



House of Representatives

File No. 860

General Assembly

January Session, 2023

(Reprint of File No. 591)

Substitute House Bill No. 6882
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
June 2, 2023

**AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION MANDATE RELIEF AND OTHER
TECHNICAL AND ASSORTED REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE
EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION STATUTES.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The executive director of the
2 Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, or the executive
3 director's designee, shall convene a working group to (1) review
4 mandates on the Department of Education and local and regional
5 boards of education in the general statutes, the regulations of
6 Connecticut state agencies and federal law for the purpose of
7 identifying those mandates that are overly burdensome or have the
8 effect of limiting or restricting the provision of instruction or services to
9 students, including a detailed analysis of each such mandate so
10 identified, the specific statutory or regulation citation for such mandate
11 and how such mandate is imposed on the department or board of
12 education, and (2) recommendations regarding the (A) development of
13 a biennial review process to examine the laws governing education in

14 the general statutes and the regulations of Connecticut state agencies for
15 the purpose of identifying obsolete or duplicative mandates on the
16 Department of Education or local and regional boards of education, and
17 (B) repeal of or amendment to any such statute or regulation.

18 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

19 (1) A representative from each of the following organizations,
20 designated by each such organization:

21 (A) The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education;

22 (B) The Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents;

23 (C) The Connecticut PTA;

24 (D) The American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut;

25 (E) The Connecticut Education Association; and

26 (F) The Connecticut Association of School Business Officials;

27 (2) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
28 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
29 relating to education, or the chairpersons' and ranking members'
30 designees; and

31 (3) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

32 (c) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not
33 later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy
34 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

35 (d) The executive director of the Connecticut Association of Boards
36 of Education, or the executive director's designee, shall serve as the
37 chairperson of the working group. The chairperson shall schedule the
38 first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than
39 sixty days after the effective date of this section.

40 (e) The working group may provide an opportunity for public
41 comment or seek input from students, parents, educators, boards of
42 education and other education stakeholders while conducting the
43 review and developing its recommendations under this section.

44 (f) Not later than January 1, 2025, the working group shall submit a
45 report on its review of such mandates and its recommendations for the
46 repeal of or amendment to any state mandates and development of a
47 biennial review process to the joint standing committee of the General
48 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in
49 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
50 The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such
51 report or July 1, 2025, whichever is later.

52 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is
53 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
54 *2023*):

55 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-
56 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil
57 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or
58 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such
59 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)
60 the nature and the relationship of alcohol and drugs, as defined in
61 subdivision (17) of section 21a-240, to health and personality
62 development, and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health
63 and mental health risk reduction education that includes, but need not
64 be limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the
65 relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually
66 transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in
67 section 19a-581, violence, teen dating violence, domestic violence and
68 child abuse, (3) school violence prevention, conflict resolution, the
69 prevention of and response to youth suicide and the identification and
70 prevention of and response to bullying, as defined in subsection (a) of
71 section 10-222d, except that (A) those boards of education that
72 implement any evidence-based model approach that is approved by the

73 Department of Education and is consistent with subsection (c) of section
74 10-145a, sections 10-222d, 10-222g and 10-222h, subsection (g) of section
75 10-233c and sections 1 and 3 of public act 08-160, shall not be required
76 to provide in-service training on the identification and prevention of
77 and response to bullying, and (B) such school violence prevention
78 training shall be in a manner prescribed in a school security and safety
79 plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-222n, (4)
80 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other emergency life saving
81 procedures, (5) the requirements and obligations of a mandated
82 reporter, (6) the detection and recognition of, and evidence-based
83 structured literacy interventions for, students with dyslexia, as defined
84 in section 10-3d, (7) culturally responsive pedagogy and practice,
85 including, but not limited to, the video training module relating to
86 implicit bias and anti-bias in the hiring process in accordance with the
87 provisions of section 10-156hh, [and] (8) the principles and practices of
88 social-emotional learning and restorative practices, and (9) emergency
89 response to students who experience a seizure in a school, including,
90 but not limited to, the recognition of the signs and symptoms of
91 seizures, the appropriate steps for seizure first aid, information about
92 seizure action plans for students and, for those authorized to administer
93 medication under section 10-212a, the administration of seizure rescue
94 medication or prescribed electrical stimulation using a Vagus Nerve
95 Stimulator magnet. Each local or regional board of education [may] shall
96 allow any [paraprofessional] paraeducator or noncertified employee to
97 participate, on a voluntary basis, in any in-service training program
98 provided pursuant to this section.

99 Sec. 3. Subsection (e) of section 10-220 of the general statutes is
100 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
101 *2023*):

102 (e) Each local and regional board of education shall establish a school
103 district curriculum committee. The committee shall recommend,
104 develop, review and approve all curriculum for the local or regional
105 school district. Each local and regional board of education shall make
106 available all curriculum approved by the committee and all associated

107 curriculum materials in accordance with the requirements of the
108 Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, 20 USC 1232h.

109 Sec. 4. Section 10-73d of the general statutes is repealed and the
110 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

111 A public school student who is both under seventeen years of age and
112 a [mother] parent may request permission from the local or regional
113 board of education to attend adult education classes. The local or
114 regional board of education may, by a majority vote of the members of
115 the board present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the board
116 called for such purpose, assign such student to adult education classes.

117 Sec. 5. Section 10-15k of the general statutes is repealed and the
118 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

119 (a) As used in this section: [, "remote learning"]

120 (1) "Remote learning" means instruction by means of one or more
121 Internet-based software platforms as part of a remote learning model;
122 and

123 (2) "Eligible student" means a student who resides in the state, but is
124 unable to attend school in person due to a medical diagnosis, including
125 a psychological or physical condition or restriction, or medical
126 exemption to required immunizations, documented by the child's
127 health care provider.

128 (b) The Department of Education shall develop a plan for the creation
129 and implementation of a state-wide remote learning school that offers
130 grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, and provides remote learning
131 to students. In the course of developing such plan, the department shall
132 (1) consider the findings and recommendations of the report created by
133 the Connecticut Remote Learning Commission pursuant to section 10-
134 15j, as amended by this act, (2) review remote learning schools and
135 models being implemented in other states, and (3) estimate the number
136 of eligible students. [who reside in Connecticut that may be eligible to

137 enroll in such state-wide remote learning school.] The department shall
138 use, to the extent permissible under federal guidelines, funds received
139 from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental
140 Appropriations Act, P.L. 116-260, as amended from time to time, to
141 develop such plan.

142 (c) Any state-wide remote learning school that may be created under
143 such plan shall (1) be maintained by and under the direction and control
144 of the State Board of Education, (2) provide in each school year not less
145 than one hundred eighty days of actual school sessions and nine
146 hundred hours of actual school work for grades kindergarten to twelve,
147 inclusive, provided not more than seven hours of actual school work in
148 any school day shall count toward the total required for the school year,
149 (3) offer coursework and a curriculum that is rigorous, aligned with
150 curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education, and in
151 accordance with the state-wide subject matter content standards,
152 adopted by the state board pursuant to section 10-4, (4) grant a diploma,
153 in accordance with the provisions of section 10-5, to any student
154 enrolled in such state-wide remote learning school who has
155 satisfactorily completed the high school graduation requirements
156 described in section 10-221a, and (5) be created with consideration given
157 to best practices in remote learning, technological capabilities of
158 students throughout the state and equity.

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

161 (e) Not later than [July 1, 2023] January 1, 2024, the department shall
162 submit the plan, the draft request for proposals and any
163 recommendations for legislation related to the implementation of such
164 plan to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
165 cognizance of matters relating to education and appropriations, in
166 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

167 Sec. 6. Section 10-220 of the general statutes is amended by adding
168 subsection (g) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

169 (NEW) (g) Each local or regional board of education conducting a
170 regular or special meeting of such board shall make available for public
171 inspection the agenda for the meeting or any associated documents that
172 may be reviewed by members of the board at such meeting and post
173 such agenda and documents on the Internet web site of such board.

174 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The Commissioner of
175 Education shall convene a family and community engagement in
176 education council. The council shall (1) advise the commissioner on
177 issues and policies related to family and community engagement in
178 education, (2) provide parent and community feedback on products and
179 initiatives offered by the Department of Education, (3) review and make
180 recommendations regarding the State Board of Education's five year
181 comprehensive plan concerning school-family-community partnership
182 initiatives, and (4) review and make recommendations regarding
183 effective practices to increase school and district capacity to develop
184 successful partnerships and families' capacity to support their children's
185 education. The council shall meet at least quarterly.

186 (b) The commissioner shall select the membership of the council,
187 provided such membership balances representation from school and
188 district staff, parents and guardians of students and community
189 members who reflect the state's geographic, economic, ethnic and racial
190 diversity and bring an authentic parent and community voice to the
191 council.

192 (c) Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the council
193 shall submit a report on its review and recommendations regarding the
194 comprehensive five-year plan regarding school-family-community
195 partnership initiatives to the State Board of Education and the joint
196 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
197 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
198 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

199 Sec. 8. Subsection (e) of section 10-16x of the general statutes is
200 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*

201 2023):

202 (e) The Department of Education shall, [provide grant recipients with
203 technical assistance, evaluation, program monitoring, professional
204 development and accreditation support] in collaboration with regional
205 educational service centers, support grant recipients by (1) monitoring
206 and evaluating programs and activities, (2) conducting a comprehensive
207 evaluation of the effectiveness of programs and implementing risk
208 assessments, (3) providing technical assistance and training to eligible
209 applicants, and (4) ensuring program activities are aligned with state
210 academic standards. The department may retain up to [four] seven and
211 one-half per cent of the amount appropriated for the grant program for
212 purposes of this subsection.

213 Sec. 9. Section 10-357b of the general statutes is repealed and the
214 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

215 (a) The purposes of the State Education Resource Center, established
216 pursuant to section 10-357a, shall be to assist the State Board of
217 Education in the provision of programs and activities that will promote
218 educational equity and excellence. Such activities shall be limited to:
219 Training, technical assistance and professional development for local
220 and regional boards of education, school leaders, teachers, families and
221 community partners in the form of seminars, publications, site visits, on-
222 line content and other appropriate means; maintaining a state education
223 resource center library; publication of technical materials; research and
224 evaluation; writing, managing, administering and coordinating grants
225 for the purposes described in this subsection; and any other related
226 activities directly related to the purposes described in this subsection.
227 The center shall support local educational agencies serving the needs of
228 families, communities and service providers. The center shall support
229 programs and activities concerning early childhood education, in
230 collaboration with the Office of Early Childhood, improving school and
231 district academic performance, and closing opportunity gaps between
232 socio-economic subgroups, and other related programs and activities.
233 The center shall support and collaborate with other state agencies for

234 the purposes described in this subsection. For such purposes the center
235 is authorized and empowered to:

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

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

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

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

242 (5) (A) Employ such assistants, agents and other employees as may
243 be necessary or desirable who shall not be employees, as defined in
244 subsection (b) of section 5-270; (B) establish all necessary or appropriate
245 personnel practices and policies, including those relating to hiring,
246 promotion, compensation, retirement and collective bargaining, which
247 need not be in accordance with chapter 68, and the center shall not be
248 an employer as defined in subsection (a) of section 5-270; and (C) engage
249 consultants, attorneys and appraisers as may be necessary or desirable
250 to carry out its purposes in accordance with this section and sections 10-
251 357a, 10-357c and 10-357d;

252 (6) Receive and accept aid or contributions from any source of money,
253 property, labor or other things of value, to be held, used and applied to
254 carry out the purposes of this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c and
255 10-357d, subject to such conditions upon which such grants and
256 contributions may be made, including, but not limited to, gifts or grants
257 from any department, agency or instrumentality of the United States or
258 this state for any purpose consistent with this section and sections 10-
259 357a, 10-357c and 10-357d;

260 (7) Make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or
261 incidental to the performance of its duties and the execution of its
262 powers under this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c and 10-357d,
263 including contracts and agreements for such professional services as the

264 center deems necessary, including, but not limited to, those services
265 provided by financial consultants, underwriters and technical
266 specialists;

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

271 (9) Invest in, acquire, purchase, own, manage, hold and dispose of
272 real property and convey or deal in or enter into agreements with
273 respect to such property on any terms necessary or incidental to
274 carrying out the purposes of this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c
275 and 10-357d; [, provided such transactions shall be subject to approval,
276 review or regulation by any state agency pursuant to title 4b or any other
277 provision of the general statutes;]

278 (10) Lease real property on any terms necessary or incidental to
279 carrying out the purposes of this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c
280 and 10-357d;

281 (11) Procure insurance against any liability or loss in connection with
282 its property and other assets, in such amounts and from such insurers
283 as it deems desirable and to procure insurance for employees;

284 (12) Account for and audit funds of the center and funds of any
285 recipients of funds from the center;

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

290 (14) Establish advisory committees to assist in accomplishing its
291 duties under this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c and 10-357d,
292 which may include one or more members of the board of directors and
293 persons other than members; and

294 (15) Do all acts and things necessary or convenient to carry out the
295 purposes of this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c and 10-357d, and
296 the powers expressly granted by this section and sections 10-357a, 10-
297 357c and 10-357d.

298 (b) The State Education Resource Center shall establish a Connecticut
299 School Reform Resource Center either within the State Education
300 Resource Center or by contract through a regional educational service
301 center, established pursuant to section 10-66a. The Connecticut School
302 Reform Resource Center shall operate year-round and shall focus on
303 serving the needs of all public schools. The Connecticut School Reform
304 Resource Center shall (1) publish and distribute reports on the most
305 effective practices for improving student achievement by successful
306 schools; (2) provide a program of professional development activities
307 for (A) school leaders, including curriculum coordinators, principals,
308 superintendents and board of education members, and (B) teachers to
309 educate students that includes research-based child development and
310 reading instruction tools and practices; (3) provide information on
311 successful models for evaluating student performance and managing
312 student data; (4) develop strategies for assisting such students who are
313 in danger of failing; (5) develop culturally relevant methods for
314 educating students whose primary language is not English; and (6)
315 provide other programs and materials to assist in the improvement of
316 public schools.

317 (c) The State Education Resource Center shall be subject to [(1) rules,
318 regulations and restrictions on purchasing, procurement, personal
319 service agreements and the disposition of assets generally applicable to
320 Connecticut state agencies, including those contained in titles 4, 4a and
321 4b and section 4e-19, and (2)] audit by the Auditors of Public Accounts
322 under chapter 12 and section 2-90.

323 Sec. 10. Section 10-212k of the general statutes is repealed and the
324 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

325 On and after September 1, [2023] 2024, each local and regional board

326 of education shall provide free menstrual products, as defined in section
327 18-69e, in women's restrooms, all-gender restrooms and at least one
328 men's restroom, which restrooms are accessible to students in grades
329 three to twelve, inclusive, in each school under the jurisdiction of such
330 boards and in a manner that does not stigmatize any student seeking
331 such products, pursuant to guidelines established by the Commissioner
332 of Public Health under section 19a-131l. To carry out the provisions of
333 this section, the local and regional boards of education may (1) accept
334 donations of menstrual products and grants from any source for the
335 purpose of purchasing such products, and (2) partner with a nonprofit
336 or community-based organization.

337 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 10-211a of the general statutes is
338 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
339 *passage*):

340 (a) As used in this section and section 10-211b, "designated staff
341 member" means a teacher, school administrator, school counselor,
342 [school counselor,] psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician or
343 school paraeducator employed by a local or regional board of education
344 or working in a public middle school or high school.

345 Sec. 12. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-111e of the
346 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
347 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

348 (2) The commissioner shall suspend, for a period of sixty days, the
349 motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege of
350 any person who has been convicted of a violation of subdivision (1) of
351 subsection (b) of section 30-89 or subsection (b) [,] or (c) of section 21a-
352 279a and who was under the age of twenty-one at the time of such
353 violation.

354 Sec. 13. Subsection (d) of section 10-265s of the general statutes is
355 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
356 *passage*):

357 (d) Not later than December 1, 2023, the Office of Workforce Strategy
358 shall submit a report to the Governor and the joint standing committees
359 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
360 education, higher education and employment advancement and labor
361 and public employees, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
362 4a. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, the number of
363 individuals who have enrolled in a training program offered as part of
364 the pilot program, the number of individuals who have completed such
365 training programs, and the number of individuals who have completed
366 such training program and obtained a permanent job in the heating,
367 ventilation and air conditioning system sector.

368 Sec. 14. Subsection (c) of section 8-210 of the general statutes is
369 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
370 *passage*):

371 (c) The Office of Early Childhood, in consultation with
372 representatives from child care centers, group child care homes and
373 family child care homes, within available appropriations, shall develop
374 guidelines for programs provided at state-contracted child care centers,
375 group child care [home] homes and family child care homes. The
376 guidelines shall include standards for program quality and design and
377 identify short and long-term outcomes for families participating in such
378 programs. The Office of Early Childhood, within available
379 appropriations, shall provide a copy of such guidelines to each state-
380 contracted child care center, group child care home and family child
381 care home. Each state-contracted child care center, group child care
382 home and family child care home shall use the guidelines to develop a
383 program improvement plan for the next twelve-month period and shall
384 submit the plan to the Office of Early Childhood. The plan shall include
385 goals to be used for measuring such improvement. The Office of Early
386 Childhood shall use the plan to monitor the progress of such child care
387 center, group child care home or family child care home.

