



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1

January Session, 2023



AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPARENCY IN EDUCATION.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) Not later than January 1,
2 2024, and annually thereafter, the Department of Education shall
3 conduct a review of each chart of accounts for the previous fiscal year
4 submitted pursuant to section 10-227 of the general statutes, as amended
5 by this act. Following the review of each such chart of accounts, the
6 department shall prepare a report for each local or regional board of
7 education that includes school district financial information for the
8 following categories: (1) Expense function, (2) expense object, (3)
9 education type, (4) pre-k flag, (5) allocation, and (6) funding source.
10 Within each such category, such financial information shall be
11 disaggregated by each education financial system code utilized by the
12 department as part of its education financial system.

13 (b) The department shall make the chart of accounts and report of
14 such chart of accounts for each local or regional board of education
15 available on its Internet web site.

16 Sec. 2. Section 10-227 of the general statutes is repealed and the
17 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

18 [Each board of education shall cause the superintendent to make

19 returns not later than September first of each year to the Commissioner
20 of Education of the receipts, expenditures and statistics, as prescribed
21 by the commissioner, provided each such board may submit revisions
22 to the returns in such form and with such documentation as required by
23 the commissioner no later than December thirty-first of each year
24 following the September submission. Such reports or returns required]
25 Not later than September first of each year, each board of education shall
26 cause the superintendent to make returns of the receipts, expenditures
27 and statistics of such board for the previous fiscal year by filing the chart
28 of accounts described in section 10-10c, as amended by this act, with the
29 Commissioner of Education. Each such board may submit revisions to
30 its chart of accounts not later than December thirty-first of each year
31 following the September submission. Such chart of accounts shall be
32 [made] filed in accordance with the instructions furnished by the
33 commissioner, shall be certified no later than December thirty-first of
34 each year by the independent public accountant selected pursuant to
35 section 7-392 for the purpose of auditing municipal accounts, and shall
36 be subject to Department of Education verification. If the [returns and
37 statistics] chart of accounts and revisions called for by said
38 commissioner are not [sent] filed on or before the days specified in this
39 section or if the [returns are] chart of accounts is not certified as required
40 by the commissioner on or before December thirty-first, each local and
41 regional board of education required by law to [make separate returns]
42 file the chart of accounts, whose [returns and statistics] chart of accounts
43 or revisions are delayed until after those days, shall forfeit of the total
44 sum which is paid for such board of education from the State Treasurer
45 an amount to be determined by the State Board of Education, which
46 amount shall be not less than one thousand dollars nor more than ten
47 thousand dollars. The amount so forfeited shall be withheld from a
48 subsequent grant payment as determined by the commissioner.
49 [Notwithstanding the penalty provision of this section, the
50 Commissioner of Education may waive said forfeiture for good cause.]

51 Sec. 3. Section 10-10c of the general statutes is repealed and the
52 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

53 (a) The Department of Education shall develop and implement a
54 uniform system of accounting for school revenues and expenditures.
55 Such uniform system of accounting shall include a chart of accounts to
56 be used at the school and district level. Such chart of accounts shall
57 include, but not be limited to, all amounts and sources of revenue and
58 donations of cash and real or personal property in the aggregate totaling
59 five hundred dollars or more, including federal impact aid, received by
60 a local or regional board of education, regional educational service
61 center, charter school or charter management organization on behalf of
62 a school district or individual school. Select measures shall be required
63 at the individual school level, as determined by the department. The
64 department shall make such chart of accounts available on its Internet
65 web site.

66 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2015] 2024, and each fiscal year
67 thereafter, each local or regional board of education, regional
68 educational service center and state charter school shall implement such
69 uniform system of accounting by completing and filing annual financial
70 reports with the department using the chart of accounts and meet the
71 provisions of section 10-227, as amended by this act.

72 (c) The Office of Policy and Management may annually audit the
73 financial reports submitted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section for
74 any local or regional board of education, regional educational service
75 center or state charter school.

76 (d) Not later than July 1, [2013] 2023, the Department of Education
77 shall submit the chart of accounts described in subsection (a) of this
78 section to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
79 cognizance of matters relating to education and appropriations and the
80 budgets of state agencies, in accordance with the provisions of section
81 11-4a.

82 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) On and after July 1, 2023, the
83 Department of Education shall annually offer a training program to
84 newly elected members of local and regional boards of education. Such

85 training program shall be developed by the department, and include,
86 but not be limited to, the role and responsibilities of a board member,
87 the duties and obligations of a board of education and school district
88 budgeting and education finance.

