold and dispose of  
57 personal property, and lease, convey or deal in or enter into agreements  
58 with respect to such property on any terms necessary or incidental to  
59 the carrying out of these purposes;

60 (9) Invest in, acquire, lease, purchase, own, manage, hold and dispose  
61 of real property and lease, convey or deal in or enter into agreements  
62 with respect to such property on any terms necessary or incidental to  
63 carrying out the purposes of this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c  
64 and 10-357d, provided such transactions shall be subject to approval,  
65 review or regulation by any state agency pursuant to title 4b or any other  
66 provision of the general statutes;

67 (10) Procure insurance against any liability or loss in connection with  
68 its property and other assets, in such amounts and from such insurers  
69 as it deems desirable and to procure insurance for employees;

70 (11) Account for and audit funds of the center and funds of any  
71 recipients of funds from the center;

72 (12) Hold patents, copyrights, trademarks, marketing rights, licenses,  
73 or any other evidences of protection or exclusivity as to any products as  
74 defined in this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c and 10-357d, issued  
75 under the laws of the United States or any state or any nation;

76 (13) Establish advisory committees to assist in accomplishing its

77 duties under this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c and 10-357d,  
78 which may include one or more members of the board of directors and  
79 persons other than members; and

80 (14) Do all acts and things necessary or convenient to carry out the  
81 purposes of this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c and 10-357d, and  
82 the powers expressly granted by this section and sections 10-357a, 10-  
83 357c and 10-357d.

84 (b) The State Education Resource Center shall establish a Connecticut  
85 School Reform Resource Center either within the State Education  
86 Resource Center or by contract through a regional educational service  
87 center, established pursuant to section 10-66a. The Connecticut School  
88 Reform Resource Center shall operate year-round and shall focus on  
89 serving the needs of all public schools. The Connecticut School Reform  
90 Resource Center shall (1) publish and distribute reports on the most  
91 effective practices for improving student achievement by successful  
92 schools; (2) provide a program of professional development activities  
93 for (A) school leaders, including curriculum coordinators, principals,  
94 superintendents and board of education members, and (B) teachers to  
95 educate students that includes research-based child development and  
96 reading instruction tools and practices; (3) provide information on  
97 successful models for evaluating student performance and managing  
98 student data; (4) develop strategies for assisting such students who are  
99 in danger of failing; (5) develop culturally relevant methods for  
100 educating students whose primary language is not English; and (6)  
101 provide other programs and materials to assist in the improvement of  
102 public schools.

103 (c) The State Education Resource Center shall be subject to [(1) rules,  
104 regulations and restrictions on purchasing, procurement, personal  
105 service agreements and the disposition of assets generally applicable to  
106 Connecticut state agencies, including those contained in titles 4, 4a and  
107 4b and section 4e-19, and (2)] audit by the Auditors of Public Accounts  
108 under chapter 12 and section 2-90.

109 Sec. 2. Section 10-357e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
110 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

111 The Commissioner of Education [may] shall allocate funds to [allow]  
112 the State Education Resource Center, established pursuant to section 10-  
113 357a, in an amount that is sufficient for the center to operate and to  
114 provide professional development services, technical assistance and  
115 evaluation activities, policy analysis and other forms of assistance to  
116 local and regional boards of education, the Department of Education,  
117 state and local charter schools, as defined in section 10-66aa, the  
118 Technical Education and Career System, established pursuant to section  
119 10-95, providers of school readiness programs, as defined in section 10-  
120 16p, and other educational entities and providers. The State Education  
121 Resource Center shall expend such funds in accordance with procedures  
122 and conditions prescribed by the commissioner.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	10-357b
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	10-357e

**Statement of Purpose:**

To make certain revisions to the enabling statute of the State Education Resource Center and to require the Commissioner of Education to allocate funding to the center that is sufficient for the center to operate and perform its duties.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*