388 Sec. 15. Subdivision (5) of subsection (c) of section 10-15j of the
389 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu

390 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

391 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
392 Representatives, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut
393 Association of Schools and one of whom is a representative of the
394 Connecticut Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents;

395 Sec. 16. Subsection (e) of section 10-15j of the general statutes is
396 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
397 *passage*):

398 (e) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee,
399 shall serve as the [chairpersons] chairperson of the commission.

400 Sec. 17. Section 10-16 of the general statutes is repealed and the
401 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

402 Each school district shall provide in each school year no less than one
403 hundred [and] eighty days of actual school sessions for grades
404 kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, nine hundred hours of actual school
405 work for full-day kindergarten and grades one to twelve, inclusive, and
406 four hundred [and] fifty hours of half-day kindergarten, provided
407 school districts shall not count more than seven hours of actual school
408 work in any school day towards the total required for the school year.
409 Remote learning shall be considered an actual school session for
410 purposes of this section, provided such remote learning is conducted in
411 compliance with the standards developed pursuant to subsection (b) of
412 section 10-4w. If weather conditions result in an early dismissal or a
413 delayed opening of school, a school district which maintains separate
414 morning and afternoon half-day kindergarten sessions may provide
415 either a morning or afternoon half-day kindergarten session on such
416 day. As used in this section, "remote learning" means instruction by
417 means of one or more Internet-based software platforms as part of a
418 remote learning model.

419 Sec. 18. Subsection (a) of section 10-16b of the general statutes, as
420 amended by section 376 of public act 21-2 of the June special session and

421 section 263 of public act 22-118, is repealed and the following is
422 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

423 (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall
424 include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally
425 qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education;
426 health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and
427 development, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary
428 resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-
429 16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not
430 limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in
431 performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast
432 cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health, physical,
433 mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention,
434 substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use
435 and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe use of social
436 media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the dangers of gang
437 membership, and accident prevention; language arts, including reading,
438 writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical
439 education; science, which shall include the climate change curriculum
440 described in subsection (d) of this section; social studies, including, but
441 not limited to, citizenship, economics, geography, government, history
442 and Holocaust and genocide education and awareness in accordance
443 with the provisions of section 10-18f; African-American and black
444 studies in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16ss; Puerto
445 Rican and Latino studies in accordance with the provisions of section
446 10-16ss; Native American studies, in accordance with the provisions of
447 section 10-16vv; computer programming instruction; and in addition,
448 on at least the secondary level, one or more world languages; vocational
449 education; and the black and Latino studies course in accordance with
450 the provisions of sections 10-16tt and 10-16uu. For purposes of this
451 subsection, world languages shall include American Sign Language,
452 provided such subject matter is taught by a qualified instructor under
453 the supervision of a teacher who holds a certificate issued by the State
454 Board of Education. For purposes of this subsection, the "arts" means

455 any form of visual or performing arts, which may include, but not be
456 limited to, dance, music, art and theatre; and "reading" means
457 evidenced-based instruction that focuses on competency in oral
458 language, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, rapid
459 automatic name or letter name fluency and reading comprehension.

460 Sec. 19. Subsection (a) of section 10-16b of the general statutes, as
461 amended by section 32 of public act 22-80, is repealed and the following
462 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

463 (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall
464 include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally
465 qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education;
466 health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and
467 development, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary
468 resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-
469 16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not
470 limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in
471 performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast
472 cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health, physical,
473 mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention,
474 substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use
475 and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe use of social
476 media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the dangers of gang
477 membership, and accident prevention; language arts, including reading,
478 writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical
479 education; science, which may include the climate change curriculum
480 described in subsection (d) of this section; social studies, including, but
481 not limited to, citizenship, economics, geography, government, history
482 and Holocaust and genocide education and awareness in accordance
483 with the provisions of section 10-18f; African-American and black
484 studies in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16ss; Puerto
485 Rican and Latino studies in accordance with the provisions of section
486 10-16ss; Native American studies, in accordance with the provisions of
487 section 10-16vv; Asian American and Pacific Islander studies, in
488 accordance with the provisions of section 10-66ww; computer

489 programming instruction; and in addition, on at least the secondary
490 level, one or more world languages; vocational education; and the black
491 and Latino studies course in accordance with the provisions of sections
492 10-16tt and 10-16uu. For purposes of this subsection, world languages
493 shall include American Sign Language, provided such subject matter is
494 taught by a qualified instructor under the supervision of a teacher who
495 holds a certificate issued by the State Board of Education. For purposes
496 of this subsection, the "arts" means any form of visual or performing
497 arts, which may include, but not be limited to, dance, music, art and
498 theatre; and "reading" means evidenced-based instruction that focuses
499 on competency in oral language, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency,
500 vocabulary, rapid automatic name or letter name fluency and reading
501 comprehension.

502 Sec. 20. Section 10-204d of the general statutes is repealed and the
503 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

504 Any [person] student who is exempt from the immunization
505 requirements set forth in section 10-204a on religious grounds shall
506 continue to be exempt from such requirements on religious grounds if
507 such student transfers from one public or private school in the state to
508 another public or private school in the state under the jurisdiction of
509 either the same or a different local or regional board of education, or
510 similar body governing a nonpublic school or schools.

511 Sec. 21. Subsection (b) of section 10-215l of the general statutes is
512 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
513 *passage*):

514 (b) A local or regional board of education, a regional educational
515 service center, a cooperative arrangement pursuant to section 10-158a,
516 child care centers, group child care homes and family child care homes,
517 as such terms are described in section 19a-77, or any organization or
518 entity administering or assisting in the development of a farm-to-school
519 program, may apply, in a form and manner prescribed by the
520 department, for a grant under this section. Such grant shall be used to

521 develop or implement a farm-to-school program, which may include (1)
522 the purchase of equipment, resources or materials, including, but not
523 limited to, local food products, gardening supplies, field trips to farms,
524 gleaning on farms and stipends to visiting farmers, (2) the provision of
525 professional development and skills training for educators, school
526 nutrition professionals, parents, caregivers, child care providers and
527 employees and volunteers of organizations administering or assisting in
528 the development and implementation of farm-to-school programs, and
529 (3) piloting new purchasing systems and programs.

530 Sec. 22. Subsection (f) of section 10-215l of the general statutes is
531 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
532 *passage*):

533 (f) Not later than January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the
534 department shall submit a report on the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant
535 Program to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
536 having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with
537 the provisions of section 11-4a. Such report shall include, but need not
538 be limited to, an accounting of the funds appropriated and received by
539 the department for the program, descriptions of each grant awarded
540 under the program and how such grant was expended by the recipient
541 [] and an evaluation of the program and the success of local farm-to-
542 school programs that have received grant awards under this section.

543 Sec. 23. Subsection (b) of section 10-221w of the general statutes is
544 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
545 *passage*):

546 (b) Not later than July 1, 2022, each local and regional board of
547 education shall adopt a policy, or revise an existing policy, concerning
548 the eligibility criteria for student enrollment in an advanced course or
549 program. Such policy shall provide for multiple methods by which a
550 student may satisfy the eligibility criteria for enrollment in an advanced
551 course or program, including, but not limited to, recommendations
552 from teachers, administrators, school counselors or other school

553 personnel. Such eligibility criteria shall not be based exclusively on a
554 student's prior academic performance and [that] any use of a student's
555 prior academic performance shall rely on evidence-based indicators of
556 how a student will perform in an advanced course or program.

557 Sec. 24. Subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 10-222k of the
558 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
559 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

560 (3) Any parent, [or] guardian or student serving as a member of any
561 such committee shall not participate in the activities described in
562 subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of subdivision (2) of this subsection
563 or any other activity that may compromise the confidentiality of a
564 student.

565 Sec. 25. Section 10-222w of the general statutes is repealed and the
566 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

567 Not later than January 1, 2022, the Social Emotional Learning and
568 School Climate Advisory Collaborative, established pursuant to section
569 10-222q, shall convene a working group to (1) review sections 10-222d
570 to 10-222p, inclusive, relating to bullying and safe school climate plans,
571 (2) make recommendations concerning (A) amendments to [said]
572 sections 10-222d to 10-222p, inclusive, (B) the inclusion of restorative
573 practices in safe school climate plans, and (C) state-wide adoption of the
574 National School Climate Standards, and (3) provide technical assistance
575 and support to local and regional boards of education in adopting and
576 implementing the Connecticut Model School Climate Policy, policy
577 number 5131.914. The Social Emotional Learning and School Climate
578 Advisory Collaborative may consult with or include representatives
579 from the national Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional
580 Learning as members of the working group in implementing the
581 provisions of this section.

582 Sec. 26. Subsection (c) of section 10-222t of the general statutes is
583 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
584 *passage*):

585 (c) The parent or guardian of a student shall receive prior written
586 notice of any social-emotional learning assessment or mental health and
587 resiliency screening described in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this
588 section that is to be administered pursuant to subsection (b) of this
589 section. No student shall complete such assessment or screening unless
590 such parent or guardian provides permission [that] for such student
591 [may] to complete such assessment or screening.

592 Sec. 27. Subsection (b) of section 10-530 of the general statutes is
593 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
594 *passage*):

595 (b) The comprehensive background checks required pursuant to
596 subsection (c) of section 19a-80, subsection (c) of section 19a-87b [,] and
597 subsection (a) of section 17b-749k, shall be conducted at least once every
598 five years for each child care services provider or staff member in
599 accordance with the provisions of 45 CFR 98.43, as amended from time
600 to time.

601 Sec. 28. Subdivision (4) of section 17a-248 of the general statutes is
602 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
603 *passage*):

604 (4) "Eligible children" means children (A) (i) from birth to thirty-six
605 months of age, who are not eligible for special education and related
606 services pursuant to sections 10-76a to 10-76h, inclusive, and (ii) thirty-
607 six months of age or older, who are receiving early intervention services
608 and are eligible or being evaluated for participation in preschool
609 services pursuant to Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities
610 Education Act, 20 USC 1411 et seq., until such children are enrolled in
611 such preschool services, and (B) who need early intervention services
612 because such children are:

613 [(I)] (i) Experiencing a significant developmental delay as measured
614 by standardized diagnostic instruments and procedures, including
615 informed clinical opinion, in one or more of the following areas:
616 Cognitive development; physical development, including vision or

617 hearing; communication development; social or emotional
618 development; or adaptive skills; or

619 [(II)] (ii) Diagnosed as having a physical or mental condition that has
620 a high probability of resulting in developmental delay.

621 Sec. 29. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-264l of the general
622 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
623 (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

624 (a) The Department of Education shall, within available
625 appropriations, establish a grant program (1) to assist (A) local and
626 regional boards of education, (B) regional educational service centers,
627 (C) the Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges on
628 behalf of Quinebaug Valley Community College and Three Rivers
629 Community College, and (D) cooperative arrangements pursuant to
630 section 10-158a, and (2) in assisting the state in meeting its obligations
631 pursuant to the decision in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any
632 related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the
633 commissioner, to assist (A) the Board of Trustees of the Community-
634 Technical Colleges on behalf of a regional community-technical college,
635 (B) the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System on
636 behalf of a state university, (C) the Board of Trustees of The University
637 of Connecticut on behalf of the university, (D) the board of governors
638 for an independent institution of higher education, as defined in
639 subsection (a) of section 10a-173, or the equivalent of such a board, on
640 behalf of the independent institution of higher education, and (E) any
641 other third-party not-for-profit corporation approved by the
642 commissioner with the operation of interdistrict magnet school
643 programs. All interdistrict magnet schools shall be operated in
644 conformance with the same laws and regulations applicable to public
645 schools. For the purposes of this section "an interdistrict magnet school
646 program" means a program which (i) supports racial, ethnic and
647 economic diversity, (ii) offers a special and high quality curriculum, and
648 (iii) requires students who are enrolled to attend at least half-time. An
649 interdistrict magnet school program does not include a regional

650 agricultural science and technology school, a technical education and
651 career school or a regional special education center. For the school
652 [years] year commencing July 1, 2017, [to July 1, 2023, inclusive] and
653 each school year thereafter, the governing authority for each
654 interdistrict magnet school program shall (I) restrict the number of
655 students that may enroll in the school from a participating district to
656 seventy-five per cent of the total school enrollment, and (II) maintain a
657 total school enrollment that is in accordance with the reduced-isolation
658 setting standards for interdistrict magnet school programs, developed
659 by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 10-264r, as
660 amended by this act.

661 (b) (1) Applications for interdistrict magnet school program
662 operating grants awarded pursuant to this section shall be submitted
663 annually to the Commissioner of Education at such time and in such
664 manner as the commissioner prescribes, except that on and after July 1,
665 2009, applications for such operating grants for new interdistrict magnet
666 schools, other than those that the commissioner determines will assist
667 the state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in Sheff v.
668 O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect,
669 as determined by the commissioner, shall not be accepted until the
670 commissioner develops a comprehensive state-wide interdistrict
671 magnet school plan. The commissioner shall submit such
672 comprehensive state-wide interdistrict magnet school plan on or before
673 October 1, 2016, to the joint standing committees of the General
674 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and
675 appropriations.

676 (2) In determining whether an application shall be approved and
677 funds awarded pursuant to this section, the commissioner shall
678 consider, but such consideration shall not be limited to: (A) Whether the
679 program offered by the school is likely to increase student achievement;
680 (B) whether the program is likely to reduce racial, ethnic and economic
681 isolation; (C) the percentage of the student enrollment in the program
682 from each participating district; and (D) the proposed operating budget
683 and the sources of funding for the interdistrict magnet school. For a

684 magnet school not operated by a local or regional board of education,
685 the commissioner shall only approve a proposed operating budget that,
686 on a per pupil basis, does not exceed the maximum allowable threshold
687 established in accordance with this subdivision. The maximum
688 allowable threshold shall be an amount equal to one hundred twenty
689 per cent of the state average of the quotient obtained by dividing net
690 current expenditures, as defined in section 10-261, by average daily
691 membership, as defined in said section, for the fiscal year two years
692 prior to the fiscal year for which the operating grant is requested. The
693 Department of Education shall establish the maximum allowable
694 threshold no later than December fifteenth of the fiscal year prior to the
695 fiscal year for which the operating grant is requested. If requested by an
696 applicant that is not a local or regional board of education, the
697 commissioner may approve a proposed operating budget that exceeds
698 the maximum allowable threshold if the commissioner determines that
699 there are extraordinary programmatic needs. For the fiscal years ending
700 June 30, 2017, June 30, 2018, June 30, 2020, and June 30, 2021, in the case
701 of an interdistrict magnet school that will assist the state in meeting its
702 obligations pursuant to the decision in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1
703 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the
704 commissioner, the commissioner shall also consider whether the school
705 is meeting the reduced-isolation setting standards for interdistrict
706 magnet school programs, developed by the commissioner pursuant to
707 section 10-264r, as amended by this act. If such school has not met such
708 reduced-isolation setting standards, it shall not be entitled to receive a
709 grant pursuant to this section unless the commissioner finds that it is
710 appropriate to award a grant for an additional year or years and
711 approves a plan to bring such school into compliance with such
712 reduced-isolation setting standards. If requested by the commissioner,
713 the applicant shall meet with the commissioner or the commissioner's
714 designee to discuss the budget and sources of funding.

715 (3) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2018, to June 30, [2023] 2025,
716 inclusive, the commissioner shall not award a grant to an interdistrict
717 magnet school program that (A) has more than seventy-five per cent of

718 the total school enrollment from one school district, or (B) does not
719 maintain a total school enrollment that is in accordance with the
720 reduced-isolation setting standards for interdistrict magnet school
721 programs, developed by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to
722 section 10-264r, as amended by this act, except the commissioner may
723 award a grant to such school for an additional year or years if the
724 commissioner finds it is appropriate to do so and approves a plan to
725 bring such school into compliance with such residency or reduced-
726 isolation setting standards.

727 (4) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2018, to June 30, 2021,
728 inclusive, if an interdistrict magnet school program does not maintain a
729 total school enrollment that is in accordance with the reduced-isolation
730 setting standards for interdistrict magnet school programs, developed
731 by the commissioner pursuant to section 10-264r, as amended by this
732 act, for two or more consecutive years, the commissioner may impose a
733 financial penalty on the operator of such interdistrict magnet school
734 program, or take any other measure, in consultation with such operator,
735 as may be appropriate to assist such operator in complying with such
736 reduced-isolation setting standards.

