



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 427

February Session, 2022



AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE OPEN CHOICE PROGRAM AND CREATION OF THE STATE TEACHER SHORTAGE AND RETENTION TASK FORCE.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 10-266aa of the 2022 supplement
2 to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

4 (c) The program shall be phased in as provided in this subsection. (1)
5 For the school year commencing in 1998, and for each school year
6 thereafter, the program shall be in operation in the Hartford, New
7 Haven and Bridgeport regions. The Hartford program shall operate as
8 a continuation of the program described in section 10-266j. Students
9 who reside in Hartford, New Haven or Bridgeport may attend school in
10 another school district in the region and students who reside in such
11 other school districts may attend school in Hartford, New Haven or
12 Bridgeport, provided, beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, the
13 proportion of students who are not minority students to the total
14 number of students leaving Hartford, Bridgeport or New Haven to
15 participate in the program shall not be greater than the proportion of
16 students who were not minority students in the prior school year to the
17 total number of students enrolled in Hartford, Bridgeport or New

18 Haven in the prior school year. The regional educational service center
19 operating the program shall make program participation decisions in
20 accordance with the requirements of this subdivision. (2) For the school
21 year commencing in 2000, and for each school year thereafter, the
22 program shall be in operation in New London, provided beginning with
23 the 2001-2002 school year, the proportion of students who are not
24 minority students to the total number of students leaving New London
25 to participate in the program shall not be greater than the proportion of
26 students who were not minority students in the prior year to the total
27 number of students enrolled in New London in the prior school year.
28 The regional educational service center operating the program shall
29 make program participation decisions in accordance with this
30 subdivision. (3) The Department of Education may provide, within
31 available appropriations, grants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003,
32 to the remaining regional educational service centers to assist school
33 districts in planning for a voluntary program of student enrollment in
34 every priority school district, pursuant to section 10-266p, which is
35 interested in participating in accordance with this subdivision. For the
36 school year commencing in 2003, and for each school year thereafter, the
37 voluntary enrollment program may be in operation in every priority
38 school district in the state. Students from other school districts in the
39 area of a priority school district, as determined by the regional
40 educational service center pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, may
41 attend school in the priority school district, provided such students
42 bring racial, ethnic and economic diversity to the priority school district
43 and do not increase the racial, ethnic and economic isolation in the
44 priority school district. (4) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022,
45 there shall be a pilot program in operation in Danbury and Norwalk.
46 The pilot program shall serve (A) up to fifty students who reside in
47 Danbury, and such students may attend school in the school districts for
48 the towns of New Fairfield, Brookfield, Bethel, Ridgefield and Redding,
49 and (B) up to fifty students who reside in Norwalk, and such students
50 may attend school in the school districts for the towns of Darien, New
51 Canaan, Wilton, Weston and Westport. School districts which receive
52 students from Danbury and Norwalk under the pilot program during

53 the school year commencing July 1, 2022, shall allow such students to
54 attend school in the district until they graduate from high school. (5) For
55 the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year
56 thereafter, the town of Guilford shall be eligible to participate in the
57 program as a receiving district and a sending district with New Haven.

58 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established the state teacher
59 shortage and retention task force. The task force shall develop a
60 comprehensive report that includes recommendations that address (1)
61 strategies to address attrition rates of teachers leaving the teaching
62 profession, (2) the retention of teachers, (3) teacher shortages across
63 subject matter disciplines, (4) the impact of retention and shortages in
64 financially distressed school districts, and (5) streamlining teacher
65 certification without diminishing standards or the professional value of
66 a teaching certificate. In developing the report, the task force shall
67 address issues relating to equity, diversity and inclusion, and examine
68 strategies being used in other states to address teacher shortages and to
69 attract and retain teachers.

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

71 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
72 one of whom is a certified teacher teaching in grades six to twelve,
73 inclusive, and recommended by the Connecticut Education Association,
74 and one of whom is a certified teacher teaching in grades six to twelve,
75 inclusive, and recommended by the American Federation of Teachers-
76 Connecticut;

77 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of
78 whom is a certified teacher teaching in grades kindergarten to five,
79 inclusive, and recommended by the Connecticut Education Association,
80 and one of whom is a certified teacher teaching in grades kindergarten
81 to five, inclusive, and recommended by the American Federation of
82 Teachers-Connecticut;

83 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of

84 Representatives, who is a certified teacher teaching in a priority school
85 district, as described in section 10-266p of the general statutes, and
86 recommended by the Connecticut Education Association;

87 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is a
88 certified teacher teaching in a priority school district and recommended
89 by the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut;

90 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
91 Representatives, who is a certified administrator and recommended by
92 the Connecticut Association of Schools;

93 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a
94 certified administrator serving as the principal of a school located in a
95 priority school district and recommended by the Connecticut
96 Association of Schools;

97 (7) One appointed by the House chairperson of the joint standing
98 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
99 relating to education, who is a certified teacher and is serving as a
100 member of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Policy Oversight Council,
101 established pursuant to section 10-156bb of the general statutes;

102 (8) One appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing
103 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
104 relating to education, who is a certified teacher and is serving, or has
105 served, as a member of the minority teacher recruitment task force,
106 established pursuant to section 10-156aa of the general statutes;

107 (9) One appointed jointly by the House and Senate ranking members
108 of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
109 cognizance of matters relating to education, who is a faculty member of
110 an institution of higher education in the state and has expertise in
111 teacher recruitment strategies and is recommended by the Connecticut
112 chapter of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education;

113 (10) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

114 (11) The chief administrator of the Teachers' Retirement Board, or the
115 chief administrator's designee; and

116 (12) Four persons appointed by the Governor, one of whom is a
117 member of the State Board of Education, one of whom is a member of
118 the Technical Education and Career System board, and two of whom are
119 representatives of the Connecticut Association for Public School
120 Superintendents.

121 (c) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
122 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
123 be filled by the appointing authority.

124 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
125 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force
126 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall
127 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later
128 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

129 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
130 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
131 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

132 (f) Not later than January 4, 2023, the task force shall submit a report
133 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
134 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
135 education and children, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
136 4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that
137 it submits such report or January 4, 2023, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	10-266aa(c)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ED *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R* APP

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