737 Sec. 30. Subparagraph (C) of subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of
738 section 10-264l of the general statutes is repealed and the following is
739 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

740 (C) (i) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, to June 30, 2019,
741 inclusive, each interdistrict magnet school operated by a regional
742 educational service center that began operations for the school year
743 commencing July 1, 2001, and that for the school year commencing July
744 1, 2008, enrolled at least fifty-five per cent, but no more than eighty per
745 cent of the school's students from a single town, shall receive a per pupil
746 grant (I) for each enrolled student who is a resident of the district that
747 enrolls at least fifty-five per cent, but no more than eighty per cent of the
748 school's students, up to an amount equal to the total number of such
749 enrolled students as of October 1, 2013, using the data of record, in the
750 amount of eight thousand one hundred eighty dollars, (II) for each

751 enrolled student who is a resident of the district that enrolls at least fifty-
752 five per cent, but not more than eighty per cent of the school's students,
753 in an amount greater than the total number of such enrolled students as
754 of October 1, 2013, using the data of record, in the amount of three
755 thousand dollars, (III) for each enrolled student who is not a resident of
756 the district that enrolls at least fifty-five per cent, but no more than
757 eighty per cent of the school's students, up to an amount equal to the
758 total number of such enrolled students as of October 1, 2013, using the
759 data of record, in the amount of eight thousand one hundred eighty
760 dollars, and (IV) for each enrolled student who is not a resident of the
761 district that enrolls at least fifty-five per cent, but not more than eighty
762 per cent of the school's students, in an amount greater than the total
763 number of such enrolled students as of October 1, 2013, using the data
764 of record, in the amount of seven thousand eighty-five dollars.

765 (ii) For the fiscal [year] years ending June 30, 2020, [and each fiscal
766 year thereafter] to June 30, 2022, inclusive, each interdistrict magnet
767 school operated by a regional educational service center that began
768 operations for the school year commencing July 1, 2001, and that for the
769 school year commencing July 1, 2008, enrolled at least fifty-five per cent,
770 but not more than eighty per cent of the school's students from a single
771 town, shall receive a per pupil grant (I) for each enrolled student who is
772 a resident of the district that enrolls at least fifty-five per cent, but not
773 more than eighty per cent of the school's students, up to an amount
774 equal to the total number of such enrolled students as of October 1, 2013,
775 using the data of record, in the amount of eight thousand three hundred
776 forty-four dollars, (II) for each enrolled student who is a resident of the
777 district that enrolls at least fifty-five per cent, but not more than eighty
778 per cent of the school's students, in an amount greater than the total
779 number of such enrolled students as of October 1, 2013, using the data
780 of record, in the amount of three thousand sixty dollars, (III) for each
781 enrolled student who is not a resident of the district that enrolls at least
782 fifty-five per cent, but no more than eighty per cent of the school's
783 students, up to an amount equal to the total number of such enrolled
784 students as of October 1, 2013, using the data of record, in the amount

785 of eight thousand three hundred forty-four dollars, and (IV) for each
786 enrolled student who is not a resident of the district that enrolls at least
787 fifty-five per cent, but not more than eighty per cent of the school's
788 students, in an amount greater than the total number of such enrolled
789 students as of October 1, 2013, using the data of record, in the amount
790 of seven thousand two hundred twenty-seven dollars.

791 Sec. 31. Subsection (o) of section 10-264l of the general statutes is
792 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
793 *2023*):

794 (o) For the school years commencing July 1, 2009, to July 1, 2018,
795 inclusive, and for the school year commencing July 1, 2023, any local or
796 regional board of education operating an interdistrict magnet school
797 pursuant to the decision in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any
798 related stipulation or order in effect, shall not charge tuition for any
799 student enrolled in a preschool program or in kindergarten to grade
800 twelve, inclusive, in an interdistrict magnet school operated by such
801 school district, except the Hartford school district may charge tuition for
802 any student enrolled in the Great Path Academy.

803 Sec. 32. Section 10-264r of the general statutes is repealed and the
804 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

805 Not later than July 1, 2017, the Commissioner of Education shall
806 develop, and revise as necessary thereafter, reduced-isolation [setting]
807 enrollment standards for interdistrict magnet school programs that shall
808 serve as the enrollment requirements for purposes of section 10-264l, as
809 amended by this act. Such standards shall (1) comply with the decision
810 of *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order
811 in effect, for an interdistrict magnet school program located in the Sheff
812 region, as defined in subsection (k) of section 10-264l, as amended by
813 this act, (2) define the term "reduced-isolation student" for purposes of
814 the standards, [(2)] (3) establish a requirement for the minimum
815 percentage of reduced-isolation students that can be enrolled in an
816 interdistrict magnet school program, provided such minimum

817 percentage is not less than twenty per cent of the total school enrollment,
818 [(3)] (4) allow an interdistrict magnet school program to have a total
819 school enrollment of reduced-isolation students that is not more than
820 one per cent below the minimum percentage established by the
821 commissioner, provided the commissioner approves a plan that is
822 designed to bring the number of reduced-isolation students of such
823 interdistrict magnet school program into compliance with the minimum
824 percentage, and [(4)] (5) for the school year commencing July 1, 2018,
825 authorize the commissioner to establish on or before May 1, 2018, and
826 revise as necessary thereafter, an alternative reduced-isolation student
827 enrollment percentage for an interdistrict magnet school program
828 located in the Sheff region, [as defined in subsection (k) of section 10-
829 264l,] provided the commissioner (A) determines that such alternative
830 (i) increases opportunities for students who are residents of Hartford to
831 access an educational setting with reduced racial isolation or other
832 categories of diversity, including, but not limited to, geography,
833 socioeconomic status, special education, English language learners and
834 academic achievement, (ii) complies with the decision of *Sheff v.*
835 *O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect,
836 and (B) approves a plan for such interdistrict magnet school program
837 that is designed to bring the number of reduced-isolation students of
838 such interdistrict magnet school program into compliance with such
839 alternative or the minimum percentage described in subdivision (2) of
840 this section. Not later than May 1, 2018, the commissioner shall submit
841 a report on each alternative reduced-isolation student enrollment
842 percentage established, pursuant to subdivision (4) of this section, for
843 an interdistrict magnet school program located in the Sheff region to the
844 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
845 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
846 section 11-4a. The reduced-isolation setting standards for interdistrict
847 magnet school programs shall not be deemed to be regulations, as
848 defined in section 4-166.

849 Sec. 33. Section 10-262s of the general statutes is repealed and the
850 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

851 (a) The Commissioner of Education may, to assist the state in meeting
852 its obligations pursuant to the decision in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1
853 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the
854 Commissioner of Education, transfer funds appropriated for the Sheff
855 settlement to the following: (1) Grants for interdistrict cooperative
856 programs pursuant to section 10-74d, (2) grants for state charter schools
857 pursuant to section 10-66ee, (3) grants for the interdistrict public school
858 attendance program pursuant to section 10-266aa, (4) grants for
859 interdistrict magnet schools pursuant to section 10-264l, as amended by
860 this act, and (5) to the Technical Education and Career System for
861 programming.

862 (b) The Commissioner of Education may, to assist the state in meeting
863 its obligations pursuant to the decision in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1
864 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the
865 Commissioner of Education, award grants with funds appropriated for
866 the Sheff settlement for academic and social student support programs
867 for the following voluntary interdistrict programs: (1) Interdistrict
868 cooperative programs pursuant to section 10-74d, (2) the interdistrict
869 public school attendance program pursuant to section 10-266aa, (3)
870 interdistrict magnet school programs pursuant to section 10-264l, as
871 amended by this act, and (4) the Technical Education and Career
872 System.

873 Sec. 34. Section 10-15f of the general statutes is repealed and the
874 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

875 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military
876 Children.

877 ARTICLE I

878 PURPOSE

879 It is the purpose of this compact to remove barriers to educational
880 success imposed on children of military families because of frequent
881 moves and deployment of their parents by:

882 A. Facilitating the timely enrollment of children of military families
883 and ensuring that they are not placed at a disadvantage due to difficulty
884 in the transfer of education records from the previous school districts or
885 variations in entrance or age requirements.

886 B. Facilitating the student placement process through which children
887 of military families are not disadvantaged by variations in attendance
888 requirements, scheduling, sequencing, grading, course content or
889 assessment.

890 C. Facilitating the qualification and eligibility for enrollment,
891 educational programs, and participation in extracurricular academic,
892 athletic, and social activities.

893 D. Facilitating the on-time graduation of children of military families.

894 E. Providing for the promulgation and enforcement of administrative
895 rules implementing the provisions of this compact.

896 F. Providing for the uniform collection and sharing of information
897 between and among member states, schools and military families under
898 this compact.

899 G. Promoting coordination between this compact and other compacts
900 affecting military children.

901 H. Promoting flexibility and cooperation between the educational
902 system, parents and the student in order to achieve educational success
903 for the student.

904 ARTICLE II

905 DEFINITIONS

906 As used in this compact, unless the context clearly requires a different
907 construction:

908 A. "Active duty" means full-time duty status in the active uniformed

909 service of the United States, including members of the National Guard
910 and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 USC [Section]
911 Chapters 1209 and 1211.

912 B. "Children of military families" means school-aged children,
913 enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth grade, in the household of an
914 active duty member.

915 C. "Compact commissioner" means the voting representative of each
916 compacting state appointed pursuant to Article VIII of this compact.

917 D. "Deployment" means the period one month prior to the service
918 members' departure from their home station on military orders to six
919 months after return to their home station.

920 E. "Educational records" means the official records, files, and data
921 directly related to a student and maintained by the school or local
922 education agency, including, but not limited, to records encompassing
923 all the material kept in the student's cumulative folder such as general
924 identifying data, records of attendance and of academic work
925 completed, records of achievement and results of evaluative tests, health
926 data, disciplinary status, test protocols and individualized education
927 programs.

928 F. "Extracurricular activities" means a voluntary activity sponsored
929 by the school or local education agency or an organization sanctioned
930 by the local education agency. Extracurricular activities include, but are
931 not limited to, preparation for and involvement in public performances,
932 contests, athletic competitions, demonstrations, displays and club
933 activities.

934 G. "Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military
935 Children" means the commission that is created under Article IX of this
936 compact, which is generally referred to as the Interstate Commission.

937 H. "Local education agency" means a public authority legally
938 constituted by the state as an administrative agency to provide control

939 of and direction for kindergarten through twelfth grade public
940 educational institutions.

941 I. "Member state" means a state that has enacted this compact.

942 J. "Military installation" means a base, camp, post, station, yard,
943 center, homeport facility for any ship, or other activity under the
944 jurisdiction of the Department of Defense, including any leased facility,
945 which is located within any of the several states, the District of
946 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands,
947 Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Marianas Islands and any other
948 U.S. Territory. Such term does not include any facility used primarily
949 for civil works, rivers and harbors projects, or flood control projects.

950 K. "Nonmember state" means a state that has not enacted this
951 compact.

952 L. "Receiving state" means the state to which a child of a military
953 family is sent, brought or caused to be sent or brought.

954 M. "Rule" means a written statement by the Interstate Commission
955 promulgated pursuant to Article XII of this compact that is of general
956 applicability, implements, interprets or prescribes a policy or provision
957 of the compact, or an organizational, procedural or practice requirement
958 of the Interstate Commission, and has the force and effect of statutory
959 law in a member state, and includes the amendment, repeal or
960 suspension of an existing rule.

961 N. "Sending state" means the state from which a child of a military
962 family is sent, brought or caused to be sent or brought.

963 O. "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia,
964 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam,
965 American Samoa, the Northern Marianas Islands and any other U.S.
966 territory.

967 P. "Student" means the child of a military family for whom the local
968 education agency receives public funding and who is formally enrolled

969 in kindergarten through twelfth grade.

970 Q. "Transition" means (1) the formal and physical process of
971 transferring from school to school, or (2) the period of time in which a
972 student moves from one school in the sending state to another school in
973 the receiving state.

974 R. "Uniformed services" means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine
975 Corps, Coast Guard as well as the Commissioned Corps of the National
976 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Services.

977 S. "Veteran" means a person who served in the uniformed services
978 and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other
979 than dishonorable.

980 ARTICLE III

981 APPLICABILITY

982 A. Except as otherwise provided in Section B, this compact shall
983 apply to the children of:

984 1. Active duty members of the uniformed services as defined in this
985 compact, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on
986 active duty orders pursuant to 10 USC [Section] Chapters 1209 and 1211;

987 2. Members or veterans of the uniformed services who are severely
988 injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one year after
989 medical discharge or retirement; and

990 3. Members of the uniformed services who die on active duty or as a
991 result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one year after
992 death.

993 B. The provisions of this interstate compact shall only apply to local
994 education agencies as defined in this compact.

995 C. The provisions of this compact shall not apply to the children of:

- 996 1. Inactive members of the National Guard and military reserves;
- 997 2. Members of the uniformed services now retired, except as
998 provided in Section A;
- 999 3. Veterans of the uniformed services, except as provided in Section
1000 A of this Article; and
- 1001 4. Other U.S. Dept. of Defense personnel and other federal agency
1002 civilian and contract employees not defined as active duty members of
1003 the uniformed services.

1004 ARTICLE IV

1005 EDUCATIONAL RECORDS & ENROLLMENT

1006 A. In the event that official education records cannot be released to
1007 the parents for the purpose of transfer, the custodian of the records in
1008 the sending state shall prepare and furnish to the parent a complete set
1009 of unofficial educational records containing uniform information as
1010 determined by the Interstate Commission. Upon receipt of the unofficial
1011 education records by a school in the receiving state, the school shall
1012 enroll and appropriately place the student based on the information
1013 provided in the unofficial records pending validation by the official
1014 records, as quickly as possible.

1015 B. Simultaneous with the enrollment and conditional placement of
1016 the student, the school in the receiving state shall request the student's
1017 official education record from the school in the sending state. Upon
1018 receipt of this request, the school in the sending state will process and
1019 furnish the official education records to the school in the receiving state
1020 within ten days or within such time as is reasonably determined under
1021 the rules promulgated by the Interstate Commission.

1022 C. Compacting states shall give thirty days from the date of
1023 enrollment or within such time as is reasonably determined under the
1024 rules promulgated by the Interstate Commission, for students to obtain
1025 any immunizations required by the receiving state. For a series of

1026 immunizations, initial vaccinations must be obtained within thirty days
1027 or within such time as is reasonably determined under the rules
1028 promulgated by the Interstate Commission.

1029 D. Students shall be allowed to continue their enrollment at grade
1030 level in the receiving state commensurate with their grade level,
1031 including kindergarten, from a local education agency in the sending
1032 state at the time of transition, regardless of age. A student that has
1033 satisfactorily completed the prerequisite grade level in the local
1034 education agency in the sending state shall be eligible for enrollment in
1035 the next highest grade level in the receiving state, regardless of age. A
1036 student transferring after the start of the school year in the receiving
1037 state shall enter the school in the receiving state on their validated level
1038 from an accredited school in the sending state.

1039 ARTICLE V

1040 PLACEMENT & ATTENDANCE

1041 A. When the student transfers before or during the school year, the
1042 receiving state school shall initially honor placement of the student in
1043 educational courses based on the student's enrollment in the sending
1044 state school and educational assessments conducted at the school in the
1045 sending state if the courses are offered. Course placement includes, but
1046 is not limited to, honors, International Baccalaureate, advanced
1047 placement, vocational, technical and career pathways courses.
1048 Continuing the student's academic program from the previous school
1049 and promoting placement in academically and career challenging
1050 courses should be paramount when considering placement. This does
1051 not preclude the school in the receiving state from performing
1052 subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued
1053 enrollment of the student in the courses.

1054 B. The receiving state school shall initially honor placement of the
1055 student in educational programs based on current educational
1056 assessments conducted at the school in the sending state or participation
1057 and placement in like programs in the sending state. Such programs

1058 include, but are not limited to: (1) Gifted and talented programs; and (2)
1059 English as a second language. This does not preclude the school in the
1060 receiving state from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure
1061 appropriate placement of the student.

1062 C. (1) In compliance with the federal requirements of the Individuals
1063 with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C.A. Section 1400 et seq., the
1064 receiving state shall initially provide comparable services to a student
1065 with disabilities based on his current individualized education
1066 program; and (2) In compliance with the requirements of Section 504 of
1067 the Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C.A. Section 794, and with Title II of the
1068 Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C.A. Sections 12131-12165, the
1069 receiving state shall make reasonable accommodations and
1070 modifications to address the needs of incoming students with
1071 disabilities, subject to an existing 504 or Title II Plan, to provide the
1072 student with equal access to education. This does not preclude the
1073 school in the receiving state from performing subsequent evaluations to
1074 ensure appropriate placement of the student.

1075 D. Local education agency administrative officials shall have
1076 flexibility in waiving course and program prerequisites, or other
1077 preconditions for placement in courses and programs offered under the
1078 jurisdiction of the local education agency.

1079 E. A student whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member
1080 of the uniformed services, as defined by the compact, and has been
1081 called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from
1082 deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be
1083 granted additional excused absences at the discretion of the local
1084 education agency superintendent to visit with his parent or legal
1085 guardian relative to such leave or deployment of the parent or guardian.

1086 ARTICLE VI

1087 ELIGIBILITY

1088 A. Eligibility for enrollment

1089 1. Special power of attorney, relative to the guardianship of a child of
1090 a military family and executed under applicable law shall be sufficient
1091 for the purposes of enrollment and all other actions requiring parental
1092 participation and consent.

1093 2. A local education agency shall be prohibited from charging local
1094 tuition to a transitioning military child placed in the care of a
1095 noncustodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis who lives
1096 in a jurisdiction other than that of the custodial parent.

1097 3. A transitioning military child, placed in the care of a noncustodial
1098 parent or other person standing in loco parentis who lives in a
1099 jurisdiction other than that of the custodial parent, may continue to
1100 attend the school in which he was enrolled while residing with the
1101 custodial parent.

1102 B. State and local education agencies shall facilitate the opportunity
1103 for transitioning military children's inclusion in extracurricular
1104 activities, regardless of application deadlines, to the extent they are
1105 otherwise qualified.

1106 ARTICLE VII

1107 GRADUATION

1108 In order to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military
1109 families states and local education agencies shall incorporate the
1110 following procedures:

1111 A. Local education agency administrative officials shall waive
1112 specific courses required for graduation if similar course work has been
1113 satisfactorily completed in another local education agency or shall
1114 provide reasonable justification for denial. Should a waiver not be
1115 granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending
1116 school, the local education agency shall provide an alternative means of
1117 acquiring required coursework so that graduation may occur on time.

1118 B. States shall accept: (1) Exit or end-of-course exams required for

1119 graduation from the sending state; or (2) national norm-referenced
1120 achievement tests; or (3) alternative testing, in lieu of testing
1121 requirements for graduation in the receiving state. In the event the
1122 above alternatives cannot be accommodated by the receiving state for a
1123 student transferring in his senior year, then the provisions of Article VII,
1124 Section C shall apply.

1125 C. Should a military student transferring at the beginning or during
1126 his or her senior year be ineligible to graduate from the receiving local
1127 education agency after all alternatives have been considered, the
1128 sending and receiving local education agencies shall ensure the receipt
1129 of a diploma from the sending local education agency, if the student
1130 meets the graduation requirements of the sending local education
1131 agency. In the event that one of the states in question is not a member of
1132 this compact, the member state shall use best efforts to facilitate the on-
1133 time graduation of the student in accordance with Sections A and B of
1134 this Article.

1135 ARTICLE VIII

1136 STATE COORDINATION

1137 A. Each member state shall, through the creation of a State Council or
1138 use of an existing body or board, provide for the coordination among its
1139 agencies of government, local education agencies and military
1140 installations concerning the state's participation in, and compliance
1141 with, this compact and Interstate Commission activities. While each
1142 member state may determine the membership of its own State Council,
1143 its membership must include at least: The state superintendent of
1144 education, superintendent of a school district with a high concentration
1145 of military children, representative from a military installation, one
1146 representative each from the legislative and executive branches of
1147 government, and other offices and stakeholder groups the State Council
1148 deems appropriate. A member state that does not have a school district
1149 deemed to contain a high concentration of military children may
1150 appoint a superintendent from another school district to represent local

1151 education agencies on the State Council.

1152 B. The State Council of each member state shall appoint or designate
1153 a military family education liaison to assist military families and the
1154 state in facilitating the implementation of this compact.

1155 C. The compact commissioner responsible for the administration and
1156 management of the state's participation in the compact shall be
1157 appointed by the Governor or as otherwise determined by each member
1158 state.

1159 D. The compact commissioner and the military family education
1160 liaison designated herein shall be ex-officio members of the State
1161 Council, unless either is already a full voting member of the State
1162 Council.

1163

ARTICLE IX

1164

INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL
1165 OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

1166 The member states hereby create the "Interstate Commission on
1167 Educational Opportunity for Military Children". The activities of the
1168 Interstate Commission are the formation of public policy and are a
1169 discretionary state function. The Interstate Commission shall:

1170 A. Be a body corporate and joint agency of the member states and
1171 shall have all the responsibilities, powers and duties set forth herein,
1172 and such additional powers as may be conferred upon it by a
1173 subsequent concurrent action of the respective legislatures of the
1174 member states in accordance with the terms of this compact.

1175 B. Consist of one Interstate Commission voting representative from
1176 each member state who shall be that state's compact commissioner.

1177 1. Each member state represented at a meeting of the Interstate
1178 Commission is entitled to one vote.

1179 2. A majority of the total member states shall constitute a quorum for
1180 the transaction of business, unless a larger quorum is required by the
1181 bylaws of the Interstate Commission.

1182 3. A representative shall not delegate a vote to another member state.
1183 In the event the compact commissioner is unable to attend a meeting of
1184 the Interstate Commission, the Governor or State Council may delegate
1185 voting authority to another person from their state for a specified
1186 meeting.

1187 4. The bylaws may provide for meetings of the Interstate Commission
1188 to be conducted by telecommunication or electronic communication.

1189 C. Consist of ex-officio, nonvoting representatives who are members
1190 of interested organizations. Such ex-officio members, as defined in the
1191 bylaws, may include, but not be limited to, members of the
1192 representative organizations of military family advocates, local
1193 education agency officials, parent and teacher groups, the U.S.
1194 Department of Defense, the Education Commission of the States, the
1195 Interstate Agreement on the Qualification of Educational Personnel and
1196 other interstate compacts affecting the education of children of military
1197 members.

1198 D. Meet at least once each calendar year. The chairperson may call
1199 additional meetings and, upon the request of a simple majority of the
1200 member states, shall call additional meetings.

1201 E. Establish an executive committee, whose members shall include
1202 the officers of the Interstate Commission and such other members of the
1203 Interstate Commission as determined by the bylaws. Members of the
1204 executive committee shall serve a one-year term. Members of the
1205 executive committee shall be entitled to one vote each. The executive
1206 committee shall have the power to act on behalf of the Interstate
1207 Commission, with the exception of rulemaking, during periods when
1208 the Interstate Commission is not in session. The executive committee
1209 shall oversee the day-to-day activities of the administration of the
1210 compact including enforcement and compliance with the provisions of

1211 the compact, its bylaws and rules, and other such duties as deemed
1212 necessary. The U.S. Dept. of Defense, shall serve as an ex-officio,
1213 nonvoting member of the executive committee.

1214 F. Establish bylaws and rules that provide for conditions and
1215 procedures under which the Interstate Commission shall make its
1216 information and official records available to the public for inspection or
1217 copying. The Interstate Commission may exempt from disclosure
1218 information or official records to the extent they would adversely affect
1219 personal privacy rights or proprietary interests.

1220 G. Give public notice of all meetings and all meetings shall be open
1221 to the public, except as set forth in the rules or as otherwise provided in
1222 the compact. The Interstate Commission and its committees may close a
1223 meeting, or portion thereof, where it determines by two-thirds vote that
1224 an open meeting would be likely to:

1225 1. Relate solely to the Interstate Commission's internal personnel
1226 practices and procedures;

1227 2. Disclose matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal
1228 and state statute;

1229 3. Disclose trade secrets or commercial or financial information which
1230 is privileged or confidential;

1231 4. Involve accusing a person of a crime, or formally censuring a
1232 person;

1233 5. Disclose information of a personal nature where disclosure would
1234 constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

1235 6. Disclose investigative records compiled for law enforcement
1236 purposes; or

1237 7. Specifically relate to the Interstate Commission's participation in a
1238 civil action or other legal proceeding.

1239 H. Cause its legal counsel or designee to certify that a meeting may
1240 be closed and shall reference each relevant exemptible provision for any
1241 meeting, or portion of a meeting, which is closed pursuant to this
1242 provision. The Interstate Commission shall keep minutes which shall
1243 fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall
1244 provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, and the reasons
1245 therefor, including a description of the views expressed and the record
1246 of a roll call vote. All documents considered in connection with an action
1247 shall be identified in such minutes. All minutes and documents of a
1248 closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject to release by a majority
1249 vote of the Interstate Commission.

1250 I. Collect standardized data concerning the educational transition of
1251 the children of military families under this compact as directed through
1252 its rules which shall specify the data to be collected, the means of
1253 collection and data exchange and reporting requirements. Such
1254 methods of data collection, exchange and reporting shall, insofar as is
1255 reasonably possible, conform to current technology and coordinate its
1256 information functions with the appropriate custodian of records as
1257 identified in the bylaws and rules.

1258 J. Create a process that permits military officials, education officials
1259 and parents to inform the Interstate Commission if and when there are
1260 alleged violations of the compact or its rules or when issues subject to
1261 the jurisdiction of the compact or its rules are not addressed by the state
1262 or local education agency. This section shall not be construed to create a
1263 private right of action against the Interstate Commission or any member
1264 state.

1265 ARTICLE X

1266 POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION

1267 The Interstate Commission shall have the following powers:

1268 A. To provide for dispute resolution among member states.

1269 B. To promulgate rules and take all necessary actions to effect the
1270 goals, purposes and obligations as enumerated in this compact. The
1271 rules shall have the force and effect of statutory law and shall be binding
1272 in the compact states to the extent and in the manner provided in this
1273 compact.

1274 C. To issue, upon request of a member state, advisory opinions
1275 concerning the meaning or interpretation of the interstate compact, its
1276 bylaws, rules and actions.

1277 D. To enforce compliance with the compact provisions, the rules
1278 promulgated by the Interstate Commission, and the bylaws, using all
1279 necessary and proper means, including but not limited to the use of
1280 judicial process.

1281 E. To establish and maintain offices which shall be located within one
1282 or more of the member states.

1283 F. To purchase and maintain insurance and bonds.

1284 G. To borrow, accept, hire or contract for services of personnel.

1285 H. To establish and appoint committees including, but not limited to,
1286 an executive committee as required by Article IX, Section E, which shall
1287 have the power to act on behalf of the Interstate Commission in carrying
1288 out its powers and duties hereunder.

1289 I. To elect or appoint such officers, attorneys, employees, agents, or
1290 consultants, and to fix their compensation, define their duties and
1291 determine their qualifications; and to establish the Interstate
1292 Commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of
1293 interest, rates of compensation, and qualifications of personnel.

1294 J. To accept any and all donations and grants of money, equipment,
1295 supplies, materials, and services, and to receive, utilize, and dispose of
1296 it.

1297 K. To lease, purchase, accept contributions or donations of, or

1298 otherwise to own, hold, improve or use any property, real, personal or
1299 mixed.

1300 L. To sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or
1301 otherwise dispose of any property, real, personal or mixed.

1302 M. To establish a budget and make expenditures.

1303 N. To adopt a seal and bylaws governing the management and
1304 operation of the Interstate Commission.

1305 O. To report annually to the legislatures, governors, judiciary, and
1306 state councils of the member states concerning the activities of the
1307 Interstate Commission during the preceding year. Such reports shall
1308 also include any recommendations that may have been adopted by the
1309 Interstate Commission.

1310 P. To coordinate education, training and public awareness regarding
1311 the compact, its implementation and operation for officials and parents
1312 involved in such activity.

1313 Q. To establish uniform standards for the reporting, collecting and
1314 exchanging of data.

1315 R. To maintain corporate books and records in accordance with the
1316 bylaws.

1317 S. To perform such functions as may be necessary or appropriate to
1318 achieve the purposes of this compact.

1319 T. To provide for the uniform collection and sharing of information
1320 between and among member states, schools and military families under
1321 this compact.

1322 ARTICLE XI

1323 ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THE INTERSTATE
1324 COMMISSION

1325 A. The Interstate Commission shall, by a majority of the members
1326 present and voting, within twelve months after the first Interstate
1327 Commission meeting, adopt bylaws to govern its conduct as may be
1328 necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the compact,
1329 including, but not limited to:

1330 1. Establishing the fiscal year of the Interstate Commission;

1331 2. Establishing an executive committee, and such other committees as
1332 may be necessary;

1333 3. Providing for the establishment of committees and for governing
1334 any general or specific delegation of authority or function of the
1335 Interstate Commission;

1336 4. Providing reasonable procedures for calling and conducting
1337 meetings of the Interstate Commission, and ensuring reasonable notice
1338 of each such meeting;

1339 5. Establishing the titles and responsibilities of the officers and staff
1340 of the Interstate Commission;

1341 6. Providing a mechanism for concluding the operations of the
1342 Interstate Commission and the return of surplus funds that may exist
1343 upon the termination of the compact after the payment and reserving of
1344 all of its debts and obligations;

1345 7. Providing start-up rules for initial administration of the compact.

1346 B. The Interstate Commission shall, by a majority of the members,
1347 elect annually from among its members a chairperson, a vice-
1348 chairperson, and a treasurer, each of whom shall have such authority
1349 and duties as may be specified in the bylaws. The chairperson or, in the
1350 chairperson's absence or disability, the vice-chairperson, shall preside at
1351 all meetings of the Interstate Commission. The officers so elected shall
1352 serve without compensation or remuneration from the Interstate
1353 Commission provided that, subject to the availability of budgeted
1354 funds, the officers shall be reimbursed for ordinary and necessary costs

1355 and expenses incurred by them in the performance of their
1356 responsibilities as officers of the Interstate Commission.

1357 C. Executive Committee, Officers and Personnel

1358 1. The executive committee shall have such authority and duties as
1359 may be set forth in the bylaws, including, but not limited to:

1360 a. Managing the affairs of the Interstate Commission in a manner
1361 consistent with the bylaws and purposes of the Interstate Commission;

1362 b. Overseeing an organizational structure within, and appropriate
1363 procedures for the Interstate Commission to provide for the creation of
1364 rules, operating procedures, and administrative and technical support
1365 functions; and

1366 c. Planning, implementing, and coordinating communications and
1367 activities with other state, federal and local government organizations
1368 in order to advance the goals of the Interstate Commission.

1369 2. The executive committee may, subject to the approval of the
1370 Interstate Commission, appoint or retain an executive director for such
1371 period, upon such terms and conditions and for such compensation, as
1372 the Interstate Commission may deem appropriate. The executive
1373 director shall serve as secretary to the Interstate Commission, but shall
1374 not be a member of the Interstate Commission. The executive director
1375 shall hire and supervise such other persons as may be authorized by the
1376 Interstate Commission.

1377 D. The Interstate Commission's executive director and its employees
1378 shall be immune from suit and liability, either personally or in their
1379 official capacity, for a claim for damage to or loss of property or personal
1380 injury or other civil liability caused or arising out of or relating to an
1381 actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that such
1382 person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred, within the scope
1383 of Interstate Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities
1384 provided, such person shall not be protected from suit or liability for

1385 damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the intentional or willful and
1386 wanton misconduct of such person.

1387 1. The liability of the Interstate Commission's executive director and
1388 employees or Interstate Commission representatives, acting within the
1389 scope of such person's employment or duties for acts, errors, or
1390 omissions occurring within such person's state may not exceed the
1391 limits of liability set forth under the Constitution and laws of that state
1392 for state officials, employees, and agents. The Interstate Commission is
1393 considered to be an instrumentality of the states for the purposes of any
1394 such action. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to protect
1395 such person from suit or liability for damage, loss, injury, or liability
1396 caused by the intentional or willful and wanton misconduct of such
1397 person.

1398 2. The Interstate Commission shall defend the executive director and
1399 its employees and, subject to the approval of the Attorney General or
1400 other appropriate legal counsel of the member state represented by an
1401 Interstate Commission representative, shall defend such Interstate
1402 Commission representative in any civil action seeking to impose
1403 liability arising out of an actual or alleged act, error or omission that
1404 occurred within the scope of Interstate Commission employment, duties
1405 or responsibilities, or that the defendant had a reasonable basis for
1406 believing occurred within the scope of Interstate Commission
1407 employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that the actual or
1408 alleged act, error, or omission did not result from intentional or willful
1409 and wanton misconduct on the part of such person.

1410 3. To the extent not covered by the state involved, member state, or
1411 the Interstate Commission, the representatives or employees of the
1412 Interstate Commission shall be held harmless in the amount of a
1413 settlement or judgment, including attorney's fees and costs, obtained
1414 against such persons arising out of an actual or alleged act, error, or
1415 omission that occurred within the scope of Interstate Commission
1416 employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that such persons had a
1417 reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Interstate

1418 Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that the
1419 actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from intentional
1420 or willful and wanton misconduct on the part of such persons.

1421 ARTICLE XII

1422 RULEMAKING FUNCTIONS OF THE INTERSTATE
1423 COMMISSION

1424 A. The Interstate Commission shall promulgate reasonable rules in
1425 order to effectively and efficiently achieve the purposes of this compact.
1426 Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event the Interstate Commission
1427 exercises its rulemaking authority in a manner that is beyond the scope
1428 of the purposes of this compact, or the powers granted hereunder, then
1429 such an action by the Interstate Commission shall be invalid and have
1430 no force or effect.

1431 B. Rules shall be made pursuant to a rulemaking process that
1432 substantially conforms to the "Model State Administrative Procedure
1433 Act," of 1981 Act, Uniform Laws Annotated, Vol. 15, p.1 (2000) as
1434 amended, as may be appropriate to the operations of the Interstate
1435 Commission.

1436 C. Not later than thirty days after a rule is promulgated, any person
1437 may file a petition for judicial review of the rule provided, the filing of
1438 such a petition shall not stay or otherwise prevent the rule from
1439 becoming effective unless the court finds that the petitioner has a
1440 substantial likelihood of success. The court shall give deference to the
1441 actions of the Interstate Commission consistent with applicable law and
1442 shall not find the rule to be unlawful if the rule represents a reasonable
1443 exercise of the Interstate Commission's authority.

1444 D. If a majority of the legislatures of the compacting states rejects a
1445 rule by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to
1446 adopt the compact, then such rule shall have no further force and effect
1447 in any compacting state.

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ARTICLE XIII

1449

OVERSIGHT, ENFORCEMENT, AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

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A. Oversight

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1. The executive, legislative and judicial branches of state government in each member state shall enforce this compact and shall take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate the compact's purposes and intent. The provisions of this compact and the rules promulgated hereunder shall have standing as statutory law.

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2. All courts shall take judicial notice of the compact and the rules in any judicial or administrative proceeding in a member state pertaining to the subject matter of this compact which may affect the powers, responsibilities or actions of the Interstate Commission.

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3. The Interstate Commission shall be entitled to receive all service of process in any such proceeding, and shall have standing to intervene in the proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide service of process to the Interstate Commission shall render a judgment or order void as to the Interstate Commission, this compact or promulgated rules.

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B. If the Interstate Commission determines that a member state has defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities under this compact, or the bylaws or promulgated rules, the Interstate Commission shall:

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1. Provide written notice to the defaulting state and other member states of the nature of the default, the means of curing the default and any action taken by the Interstate Commission. The Interstate Commission shall specify the conditions by which the defaulting state must cure its default.

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2. Provide remedial training and specific technical assistance regarding the default.

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3. If the defaulting state fails to cure the default, the defaulting state

1477 shall be terminated from the compact upon an affirmative vote of a
1478 majority of the member states and all rights, privileges and benefits
1479 conferred by this compact shall be terminated from the effective date of
1480 termination. A cure of the default does not relieve the offending state of
1481 obligations or liabilities incurred during the period of the default.

1482 4. Suspension or termination of membership in the compact shall be
1483 imposed only after all other means of securing compliance have been
1484 exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate shall be given by the
1485 Interstate Commission to the Governor, the majority and minority
1486 leaders of the defaulting state's legislature, and each of the member
1487 states.

1488 5. The state which has been suspended or terminated is responsible
1489 for all assessments, obligations and liabilities incurred through the
1490 effective date of suspension or termination including obligations, the
1491 performance of which extends beyond the effective date of suspension
1492 or termination.

1493 6. The Interstate Commission shall not bear any costs relating to any
1494 state that has been found to be in default or which has been suspended
1495 or terminated from the compact, unless otherwise mutually agreed
1496 upon in writing between the Interstate Commission and the defaulting
1497 state.

1498 7. The defaulting state may appeal the action of the Interstate
1499 Commission by petitioning the U.S. District Court for the District of
1500 Columbia or the federal district where the Interstate Commission has its
1501 principal offices. The prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such
1502 litigation including reasonable attorney's fees.

1503 C. Dispute Resolution

1504 1. The Interstate Commission shall attempt, upon the request of a
1505 member state, to resolve disputes which are subject to the compact and
1506 which may arise among member states and between member and
1507 nonmember states.

1508 2. The Interstate Commission shall promulgate a rule providing for
1509 both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as
1510 appropriate.

1511 D. Enforcement

1512 1. The Interstate Commission, in the reasonable exercise of its
1513 discretion, shall enforce the provisions and rules of this compact.

1514 2. The Interstate Commission may, by majority vote of the members,
1515 initiate legal action in the United States District Court for the District of
1516 Columbia or, at the discretion of the Interstate Commission, in the
1517 federal district where the Interstate Commission has its principal offices,
1518 to enforce compliance with the provisions of the compact, its
1519 promulgated rules and bylaws, against a member state in default. The
1520 relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. In the
1521 event judicial enforcement is necessary the prevailing party shall be
1522 awarded all costs of such litigation including reasonable attorney's fees.

1523 3. The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive remedies of the
1524 Interstate Commission. The Interstate Commission may avail itself of
1525 any other remedies available under state law or the regulation of a
1526 profession.

1527 ARTICLE XIV

1528 FINANCING OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION

1529 A. The Interstate Commission shall pay, or provide for the payment
1530 of, the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization and
1531 ongoing activities.

1532 B. The Interstate Commission may levy on and collect an annual
1533 assessment from each member state to cover the cost of the operations
1534 and activities of the Interstate Commission and its staff which must be
1535 in a total amount sufficient to cover the Interstate Commission's annual
1536 budget as approved each year. The aggregate annual assessment
1537 amount shall be allocated based upon a formula to be determined by the

1538 Interstate Commission, which shall promulgate a rule binding upon all
1539 member states.

1540 C. The Interstate Commission shall not incur obligations of any kind
1541 prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the same; nor shall the
1542 Interstate Commission pledge the credit of any of the member states,
1543 except by and with the authority of the member state.

1544 D. The Interstate Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all
1545 receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the
1546 Interstate Commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting
1547 procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts and
1548 disbursements of funds handled by the Interstate Commission shall be
1549 audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant and the
1550 report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual
1551 report of the Interstate Commission.

1552 ARTICLE XV

1553 MEMBER STATES, EFFECTIVE DATE AND AMENDMENT

1554 A. Any state is eligible to become a member state.

1555 B. The compact shall become effective and binding upon legislative
1556 enactment of the compact into law by no less than ten of the states. The
1557 effective date shall be no earlier than December 1, 2007. Thereafter it
1558 shall become effective and binding as to any other member state upon
1559 enactment of the compact into law by that state. The governors of
1560 nonmember states or their designees shall be invited to participate in
1561 the activities of the Interstate Commission on a nonvoting basis prior to
1562 adoption of the compact by all states.

1563 C. The Interstate Commission may propose amendments to the
1564 compact for enactment by the member states. No amendment shall
1565 become effective and binding upon the Interstate Commission and the
1566 member states unless and until it is enacted into law by unanimous
1567 consent of the member states.

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ARTICLE XVI

1569

WITHDRAWAL AND DISSOLUTION

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A. Withdrawal

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1. Once effective, the compact shall continue in force and remain binding upon each and every member state provided a member state may withdraw from the compact by specifically repealing the statute, which enacted the compact into law.

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2. Withdrawal from this compact shall be by the enactment of a statute repealing the same, but shall not take effect until one year after the effective date of such statute and until written notice of the withdrawal has been given by the withdrawing state to the Governor of each other member jurisdiction.

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3. The withdrawing state shall immediately notify the chairperson of the Interstate Commission in writing upon the introduction of legislation repealing this compact in the withdrawing state. The Interstate Commission shall notify the other member states of the withdrawing state's intent to withdraw within sixty days of its receipt thereof.

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4. The withdrawing state is responsible for all assessments, obligations and liabilities incurred through the effective date of withdrawal, including obligations, the performance of which extend beyond the effective date of withdrawal.

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5. Reinstatement following withdrawal of a member state shall occur upon the withdrawing state reenacting the compact or upon such later date as determined by the Interstate Commission.

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B. Dissolution of Compact

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1. This compact shall dissolve effective upon the date of the withdrawal or default of the member state which reduces the membership in the compact to one member state.

1597 2. Upon the dissolution of this compact, the compact becomes null
1598 and void and shall be of no further force or effect, and the business and
1599 affairs of the Interstate Commission shall be concluded and surplus
1600 funds shall be distributed in accordance with the bylaws.

1601 ARTICLE XVII

1602 SEVERABILITY AND CONSTRUCTION

1603 A. The provisions of this compact shall be severable, and if any
1604 phrase, clause, sentence or provision is deemed unenforceable, the
1605 remaining provisions of the compact shall be enforceable.

1606 B. The provisions of this compact shall be liberally construed to
1607 effectuate its purposes.

1608 C. Nothing in this compact shall be construed to prohibit the
1609 applicability of other interstate compacts to which the states are
1610 members.

1611 ARTICLE XVIII

1612 BINDING EFFECT OF COMPACT AND OTHER LAWS

1613 A. Other Laws

1614 1. Nothing herein prevents the enforcement of any other law of a
1615 member state that is not inconsistent with this compact.

1616 2. All member states' laws conflicting with this compact are
1617 superseded to the extent of the conflict.

1618 B. Binding Effect of the Compact

1619 1. All lawful actions of the Interstate Commission, including all rules
1620 and bylaws promulgated by the Interstate Commission, are binding
1621 upon the member states.

1622 2. All agreements between the Interstate Commission and the

1623 member states are binding in accordance with their terms.

1624 3. In the event any provision of this compact exceeds the
1625 constitutional limits imposed on the legislature of any member state,
1626 such provision shall be ineffective to the extent of the conflict with the
1627 constitutional provision in question in that member state.

1628 Sec. 35. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-16p of the
1629 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1630 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

1631 (2) "Eligible children" means children [three and] from birth to four
1632 years of age, inclusive, and children five years of age who are not
1633 eligible to enroll in school pursuant to section 10-15c, or who are eligible
1634 to enroll in school and will attend a school readiness program pursuant
1635 to section 10-16t;

1636 Sec. 36. Subsections (c) to (l), inclusive, of section 10-16p of the general
1637 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1638 (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

1639 (c) The commissioner shall establish a grant program to provide
1640 spaces in accredited school readiness programs located in priority
1641 school districts, as described in section 10-266p, or in former priority
1642 school districts for eligible children. The state, acting by and in the
1643 discretion of the Commissioner of Early Childhood, in consultation with
1644 a town or regional school readiness council, may enter into a contract
1645 with a municipality, local or regional board of education, regional
1646 educational service center, family resource center, provider of a child
1647 care center, group child care home or family child care home, as
1648 described in section 19a-77, Head Start program, preschool program or
1649 other program that meets such standards established by the
1650 commissioner, to provide, within available appropriations, state
1651 financial assistance. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year period
1652 based on an applicant's designation as a priority school district for the
1653 initial year of application, except that if a school district that receives a
1654 grant pursuant to this subsection is no longer designated as a priority

1655 school district at the end of such five-year period, such former priority
1656 school district shall continue to be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to
1657 this subsection. Grant awards shall be made [annually] for the fiscal year
1658 ending June 30, 2023, and biennially thereafter, contingent upon
1659 available funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief elected
1660 official of such town and the superintendent of schools for such priority
1661 school district or former priority school district shall submit a plan for
1662 the expenditure of grant funds and responses to the local request for
1663 proposal process to the commissioner. The commissioner shall review
1664 and approve such plans. The plan shall: (1) Be developed in consultation
1665 with the local or regional school readiness council established pursuant
1666 to section 10-16r; (2) be based on a needs and resource assessment; (3)
1667 provide for the issuance of requests for proposals for providers of
1668 accredited school readiness programs, provided, after the initial
1669 requests for proposals, facilities that have been approved to operate a
1670 child care program financed through the Connecticut Health and
1671 Education Facilities Authority and have received a commitment for debt
1672 service from the Department of Social Services, pursuant to section 17b-
1673 749i, on or before June 30, 2014, and on or after July 1, 2014, from the
1674 office, are exempt from the requirement for issuance of annual requests
1675 for proposals; and (4) identify the need for funding pursuant to section
1676 17b-749a in order to extend the hours and days of operation of school
1677 readiness programs in order to provide child care services for children
1678 attending such programs.

1679 (d) (1) The commissioner shall establish a competitive grant program
1680 to provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs or school
1681 readiness programs seeking accreditation located in (A) an area served
1682 by a priority school or a former priority school, (B) a town ranked one
1683 to fifty when all towns are ranked in ascending order according to town
1684 wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f, whose school
1685 district is not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p, (C) a
1686 town formerly a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,
1687 as provided for in subdivision (2) of this subsection, or (D) a town
1688 designated as an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u, whose

1689 school district is not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-
1690 266p. A town in which a priority school is located, a regional school
1691 readiness council, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-16r, for a
1692 region in which such a school is located or a town described in
1693 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision may apply for such a grant in an
1694 amount equal to the number of spaces in an accredited school readiness
1695 program or a school readiness program seeking accreditation multiplied
1696 by the per child cost set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of
1697 section 10-16q. Eligibility shall be determined for a three-year period
1698 based on an applicant's designation as having a priority school or being
1699 a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision for the initial
1700 year of application. The state, acting by and in the discretion of the
1701 Commissioner of Early Childhood, in consultation with a town or
1702 regional school readiness council, may enter into a contract with a
1703 municipality, local or regional board of education, regional educational
1704 service center, family resource center, provider of a child care center,
1705 group child care home or family child care home, as described in section
1706 19a-77, Head Start program, preschool program or other program that
1707 meets such standards established by the commissioner, to provide,
1708 within available appropriations, state financial assistance. The chief
1709 elected official of such town and the superintendent of schools of the
1710 school district or the regional school readiness council shall submit a
1711 plan, as described in subsection (c) of this section, for the expenditure of
1712 such grant funds to the commissioner. In awarding grants pursuant to
1713 this subsection, the commissioner shall give preference to applications
1714 submitted by regional school readiness councils and may, within
1715 available appropriations, provide a grant to such town or regional
1716 school readiness council that increases the number of spaces for eligible
1717 children who reside in an area or town described in subparagraphs (A)
1718 to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision, in an accredited school readiness
1719 program or a school readiness program seeking accreditation.

1720 (2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision,
1721 commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, if a town received
1722 a grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection and is no longer

1723 eligible to receive such a grant, the town may receive a phase-out grant
1724 for each of the three fiscal years following the fiscal year such town
1725 received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

1726 (B) The amount of such phase-out grants shall be determined as
1727 follows: (i) For the first fiscal year following the fiscal year such town
1728 received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in
1729 an amount that does not exceed seventy-five per cent of the grant
1730 amount such town received for the town or school's final year of
1731 eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection; (ii) for the
1732 second fiscal year following the fiscal year such town received its final
1733 grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that
1734 does not exceed fifty per cent of the grant amount such town received
1735 for the town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to subdivision
1736 (1) of this subsection; and (iii) for the third fiscal year following the fiscal
1737 year such town received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of
1738 this subsection, in an amount that does not exceed twenty-five per cent
1739 of the grant amount such town received for the town's or school's final
1740 year of eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

1741 (C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, and each fiscal year
1742 thereafter, any town that received a grant pursuant to subparagraph (B)
1743 of subdivision (1) of this subsection for the fiscal year ending June 30,
1744 2010, shall continue to receive a grant under this subsection even if the
1745 town no longer meets the criteria for such grant pursuant to
1746 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

1747 (e) (1) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of this
1748 section are not expended, the commissioner may deposit such
1749 unexpended funds in the account established under section 10-16aa and
1750 use such unexpended funds in accordance with the provisions of section
1751 10-16aa.

1752 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, and each fiscal year
1753 thereafter, if funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of
1754 this section are not expended, an amount up to one million dollars of

1755 such unexpended funds may be available for the provision of
1756 professional development for early childhood care and education
1757 program providers, and staff employed in such programs, provided
1758 such programs accept state funds for infant, toddler and preschool slots.
1759 Such unexpended funds may be available for use in accordance with the
1760 provisions of this subparagraph for the subsequent fiscal year. The
1761 commissioner may use such unexpended funds on and after July 1, 2015,
1762 to support early childhood education programs accepting state funds in
1763 satisfying the staff qualifications requirements of subparagraphs (B) and
1764 (C) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section. The commissioner
1765 shall use any such funds to provide assistance to individual staff
1766 members, giving priority to those staff members (A) attending an
1767 institution of higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for
1768 Higher Education or the Office of Higher Education, and approved by
1769 the Office of Early Childhood, and regionally accredited, at a maximum
1770 of ten thousand dollars per staff member per year for the cost of higher
1771 education courses leading to a bachelor's degree or, not later than
1772 December 31, 2015, an associate degree, as such degrees are described
1773 in said subparagraphs (B) and (C), or (B) receiving noncredit
1774 competency-based training approved by the office, at a maximum of one
1775 thousand dollars per staff member per year, provided such staff
1776 members have applied for all available federal and state scholarships
1777 and grants, and such assistance does not exceed such staff members'
1778 financial need. Individual staff members shall apply for such
1779 unexpended funds in a manner determined by the commissioner. The
1780 commissioner shall determine how such unexpended funds shall be
1781 distributed.

1782 (3) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of this
1783 section are not expended pursuant to subsection (c) of this section,
1784 deposited pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, or used
1785 pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, the commissioner may
1786 use such unexpended funds to support local school readiness programs.
1787 The commissioner may use such funds for purposes including, but not
1788 limited to, (A) assisting local school readiness programs in meeting and

1789 maintaining accreditation requirements, (B) providing training in
1790 implementing the preschool assessment and curriculum frameworks,
1791 including training to enhance literacy teaching skills, (C) developing a
1792 state-wide preschool curriculum, (D) developing student assessments
1793 for students in grades kindergarten to two, inclusive, (E) developing
1794 and implementing best practices for parents in supporting preschool
1795 and kindergarten student learning, (F) developing and implementing
1796 strategies for children to successfully transition to preschool and from
1797 preschool to kindergarten, including through parental engagement and
1798 whole-family supports that may be utilized through the two-
1799 generational initiative, established pursuant to section 17b-112l, or
1800 through other available resources, (G) providing for professional
1801 development, including assisting in career ladder advancement, for
1802 school readiness staff, (H) providing supplemental grants to other
1803 towns that are eligible for grants pursuant to subsection (c) of this
1804 section, and (I) developing a plan to provide spaces in an accredited
1805 school readiness program or a school readiness program seeking
1806 accreditation to all eligible children who reside in an area or town
1807 described in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of
1808 subsection (d) of this section.

1809 (f) Any school readiness program that receives funds pursuant to this
1810 section or section 10-16u shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color,
1811 national origin, gender, religion or disability. For purposes of this
1812 section, a nonsectarian program means any public or private school
1813 readiness program that is not violative of the Establishment Clause of
1814 the Constitution of the State of Connecticut or the Establishment Clause
1815 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

1816 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, no funds received by
1817 a town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-16u
1818 shall be used to supplant federal, state or local funding received by such
1819 town for early childhood education, provided a town may use an
1820 amount determined in accordance with this subsection for coordination,
1821 program evaluation and administration. Such amount shall be at least
1822 five per cent of the total grant allocation, but not more than seventy-five

1823 thousand dollars and shall be determined by the commissioner based
1824 on the school readiness grant award allocated to the town pursuant to
1825 subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-16u and the number of
1826 operating sites for coordination, program evaluation and
1827 administration. Such amount shall be increased by an amount equal to
1828 local funding provided for early childhood education coordination,
1829 program evaluation and administration, not to exceed twenty-five
1830 thousand dollars. Each town that receives a grant pursuant to
1831 subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-16u shall designate a
1832 person to be responsible for such coordination, program evaluation and
1833 administration and to act as a liaison between the town and the
1834 commissioner. Each school readiness program that receives funds
1835 pursuant to this section or section 10-16u shall provide information to
1836 the commissioner or the school readiness council, as requested, that is
1837 necessary for purposes of any school readiness program evaluation.

1838 (h) Any town receiving a grant pursuant to this section may use such
1839 grant, with the approval of the commissioner, to prepare a facility or
1840 staff for operating a school readiness program and shall be adjusted
1841 based on the number of days of operation of a school readiness program
1842 if a shorter term of operation is approved by the commissioner.

1843 (i) A town may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible
1844 children who reside in such town at an accredited school readiness
1845 program located in another town. A regional school readiness council
1846 may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible children who reside
1847 in the region covered by the council at an accredited school readiness
1848 program located outside such region.

1849 (j) Children enrolled in school readiness programs funded pursuant
1850 to this section shall not be counted (1) as resident students for purposes
1851 of subdivision (22) of section 10-262f, or (2) in the determination of
1852 average daily membership pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a)
1853 of section 10-261.

1854 (k) (1) Up to two per cent of the amount of the appropriation for this

1855 section may be allocated to the competitive grant program pursuant to
1856 subsection (d) of this section. The determination of the amount of such
1857 allocation shall be made on or before August first.

1858 (2) Up to two per cent of the amount of the appropriation for this
1859 section may be used by the commissioner in a manner consistent with
1860 the provisions of section 10-509.

1861 [(1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, and each fiscal year
1862 thereafter, any school readiness program that (1) is licensed by the
1863 Office of Early Childhood pursuant to chapter 368a, (2) provides full-
1864 day and year-round child care and education programs for children,
1865 and (3) receives funds pursuant to this section or section 10-16u, shall
1866 use any amount of the per child cost as described in subdivision (1) of
1867 subsection (b) of section 10-16q that is over the amount of eight
1868 thousand nine hundred twenty-seven dollars, exclusively to increase
1869 the salaries of those individuals with direct responsibility for teaching
1870 or caring for children in a classroom at such school readiness program.]

1871 Sec. 37. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 10-505 of the
1872 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1873 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

1874 (3) "Eligible children" means children (A) [three and] from birth to
1875 four years of age, inclusive, and children five years of age who are not
1876 eligible to enroll in school pursuant to section 10-15c, or who are eligible
1877 to enroll in school and will attend a school readiness program pursuant
1878 to section 10-16t, and (B) who reside (i) in an area served by a priority
1879 school or a former priority school, as described in subdivision (2) of
1880 subsection (d) of section 10-16p, as amended by this act, (ii) in a town
1881 ranked one to fifty when all towns are ranked in ascending order
1882 according to town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-
1883 262f, whose school district is not a priority school district pursuant to
1884 section 10-266p, (iii) in a town formerly a town described in clause (ii)
1885 of this subparagraph, as provided for in subdivision (2) of subsection
1886 (d) of section 10-16p, as amended by this act, or (iv) in a town designated

1887 as an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u, whose school
1888 district is not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p;

1889 Sec. 38. Subsection (b) of section 8-210 of the general statutes is
1890 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1891 *2023*):

1892 (b) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of
1893 Early Childhood, may enter into a contract with a municipality, a group
1894 child care home or family child care home, as described in section 19a-
1895 77, a human resource development agency or a nonprofit corporation
1896 for state financial assistance in developing and operating child care
1897 centers, group child care homes and family child care homes for
1898 children disadvantaged by reasons of economic, social or environmental
1899 conditions, provided no such financial assistance shall be available for
1900 the operating costs of any such child care center, group child care home
1901 or family child care home unless it has been licensed by the
1902 Commissioner of Early Childhood pursuant to section 19a-80. Such
1903 financial assistance shall be available for a program of a municipality, of
1904 a group child care home or family child care home, of a human resource
1905 development agency or of a nonprofit corporation which may provide
1906 for personnel, equipment, supplies, activities, program materials and
1907 renovation and remodeling of the physical facilities of such child care
1908 centers, group child care homes or family child care homes. Such
1909 contract shall provide for state financial assistance, within available
1910 appropriations, in the form of a state grant-in-aid (1) for a portion of the
1911 cost of such program, as determined by the Commissioner of Early
1912 Childhood, if not federally assisted, (2) equal to one-half of the amount
1913 by which the net cost of such program, as approved by the
1914 Commissioner of Early Childhood, exceeds the federal grant-in-aid
1915 thereof, or (3) in an amount not less than (A) the per child cost as
1916 described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-16q, for each
1917 child in such program that is three or four years of age and each child
1918 that is five years of age who is not eligible to enroll in school, pursuant
1919 to section 10-15c, while maintaining services to children under three
1920 years of age under this section, and (B) thirteen thousand five hundred

1921 dollars for each child three years of age or under who is in infant or
1922 toddler care and not in a preschool program. Any such contract entered
1923 into on or after July 1, 2022, shall include a provision that at least sixty
1924 per cent of the children enrolled in such child care center, group child
1925 care home or family child care home are members of families [that] who
1926 are at or below seventy-five per cent of the state median income. [For
1927 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year thereafter, the
1928 amount per child pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection that is
1929 over the amount of the per child cost that was prescribed pursuant to
1930 the contract under said subdivision (3) for the fiscal year ending June 30,
1931 2023, shall be used exclusively to increase the salaries of early childhood
1932 educators employed at the child care center.] The Commissioner of
1933 Early Childhood may authorize child care centers, group child care
1934 homes and family child care homes receiving financial assistance under
1935 this subsection to apply a program surplus to the next program year.
1936 The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall consult with directors of
1937 child care centers in establishing fees for the operation of such centers.
1938 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the Commissioner of Early
1939 Childhood shall, within available appropriations, enter into contracts
1940 under this section for the purpose of expanding the number of spaces
1941 available to children three years of age or under who are in infant or
1942 toddler care and not in a preschool program.

1943 Sec. 39. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-506 of the general statutes
1944 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1945 *1, 2023*):

1946 (a) For the fiscal [years] year ending June 30, 2015, [to June 30, 2024,
1947 inclusive] and each fiscal year thereafter, the Office of Early Childhood,
1948 in consultation with the Department of Education, shall design and
1949 administer the Connecticut Smart Start competitive grant program to
1950 provide grants to local and regional boards of education for capital and
1951 operating expenses related to establishing or expanding a preschool
1952 program under the jurisdiction of the board of education for the town.
1953 A local or regional board of education may submit an application to the
1954 office, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section,

1955 and may receive (1) a grant for capital expenses in an amount not to
1956 exceed seventy-five thousand dollars per classroom for costs related to
1957 the renovation of an existing public school to accommodate the
1958 establishment or expansion of a preschool program, and (2) an annual
1959 grant for operating expenses (A) in an amount not to exceed five
1960 thousand dollars per child served by such grant, or (B) in an amount not
1961 to exceed seventy-five thousand dollars for each preschool classroom,
1962 provided no town shall receive a total annual grant for operating
1963 expenses greater than three hundred thousand dollars. Each local or
1964 regional board of education that establishes or expands a preschool
1965 program under this section shall be eligible to receive an annual grant
1966 for operating expenses for a period of five years, provided such
1967 preschool program meets standards established by the Commissioner
1968 of Early Childhood. Such local or regional board of education may
1969 submit an application for renewal of such grant to the office.

1970 (b) On and after July 1, 2014, local and regional boards of education,
1971 individually or cooperatively, pursuant to section 10-158a, may apply,
1972 at such time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes, to the
1973 office for a capital grant and an operating grant for the purposes
1974 described in subsection (a) of this section. To be eligible to receive such
1975 grants under this section, an applicant board of education shall (1)
1976 demonstrate that it has a need for establishing or expanding a preschool
1977 program using information requested by the commissioner on a form
1978 prescribed by the commissioner, such as data collected from the
1979 preschool experience survey, described in section 10-515, (2) submit a
1980 plan for the expenditure of grant funds received under this section that
1981 outlines how such board of education will use such funds to establish
1982 or expand a preschool program, including, but not limited to, the
1983 amount that such board will contribute to the operation of such
1984 preschool program and how such board of education will provide
1985 access to preschool for children who would not otherwise be able to
1986 enroll in a preschool program, and (3) submit a letter of support for
1987 establishing or expanding a preschool program by the local or regional
1988 school readiness council, described in section 10-16r, if any, for the

1989 school district. The commissioner shall give priority to boards of
1990 education (A) that demonstrate the greatest need for the establishment
1991 or expansion of a preschool program, and (B) whose plan allocates at
1992 least sixty per cent of the spaces in such preschool program to children
1993 who are members of families [that] who are at or below seventy-five per
1994 cent of the state median income. [, or fifty per cent of the spaces in such
1995 preschool program to children who are eligible for free and reduced
1996 price lunches.] The commissioner, in reviewing applications submitted
1997 under this subsection, shall also take into consideration (i) whether an
1998 applicant board of education (I) currently offers a full-day kindergarten
1999 program, (II) will be cooperating and coordinating with other
2000 governmental and community programs to provide services during
2001 periods when the preschool program is not in session, or (III) will
2002 collaborate with other boards of education, as part of a cooperative
2003 arrangement pursuant to section 10-158a, to offer a regional preschool
2004 program, and (ii) current community capacity for preschool programs
2005 and current opportunities for preschool for children in the community.

2006 Sec. 40. Subsection (b) of section 10-500 of the general statutes is
2007 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
2008 *2023*):

2009 (b) The office shall be responsible for:

2010 (1) Delivering services to young children and their families to ensure
2011 optimal health, safety and learning for each young child, including, but
2012 not limited to, coordinating agency efforts and data sharing in the two-
2013 generational initiative established pursuant to section 17b-112/;

2014 (2) Developing and implementing the early childhood information
2015 system, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-501;

2016 (3) Developing and reporting on the early childhood accountability
2017 plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-503;

2018 (4) Implementing a communications strategy for outreach to families,
2019 service providers and policymakers;

2020 (5) Beginning a state-wide longitudinal evaluation of the school
2021 readiness program examining the educational progress of children from
2022 prekindergarten programs to grade four, inclusive;

2023 (6) Developing, coordinating and supporting public and private
2024 partnerships to aid early childhood initiatives;

2025 (7) Developing a state-wide developmentally appropriate
2026 kindergarten entrance inventory that measures a child's level of
2027 preparedness for kindergarten, but shall not be used as a measurement
2028 tool for program accountability;

2029 (8) Creating a unified set of reporting requirements for the purpose
2030 of collecting the data elements necessary to perform quality assessments
2031 and longitudinal analysis;

2032 (9) Comparing and analyzing data collected pursuant to reporting
2033 requirements created under subdivision (8) of this subsection with the
2034 data collected in the state-wide public school information system,
2035 pursuant to section 10-10a, for population-level analysis of children and
2036 families;

2037 (10) Continually monitoring and evaluating all early care and
2038 education and child development programs and services, focusing on
2039 program outcomes in satisfying the health, safety, developmental and
2040 educational needs of all children;

2041 (11) Coordinating home visitation services across programs for
2042 young children;

2043 (12) Providing information and technical assistance to persons
2044 seeking early care and education and child development programs and
2045 services;

2046 (13) Assisting state agencies and municipalities in obtaining available
2047 federal funding for early care and education and child development
2048 programs and services;

2049 (14) Providing technical assistance to providers of early care and
2050 education programs and services to obtain licensing and improve
2051 program quality;

2052 (15) Establishing a quality rating and improvement system
2053 developed by the office that covers home-based, center-based and
2054 school-based early child care and learning;

2055 (16) Maintaining an accreditation facilitation initiative to assist early
2056 childhood care and education program and service providers in
2057 achieving national standards and program improvement;

2058 (17) Consulting with the Early Childhood Cabinet, established
2059 pursuant to section 10-16z, and the Head Start advisory committee,
2060 established pursuant to section 10-16n;

2061 (18) Ensuring a coordinated and comprehensive state-wide system of
2062 professional development for providers and staff of early care and
2063 education and child development programs and services;

2064 (19) Providing families with opportunities for choice in services
2065 including quality child care and community-based family-centered
2066 services;

2067 (20) Integrating early childhood care and education and special
2068 education services;

2069 (21) Promoting universal access to early childhood care and
2070 education;

2071 (22) Ensuring nonduplication of monitoring and evaluation;

2072 (23) Performing any other activities that will assist in the provision of
2073 early care and education and child development programs and services;

2074 (24) Developing early learning and development standards to be
2075 used by early care and education providers;

2076 (25) Developing and implementing a performance-based evaluation
2077 system to evaluate licensed child care centers, in accordance with the
2078 provisions of section 17b-749f; [and]

2079 (26) Promoting the delivery of services to infants and toddlers to
2080 ensure optimal health, safety and learning of children from birth to three
2081 years of age; and

2082 (27) Establishing a parent cabinet to advise the office on ways to
2083 strengthen partnership and communication with families, bring
2084 awareness to gaps and barriers to services, increase access to services for
2085 families and help make improvements to the lives of young children and
2086 families in the state.

2087 Sec. 41. Subsection (b) of section 17b-749 of the general statutes is
2088 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
2089 *2023*):

2090 (b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for applicants
2091 and recipients at a level to include a family with gross income up to fifty
2092 per cent of the state-wide median income, except the commissioner (1)
2093 may increase the income level up to the maximum level allowed under
2094 federal law, (2) upon the request of the Commissioner of Children and
2095 Families, may waive the income standards for adoptive families so that
2096 children adopted on or after October 1, 1999, from the Department of
2097 Children and Families are eligible for the child care subsidy program,
2098 and (3) [on and after March 1, 2003, shall reduce the income eligibility
2099 level to up to fifty-five per cent of the state-wide median income for
2100 applicants and recipients who qualify based on their loss of eligibility
2101 for temporary family assistance] shall establish a two-tiered income
2102 eligibility threshold in accordance with 45 CFR 98.21(b), as amended
2103 from time to time. The commissioner may adopt regulations in
2104 accordance with chapter 54 to establish income criteria and durational
2105 requirements for such waiver of income standards.

2106 Sec. 42. Section 7-464b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2107 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

2108 (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, and the
2109 provisions of any collective bargaining agreement, a municipality or a
2110 [local or regional board of education] public school operator may join
2111 together with any combination of other municipalities and [local or
2112 regional boards of education] public school operators by written
2113 agreement as a single entity for the purpose of providing medical or
2114 health care benefits for their employees. Such written agreement shall
2115 establish the membership of such group, the duration of such benefits
2116 plan, requirements regarding payment for such benefits plan and the
2117 procedures for a municipality or [local or regional board of education]
2118 public school operator to withdraw from such group and terminate such
2119 benefits plan. Such agreement shall not constitute a multiple employer
2120 welfare arrangement, as defined in Section 3 of the Employee
2121 Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended from time to time.
2122 Any group established pursuant to this section shall not be deemed a
2123 fictitious group. As used in this section, "municipality" means any town,
2124 city or borough, consolidated town and city, consolidated town and
2125 borough or any district, as defined in section 7-324; and "public school
2126 operator" means a local or regional board of education, a regional
2127 educational service center, the governing council of a state or local
2128 charter school, or an operator of an interdistrict magnet school program,
2129 as described in section 10-264l, as amended by this act.

2130 (b) Before a municipality or a [local or regional board of education]
2131 public school operator may enter into an agreement described in
2132 subsection (a) of this section, the legislative body of a municipality shall
2133 approve such an agreement in cases where: (1) There is an existing
2134 arrangement between a municipality and the [board of education]
2135 public school operator serving such municipality for the provision of
2136 medical or health care benefits to the employees of both the municipality
2137 and the [board of education] public school operator serving such
2138 municipality; or (2) a municipality and the [board of education] public
2139 school operator serving such municipality have separate medical or
2140 health care benefits plans for their respective employees and both such
2141 benefits plans are paid for by the general fund of the municipality.

2142 Sec. 43. Section 10-4a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2143 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

2144 For purposes of sections 10-4, 10-4b and 10-220, as amended by this
2145 act, and subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-66dd, as amended
2146 by this act, the educational interests of the state shall include, but not be
2147 limited to, the concern of the state that (1) each child shall have for the
2148 period prescribed in the general statutes equal opportunity to receive a
2149 suitable program of educational experiences; (2) each school district
2150 shall finance at a reasonable level and at least, as appropriate, equal to
2151 the minimum budget requirement pursuant to the provisions of section
2152 10-262j, an educational program designed to achieve this end; (3) in
2153 order to reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation, each school district
2154 shall provide educational opportunities for its students to interact with
2155 students and teachers from other racial, ethnic, and economic
2156 backgrounds and may provide such opportunities with students from
2157 other communities; and (4) the mandates in the general statutes
2158 pertaining to education within the jurisdiction of the State Board of
2159 Education be implemented.

2160 Sec. 44. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-66dd of the
2161 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
2162 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

2163 (b) (1) Subject to the provisions of this subsection and except as may
2164 be waived pursuant to subsection (d) of section 10-66bb, charter schools
2165 shall be subject to all federal and state laws governing public schools,
2166 including the provisions of sections 10-4a, as amended by this act, and
2167 10-4b.

2168 Sec. 45. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Commissioner of Education
2169 shall employ at least one curriculum coordinator to provide assistance
2170 and curriculum materials to local and regional boards of education for
2171 the implementation of the courses of study set forth in subsection (d) of
2172 section 10-16b of the general statutes, in accordance with sections 10-
2173 16pp, 10-16qq, 10-16ss to 10-16ww, inclusive, and 10-18f of the general

2174 statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2023	10-220a(a)
Sec. 3	July 1, 2023	10-220(e)
Sec. 4	July 1, 2023	10-73d
Sec. 5	July 1, 2023	10-15k
Sec. 6	July 1, 2023	10-220(g)
Sec. 7	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 8	July 1, 2023	10-16x(e)
Sec. 9	July 1, 2023	10-357b
Sec. 10	July 1, 2023	10-212k
Sec. 11	from passage	10-211a(a)
Sec. 12	from passage	14-111e(a)(2)
Sec. 13	from passage	10-265s(d)
Sec. 14	from passage	8-210(c)
Sec. 15	from passage	10-15j(c)(5)
Sec. 16	from passage	10-15j(e)
Sec. 17	from passage	10-16
Sec. 18	July 1, 2023	10-16b(a)
Sec. 19	July 1, 2025	10-16b(a)
Sec. 20	from passage	10-204d
Sec. 21	from passage	10-215l(b)
Sec. 22	from passage	10-215l(f)
Sec. 23	from passage	10-221w(b)
Sec. 24	from passage	10-222k(c)(3)
Sec. 25	from passage	10-222w
Sec. 26	from passage	10-222t(c)
Sec. 27	from passage	10-530(b)
Sec. 28	from passage	17a-248(4)
Sec. 29	July 1, 2023	10-264l(a) and (b)
Sec. 30	July 1, 2023	10-264l(c)(3)(C)
Sec. 31	July 1, 2023	10-264l(o)
Sec. 32	July 1, 2023	10-264r
Sec. 33	July 1, 2023	10-262s
Sec. 34	July 1, 2023	10-15f
Sec. 35	July 1, 2023	10-16p(a)(2)

Sec. 36	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-16p(c) to (l)
Sec. 37	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-505(a)(3)
Sec. 38	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	8-210(b)
Sec. 39	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-506(a) and (b)
Sec. 40	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-500(b)
Sec. 41	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	17b-749(b)
Sec. 42	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	7-464b
Sec. 43	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-4a
Sec. 44	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-66dd(b)(1)
Sec. 45	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: See Below

Municipal Impact: See Below

The Out Years

The bill makes various changes to education statutes, which are described by section below.

Section 1 establishes a working group to review and identify mandates on the State Department of Education and local and regional school districts and make recommendations, by January 1, 2025, for any mandates that can be repealed. This has no fiscal impact, as it is anticipated that the working group can complete these requirements with existing resources.

Section 2 results in a potential cost beginning in FY 24 to local and regional school districts by expanding required training for school personnel to include emergency response to a student having a seizure. Any cost is anticipated to be minimal, associated with printing materials and with overtime coverage for staff to attend training. It also makes a clarifying change regarding school violence prevention training for school personnel which has no fiscal impact, as it is not anticipated to change the cost associated with such training.

Section 3 requires school districts to make available certain information regarding their curriculum. This is a procedural change with no fiscal impact.

Section 4 allows a public school student who is a father under age 17

to attend adult education classes. This has no fiscal impact as the eligibility expansion is not anticipated to significantly increase the cost of administering adult education programs.

Section 5 specifies the student eligibility for participation in remote learning and extends the deadline for the State Department of Education to submit a plan for a remote learning school by six months. This has no fiscal impact as it is not anticipated to impact the cost of developing the plan, if any.

To the extent that the bill limits what students are eligible to participate in remote learning, any impact this has on the cost of administering a remote learning school will depend on the plan ultimately developed by SDE.

Section 6 requires local and regional boards of education to make information relating to regular or special meetings available on the Internet web site of such boards. This has no fiscal impact as it is anticipated that local and regional boards of education can meet this requirement with existing resources.

Section 7 has no fiscal impact. It requires the State Department of Education to convene a family and community engagement council. The amendment does not require that any members of the council be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

Section 8 requires SDE to conduct certain grant management activities for the After School program grant. Correspondingly, the bill increases, from 4% to 7.5%, the amount of After School program grant funding that the State Department of Education may retain for program administration. In FY 23, this would have resulted in an approximately \$200,000 increase in the amount SDE may have retained from \$230,000 to \$430,000, and a commensurate decrease in the amount of funds provided to qualifying grant recipients.

Section 9 makes changes regarding the operation of the State Education Resource Center (SERC) that have no fiscal impact as the

amendment does not change the level of any funding provided to SERC.

Section 10 delays, from FY 24 to FY 25, the cost to local and regional school districts of providing free menstrual products in certain restrooms. This does not change the overall cost of providing such products.

Sections 11 to 28 make technical and conforming changes to the education and early childhood statutes that result in no fiscal impact.

Sections 29 to 34 make several technical and conforming changes regarding grants and other revenues to magnet schools and certain Sheff programs, which have no fiscal impact. The changes are not anticipated to increase the cost of providing these programs or to affect magnet school tuition. Additionally, the bill includes minor changes to an interstate compact, which result in no fiscal impact.

Sections 35 and 37 expand the age eligibility for School Readiness programs from ages three and four, as well as children aged 5 not eligible to enroll in school, to birth through four years of age, inclusive, as well as those children aged 5 who are ineligible to enroll in school. This precludes future savings to the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to the extent that the eligibility expansion for the School Readiness program results in the expenditure of funds that would have otherwise lapsed. Town-based providers would experience a corresponding revenue impact associated with the change in their School Readiness grant, based on the number of children being served.

Section 36 changes School Readiness grant awards from annual to biennial. While this does not change the total amount of funds expended, it may alter the distribution of funds, resulting in a revenue impact to town-based providers.

Section 38, which removes a provision detailing how certain increases can be spent by providers, has no fiscal impact to the state.

Section 39 precludes future savings to the Office of Early Childhood

(OEC) by eliminating the sunset date of the Smart Start program. By making the program permanent, OEC may incur future costs it otherwise would not have had the program ended, while towns will experience a corresponding revenue impact. The bill also potentially changes the distribution of Smart Start funding to towns by eliminating the option to give priority to plans that allocate spaces for children who are eligible for free and reduced price lunches.

Section 40 results in a cost to the General Fund of at least \$250,000 in FY 24 and FY 25 to the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to create a parent cabinet, including hiring one full-time employee to provide administrative assistance to meet the requirements of the amendment.

Section 41 is a conforming change and has no fiscal impact.

Section 42 allows charter schools and regional educational service centers (RESC) to join with other public school operators (e.g. local and regional school districts) and towns for the purpose of providing group health insurance plans to their employees. To the extent that this expands the pool of employees that can enter into group health care plans, there is a potential savings to municipalities and local and regional school districts associated with reduced health care costs.

Sections 43 and 44 make technical changes regarding charter schools and have no fiscal impact.

Section 45 requires the State Department of Education to employ at least one curriculum coordinator. This results in costs to SDE of \$143,844 in FY 24 (\$100,717 in salary and \$43,127 in fringe) and \$147,440 in FY 25 (\$103,235 in salary and \$44,205 in fringe).

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and results in the above identified fiscal impact.

The Out Years:

The ongoing above identified fiscal impact will continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6882 (as amended by House "A")*****AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION MANDATE RELIEF.**

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§ 40 — PARENT ADVISORY CABINET

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Requires the OEC commissioner to establish a two-tiered income eligibility limit for Care 4 Kids that conforms with federal regulations

§ 42 — PUBLIC SCHOOL OPERATOR DEFINITION FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES

Expands the definition of the types of public school operators that can join in health care benefit agreements with other school operators or municipalities

§§ 43 & 44 — CHARTER SCHOOLS AND THE EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE STATE

Explicitly places charter schools under the educational interests of the state law that includes a complaint process if a party believes the school is not meeting the educational interests of the state

§ 45 — SDE CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

Requires the education commissioner to employ at least one curriculum coordinator

SUMMARY

This bill makes numerous changes to education law, as described below.

*House Amendment "A" is a strike-all amendment that replaces the underlying bill, thereby removing (1) the provision creating a task force to study education mandates and replacing it with a working group to study them and (2) the provision that eliminates the requirement that high school students graduating in 2023 and after complete at least one credit in a mastery-based diploma assessment (i.e., capstone project). In addition to adding many new provisions, it keeps the requirement that in-service training on school violence prevention, which boards of education must annually provide, be aligned with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's (DESPP) school security and safety plan standards.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various, see below

§ 1 — EDUCATION MANDATE WORKING GROUP

Requires CABE to convene an 11-member mandate review working group to recommend to the legislature repealing or amending obsolete or duplicative mandates; sets January 1, 2025, deadline for the recommendations

The bill requires the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) executive director or the director's designee to convene a working group to review mandates on State Department of Education (SDE) and boards of education in the state's statutes and regulations and federal law and report its findings and recommendations to the legislature. The group must identify mandates that are overly burdensome or limit or restrict providing student instruction or services. For each mandate identified, it must give a detailed analysis and indicate the specific statutory or regulatory citation and how it is imposed on the department or board. It must also make recommendations on the (1) development of a biennial review process to examine the education statutes and state agency regulations to identify obsolete or duplicative mandates on SDE or boards of education and (2) repeal of, or amendment to, any statutes or regulations.

Working Group Membership

The 11-member working group includes the Education Committee

chairpersons and ranking members, or the chairpersons' and ranking members' respective designees, and the education commissioner, or her designee. Additionally, the group includes a representative from each of the following organizations, designated by each organization:

1. CAFE,
2. the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents,
3. the Connecticut PTA,
4. the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut,
5. the Connecticut Education Association, and
6. the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials.

All initial appointments to the working group must be made by 30 days after the bill is effective. Any vacancy is filled by the appointing authority.

The CAFE executive director, or the executive director's designee, serves as the working group chairperson. The chairperson must schedule the first meeting of the working group no later than 60 days after the bill's effective date.

Public Input

The bill permits the working group to provide an opportunity for public comment or seek input from students, parents, educators, boards of education, and other education stakeholders while conducting the review and developing its recommendations.

Reporting

By January 1, 2025, the working group must submit its (1) mandate review and (2) recommendations to either repeal or amend any mandates and develop a biennial review process to Education Committee. The working group terminates on the date it submits its report or July 1, 2025, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 2 — IN-SERVICE VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SEIZURE RESPONSE TRAINING

Requires the existing school district in-service training on school violence prevention to be aligned with DESPP school security and safety plan standards and adds new training requirement on emergency responses to students who have seizures

The bill requires the in-service training on school violence prevention, which boards of education must annually provide to teachers, administrators, and other certified school employees, be aligned with the DESPP school security and safety plan standards (see *Background*).

It also requires in-service trainings for the same groups of employees to include emergency responses to students who have seizures in school. This training must include (1) the recognition of the signs and symptoms of seizures; (2) appropriate steps for seizure first aid; (3) information about student seizure action plans; and (4) for those authorized to administer medication under state law, the administration of seizure rescue medication or prescribed electrical stimulation using a vagus nerve stimulator magnet.

The bill also requires boards to allow paraeducators and other noncertified employees to voluntarily participate in its in-service training program. Currently, the board can decide whether to allow these noncertified employees or paraprofessionals to attend.

Background — School Security and Safety Plans

The law requires DESPP, in consultation with SDE, to develop standards for school security and safety plans and reevaluate and update them every three years. SDE must distribute these standards to all public schools. Each board of education must annually develop and implement a school security and safety plan for each school within its district based on these standards (CGS §§ 10-222n & -222m).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 3 — ACCESS TO CURRICULUM

Requires boards of education to make curriculum and associated materials available to parents and guardians under the requirements of the federal Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

The bill requires local and regional boards of education to make all curriculum approved by their school district curriculum committee, as well as all associated curriculum materials, available to parents and guardians under the requirements of the federal Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA). PPRA, in part, gives parents and guardians the right to inspect instructional material used by the school district as part of their student's educational curriculum (excluding academic tests and assessments) (20 U.S.C. § 1232h).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 4 — ACCESS TO ADULT EDUCATION

Allows any parent under age 17 to request permission from the local or regional board of education to attend adult education classes

Current law allows a mother under age 17 to request permission from the local or regional board of education to attend adult education classes. The bill extends eligibility to any parent under age 17.

By law and unchanged by the act, a majority vote of present board members is required to assign the requesting student to adult education.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 5 — ELIGIBILITY FOR STATEWIDE REMOTE LEARNING SCHOOL

Requires SDE, when developing a plan for a statewide remote learning school, to narrow the range of students eligible to enroll; also extends the deadline to submit a plan for the school to legislative committees

Under current law, SDE must develop a plan to create and implement a statewide remote learning school for grades kindergarten to 12. When making the plan, the department must estimate the number of Connecticut students who may be eligible to enroll. The bill limits eligibility to those Connecticut students who are unable to attend school in-person due to a (1) medical diagnosis, including a psychological or physical condition or restriction, or (2) medical exemption to required immunizations, documented by the child's health care provider.

The bill also extends the deadline for submitting the plan, draft requests for proposals, and any legislation recommendations from July 1, 2023, to January 1, 2024. By law, SDE must submit these items to the Appropriations and Education committees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 6 — BOARD MEETING AGENDA AND DOCUMENT POSTING

Requires boards of education conducting a board meeting to make the agenda or any associated documents that members may review at the meeting available for public inspection and post them on the board's website

The bill requires each local or regional board of education conducting a regular or special board meeting to make available for public inspection (1) the meeting agenda or (2) any associated documents that board members may review at the meeting. The board must also post these items on its website. The bill's requirements appear to be in addition to those of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA, see *Background*).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

Background — Freedom of Information Act

Generally, requirements for noticing and conducting public agency meetings are governed by FOIA (CGS § 1-225, et seq.). Among other things, FOIA requires that the agenda for a regular meeting be available at least 24 hours before the meeting. However, only state agencies must post the agenda online (CGS § 1-225(c)).

Under FOIA, a special meeting is one held to consider business that (1) was unforeseen when scheduling regular meetings and (2) should be addressed before the next regular meeting. Among other things, FOIA requires that notice of a special meeting be given 24 hours before the meeting and specify the business to be transacted. The notice must be posted on the public agency's website if available (CGS § 1-225(d)).

For both types of meetings, additional requirements apply if the meeting is held solely or in part by electronic equipment (e.g., the

meeting notice must include information on how the public may attend the meeting) (CGS § 1-225a).

§ 7 — FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION COUNCIL

Requires the education commissioner to convene a family and community engagement in education council

Duties

The bill requires the education commissioner to convene a family and community engagement in education council.

Under the bill, the council must meet at least quarterly to do the following:

1. advise the commissioner on issues and policies related to family and community engagement in education,
2. provide parent and community feedback on SDE products and initiatives;
3. review and make recommendations on the State Board of Education's (SBE's) five-year comprehensive plan, specifically on school-family-community partnership initiatives; and
4. review and make recommendations on effective practices to increase school and district capacity to develop successful partnerships and families' capacity to support their children's education.

Membership

The bill requires the education commissioner to choose the council's members. The membership must balance representation from the following groups: (1) school and district staff; (2) students' parents and guardians; and (3) community members who reflect the state's geographic, economic, ethnic, and racial diversity and bring an authentic parent and community voice to the council.

Reporting

The bill requires the council to report to SBE and the Education Committee annually, beginning by January 1, 2025, about its review and recommendations on the five-year plan's school-family-community partnership initiatives.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 8 — SUPPORT FOR AFTER-SCHOOL GRANT RECIPIENTS

Requires SDE to support after-school grant recipients in new, specified ways; allows the department to increase the amount it retains from the appropriation for this grant program

By law, SDE may administer an after-school grant program to support programs for students in grades kindergarten through 12 offering educational, enrichment, and recreational activities for children and that have a parent involvement component. Local and regional boards of education, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations are eligible recipients (CGS § 10-16x(a)).

Current law requires SDE to give after-school grant recipients technical assistance, evaluation, program monitoring, professional development, and accreditation support. The bill instead requires the department to collaborate with regional educational service centers (RESCs) to give the recipients (and, in some cases, applicants) more specific and targeted forms of support by doing the following:

1. monitoring and evaluating programs and activities,
2. conducting a comprehensive evaluation of programs' effectiveness,
3. implementing risk assessments,
4. providing technical assistance and training to eligible applicants, and
5. ensuring program activities are aligned with state academic standards.

The bill also allows SDE to increase the percentage of appropriated grant funds it retains, from 4% to 7.5%, to provide this support.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 9 — SERC REAL ESTATE AND CONTRACTING

Removes SERC from specified state oversight pertaining to real estate and contracting

The bill removes from state law provisions that do the following:

1. require that SERC's investing, buying, and disposing of real estate be subject to any state agency's approval, review, or regulation under the laws governing state real property or any other laws and
2. subject SERC to rules, regulations, and restrictions on purchasing, procurement, personal service agreements, and asset disposition that generally apply to state agencies under existing state law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 10 — FREE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS IN SCHOOL RESTROOMS

Extends the deadline for boards of education to begin providing free menstrual products in restrooms by one year, from September 1, 2023, to September 1, 2024

By law, each local and regional board of education must provide free menstrual products in the following areas that are accessible to students in grades 3-12: women's restrooms, all-gender restrooms, and at least one men's restroom. The bill delays the deadline by which boards must begin providing these products by one year, moving it from September 1, 2023, to September 1, 2024.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§§ 11-28 — LCO TECHNICAL REVISIONS

Makes technical, grammatical, and conforming changes in the education and early childhood statutes.

The bill makes technical, grammatical, and conforming changes in the education and early childhood statutes. Among the conforming

changes is the addition of a definition for “reading” in the law on the required public school program of instruction (§§ 18 & 19). This definition aligns with the term’s definition in other education statutes governing public school reading instruction and assessments (CGS §§ 10-14t, -14u, -14hh & -14ii).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except that the additions of the reading definition take effect on July 1, 2023 (§ 18), and effect on July 1, 2025 (§ 19), respectively.

§ 29 & 32 — MAGNET SCHOOL ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS AND REVISING REDUCED ISOLATION STANDARDS

Makes permanent existing magnet school enrollment requirements; allows the education commissioner to revise the magnet school reduced isolation standards

The bill makes permanent the requirements that a magnet school’s total enrollment (1) have no more than 75% of students from one school district and (2) meets the reduced isolation setting (i.e., desegregation) standards developed by the education commissioner. These requirements are set to expire after the 2023-2024 school year. It also extends the law barring the commissioner from awarding grants to magnet schools that do not comply with these enrollment standards. This ban is set to expire after the 2022-2023 school year and the bill extends it to the 2024-2025 school year.

The bill leaves unchanged an exception that allows the commissioner to award a grant for an additional year or years to a noncompliant school if she finds it appropriate and approves a plan to bring the school into compliance with the residency and reduced isolation setting standards as existing law requires. (Reduced-isolation standards consider the racial composition of the school’s student body.)

The law sets minimum criteria for the commissioner to use in setting the reduced isolation standards, including (1) at least 20% of a magnet school’s enrollment must be reduced isolation students and (2) a school’s enrollment may have up to 1% below the minimum percentage, if she approves a plan for the school to reach the 20% minimum or the percent she established in the standards. It also requires the

commissioner to define “reduced isolation student.”

The bill authorizes the commissioner to revise the standards as needed and adds the requirement that they comply with the *Sheff* decision and any related stipulations or orders. (It also allows the commissioner to revise, as needed, the alternative reduced-isolation enrollment percentages for the 2018-2019 school year. Those percentages expired in 2019, so it is unclear if this has any legal effect.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 30 — SUNSETS TARGETED MAGNET SCHOOL GRANT

Sunsets a targeted magnet school grant

The bill retroactively sunsets a targeted magnet school grant at the end of FY 22 (June 30, 2022). The grant applies to a magnet school operated by a regional educational service center (RESC) that (1) began operations in the 2001-2002 school year and (2) for the 2008-2009 school year enrolled at least 55% but not more than 80% of the school’s students from a single town. (The school, Edison Magnet School in Meriden, no longer exists in that form; it was moved to Waterbury and reconstituted as ACES at Chase and is eligible for other magnet grants.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 31 — REINSTATES BAN ON MAGNET SCHOOL TUITION

Reinstates the ban on Sheff-decision host K-12 magnet schools charging tuition to sending school districts

The bill reinstates for FY 23 the prohibition on *Sheff* K-12 magnet schools operated by local or regional boards of education charging tuition to school districts sending students to the magnets. The ban had expired after the 2018-19 school year (although in practice, none of these schools had begun charging tuition). *Sheff* magnet schools are schools operating under the *Sheff v. O’Neill* state Supreme Court decision and related stipulations and orders (see *BACKGROUND*).

The bill, as under existing law, (1) applies the ban to preschool programs and kindergarten through grade 12 and (2) includes an

exception that allows the Hartford school district to charge tuition for any student enrolled in the Great Path Academy, which it operates in Manchester.

BACKGROUND — *Sheff v. O’Neill* State Supreme Court Decision

In this 1996 decision, the state’s Supreme Court ruled that the state had a constitutional obligation to remedy the educational inequities in the Hartford schools caused by racial and ethnic isolation (238 Conn. 1 (1996)). The court ordered the state legislature and the governor to craft a solution and legislation was passed to create voluntary desegregation in Hartford by creating magnet schools and using other programs such as Open Choice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 33 — GRANTS TO ASSIST SHEFF PROGRAMS

Allows the commissioner to award grants from existing Sheff settlement funds for four specific purposes

The bill allows the commissioner, in order to help the state meets its *Sheff* desegregation obligations, to award grants from funds appropriated for the *Sheff* settlement for academic and social student support programs at (1) magnet schools, (2) the Open Choice program, (3) the interdistrict cooperative program, and (4) the state technical education and career high schools.

By law, unchanged by the bill, the commissioner can transfer *Sheff* money for grants for unspecified purposes for the same programs, also including grants to state charter schools.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 34 — INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

Makes technical changes to the Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children

The bill makes two technical changes in the statute addressing the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§§ 35 & 37 — LOWERING ELIGIBILITY AGE FOR SCHOOL READINESS

Lowers the eligibility age of children for the School Readiness preschool program to birth, rather than age three

The bill lowers the eligibility age of children for the Office of Early Childhood's (OEC) School Readiness preschool program. Under current law, eligible children are those ages three or four, and children age five who are not eligible to enroll in school (by law a child must reach age five before January of the school year to attend school that year). The bill lowers the entry age to birth.

By law, School Readiness is a nonreligious, state-funded program that (1) meets state standards, (2) provides at least 450 hours and 180 days of developmentally appropriate learning per year, and (3) is open to age-eligible children.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§§ 36 & 38 — SCHOOL READINESS AND CHILD CARE GRANTS

Removes a requirement that certain excess funds be used exclusively to increase salaries of early childhood educators; changes annual awarding of a school readiness grant from annual to biennial

Excess Grant Award Flexibility

Under current law, state-licensed school readiness programs that operate full-day, year-round programs and receive school readiness per-pupil state grants must use any grant amount exceeding \$8,927 per child exclusively to increase the salary of individuals directly responsible for teaching or caring for children in school readiness program classrooms.

Current law also has a similar excess-funds salary provision for state-contracted child care facilities that was set to begin with FY 24. This applies to child care facilities' contracts with the state for a grant for (1) an amount at least equal to the per-child cost set in state law for each child ages three to five, and not yet eligible to enroll in school, and (2) a

\$13,500 per-child grant for children ages three and younger who are in toddler or infant care and not in a preschool program. The amount per child that is over the amount of the per-child cost stated in the FY 23 contract must be used exclusively to increase salaries of early childhood educators employed at these child care facilities.

The bill repeals both of these excess-funds salary provisions.

Biennial Grant Award

The bill also changes school readiness grants for priority school districts from an annual to a biennial award beginning in FY 23. As under current law, awards depend on available funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 39 — SMART START COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

Removes the FY 24 sunset date (i.e., June 30, 2014) for the smart start competitive grant, thus making the program permanent

The bill removes the FY 24 sunset date (i.e., June 30, 2014) for the smart start competitive grant to provide funds for capital and operating expenses for school districts to expand or establish preschool programs. The bill makes the program permanent with no end date.

Under current law, the OEC commissioner must prioritize school boards (1) that demonstrate the greatest need to establish or expand a preschool program and (2) whose plan allocates (a) at least 60% of the spaces in the preschool program to children who are members of families at or below 75% of the state median income or (b) 50% of the spaces to children who are eligible for free and reduced price lunches (FRPL). The bill eliminates the option for the commissioner to give priority to boards that reserve spaces for FRPL-eligible children.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 40 — PARENT ADVISORY CABINET

Requires OEC to establish a parent advisory council

The bill expands OEC's statutory duties to include establishing a parent advisory cabinet. The cabinet must advise OEC on ways to:

1. strengthen partnership and communication with families,
2. bring awareness to gaps and barriers to services,
3. increase access to services for families, and
4. help improve the lives of young children and families in the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 41 — CARE 4 KIDS INCOME LEVEL ELIGIBILITY

Requires the OEC commissioner to establish a two-tiered income eligibility limit for Care 4 Kids that conforms with federal regulations

The law generally sets the family income eligibility limit for Care 4 Kids child care subsidies at 50% of the statewide median income (SMI) and additionally gives the OEC commissioner the authority to increase the family income eligibility limit up to 85% of SMI, the maximum level allowed under federal law. (In practice, OEC has set the eligible income level at 60% of SMI.)

Conforming with Federal Regulations

The bill requires the commissioner to establish a two-tiered income eligibility limit that conforms with federal regulations.

The regulations require that if OEC establishes a maximum income level at less than 85% SMI, then it must provide a graduated phase-out by implementing the original eligibility tier plus a second tier set at 85% SMI or lower, while staying above the agency's initial eligibility threshold (for Connecticut 60%) that must account for the typical household budget of a low-income family. It must also provide a justification that the second tier threshold is (1) sufficient to accommodate increases over time in family income and that promote and support family economic stability and (2) reasonably allows a family to continue accessing child care services without disruption. Also, the second tier must be used when the recipient is considered for

redetermination.

The limit applies to both applicants for and current recipients of the subsidy.

The bill also eliminates a provision that requires the commissioner set the maximum income eligibility at 55% of SMI for applicants and recipients who qualify based on their loss of eligibility for temporary family assistance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 42 — PUBLIC SCHOOL OPERATOR DEFINITION FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES

Expands the definition of the types of public school operators that can join in health care benefit agreements with other school operators or municipalities

Current law allows a school board or a municipality to join together with other school boards or municipalities through a written agreement to form a single entity in order to provide medical or health care benefits for their employees.

The bill expands what kinds of entities can participate by allowing “public school operators” to be part of these agreements. It defines “public school operator” as a local or regional board of education, a regional educational service center, the governing council of a state or local charter school, or an operator of an interdistrict magnet school program, as described in law.

The bill makes a conforming change to specify that the agreement is subject to any applicable collective bargaining agreement and, in cases where there is an existing agreement between a school operator and a municipality or the municipality and the school operator have separate plans, the municipality’s legislative body must approve the agreement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§§ 43 & 44 — CHARTER SCHOOLS AND THE EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE STATE

Explicitly places charter schools under the educational interests of the state law that includes a complaint process if a party believes the school is not meeting the educational interests of the state

By law, charter schools are required to follow all federal and state laws governing public schools, with limited exceptions. The bill explicitly adds that state laws governing public schools includes the educational interests of the state. It also allows complaints to be brought to SBE in situations where a resident or a parent alleges the failure or inability of a charter school to implement the educational interests of the state. This complaint provision currently applies to local and regional boards of education.

The existing exceptions allow (1) charter schools to seek an enrollment lottery waiver from SBE to pursue a school that has a special student body such as (a) students with a history of behavioral and social difficulties, (b) English language learners, or (c) students of a single gender and (2) the commissioner to waive certain teacher certification requirements for charter school staff.

Educational Interests of the State and Complaint Process

By law, the educational interests of the state include the requirement to implement the educational state mandates and that each:

1. child must have equal opportunity to receive a suitable program of educational experiences as prescribed in law;
2. school district must finance, at a reasonable level at least equal to the minimum budget requirement required by state law, an educational program designed to provide suitable educational experiences; and
3. school district shall provide educational opportunities for its students to interact with students and teachers from other racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds and may provide these opportunities with students from other communities.

Complaints must be made to SBE in writing and SBE may initiate a

complaint on its own. If after an investigation, during which the school board or charter school is given the opportunity to present its case, SBE can require the school board or charter to develop and plan to address the situation or take other reasonable steps.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 45 — SDE CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

Requires the education commissioner to employ at least one curriculum coordinator

The bill requires the education commissioner to employ at least one curriculum coordinator. It requires the coordinator to provide curriculum materials and assist local and regional boards of education to include certain subject areas when developing instructional programs.

The bill requires the coordinator to assist with a number of subject areas in existing law, including:

1. financial literacy in high school (CGS § 10-16pp),
2. cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) as part of the health and safety curriculum (CGS § 10-16qq),
3. African American and black studies and Puerto Rican and Latino studies as part of the curriculum (CGS § 10-16ss),
4. black and Latino studies course offered in high school (CGS § 10-16uu),
5. Native American studies as part of the social studies curriculum (CGS § 10-16vv),
6. Asian American and Pacific Islander studies as part of the social studies curriculum (school years beginning on or after July 1, 2025) (CGS § 10-16ww), and
7. Holocaust and genocide education and awareness as part of the social studies curriculum (CGS § 10-18f).

These subject areas overlap with many of the subjects in the statutorily required program of instruction that all districts must provide (see *BACKGROUND*)

BACKGROUND — Required Program of Instruction

By law, the required program of instruction includes, among other subjects, the arts; health and safety, including CPR instruction; language arts, including reading and writing; mathematics; physical education; science; and social studies, including citizenship, geography, government, history, Holocaust and genocide awareness, African American and black studies, Puerto Rican and Latino studies, Native American studies, and Asian American and Pacific Islander studies (CGS § 10-16b). (A separate law specifies the minimum high school graduation requirements.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

BACKGROUND — Related Bills

sSB 1028 (File 440), favorably reported by the Education Committee, includes provisions that are very similar to sections 29-34 of the bill.

sHB 6686 (File 404), favorably reported by the Education Committee, includes provisions identical to those found in sections 35-40.

sHB 5003 (File 575), §§ 2 & 4, favorably reported by the Education Committee, includes identical provisions regarding charter schools and complaints to SBE and the magnet school grant law.

HB 6758 (File 277), § 2, favorably reported by the Education and Appropriations committees, includes the same SDE staffing provision as section 45.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 44 Nay 0 (03/24/2023)