89 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) On and after July 1, 2023, any
90 person who has been elected to a local or regional board of education
91 for the first time shall complete, at a time and in a manner prescribed by
92 the Department of Education, the training program for newly elected
93 members of local and regional boards of education, as described in
94 section 4 of this act. Each such member shall complete such training
95 program not later than one year after assuming office.

96 Sec. 6. Subsection (i) of section 10-145a of the general statutes is
97 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
98 *2023*):

99 (i) On and after July 1, [2016] 2023, any program of teacher
100 preparation leading to professional certification shall require, as part of
101 the curriculum, clinical experience, field experience or student teaching
102 experience in a classroom during four semesters of such program of
103 teacher preparation. [Such clinical experience, field experience or
104 student teaching experience shall occur: (1) In a school district that has
105 been categorized by the Department of Education as District Reference
106 Group A, B, C, D or E, and (2) in a school district that has been
107 categorized by the department as District Reference Group F, G, H or I.]
108 Such clinical experience, field experience or student teaching experience
109 may include a cooperating teacher serving as a mentor to student
110 teachers, provided such cooperating teacher has received a performance
111 evaluation designation of exemplary or proficient, pursuant to section
112 10-151b, for the prior school year.

113 Sec. 7. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 10-262u of the
114 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
115 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

116 (a) As used in this section and section 10-262i:

117 (1) "Alliance district" means a school district for a town that (A) is
118 among the towns with the [thirty-three] lowest accountability index
119 scores [, as calculated] and so designated by the [Department]
120 Commissioner of Education, or (B) was previously designated as an
121 alliance district by the Commissioner of Education [for the fiscal years
122 ending June 30, 2013, to June 30, 2022, inclusive] on or before July 1,
123 2023.

124 (2) "Accountability index" has the same meaning as provided in
125 section 10-223e.

126 (3) "Mastery test data of record" has the same meaning as provided
127 in section 10-262f.

128 (4) "Educational reform district" means an alliance district that is
129 among the ten lowest accountability index scores when all towns are
130 ranked highest to lowest in accountability index scores.

131 (b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, the Commissioner of
132 Education shall designate thirty school districts as alliance districts.
133 [Any school district designated as an alliance district shall be so
134 designated for a period of five years. On or before June 30, 2016, the
135 Department of Education shall determine if there are any additional
136 alliance districts.]

137 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, the commissioner shall
138 designate thirty-three school districts as alliance districts. [Any school
139 district designated as an alliance district shall be so designated for a
140 period of five years.]

141 (3) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the commissioner shall
142 designate thirty-six school districts as alliance districts. [Any school
143 district designated as an alliance district shall be so designated for a
144 period of five years.]

145 (4) On and after July 1, 2023, the commissioner may designate
146 additional school districts as alliance districts.

147 (c) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year
148 thereafter, the Comptroller shall withhold from any town that [(A)] was
149 designated as an alliance district (A) pursuant to subdivision (2) of
150 subsection (b) of this section any increase in funds received over the
151 amount the town received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012,
152 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-262i, [and (B) was designated as
153 an alliance district] (B) for the first time pursuant to subdivision (3) of
154 subsection (b) of this section, any increase in funds received over the
155 amount the town received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022,
156 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-262i, or (C) pursuant to
157 subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of this section any increase in funds
158 received over the amount the town received for the fiscal year prior to
159 such designation as an alliance district pursuant to subsection (a) of
160 section 10-262i. The Comptroller shall transfer such funds to the
161 Commissioner of Education.

162 (2) Upon receipt of an application pursuant to subsection (d) of this
163 section or section 10-156gg, the Commissioner of Education may pay
164 such funds to the town designated as an alliance district and such town
165 shall pay all such funds to the local or regional board of education for
166 such town on the condition that such funds shall be expended in
167 accordance with (A) the plan described in subsection (d) of this section,
168 (B) the minority candidate certification, retention or residency year
169 program pursuant to section 10-156gg, (C) the family resource center
170 program, pursuant to section 10-4o, to establish a family resource center
171 in each elementary school under the jurisdiction of such board, (D) the
172 provisions of subsection (c) of section 10-262i, and [(D)] (E) any
173 guidelines developed by the State Board of Education for such funds.
174 Such funds shall be used to improve student achievement and recruit
175 and retain minority teachers in such alliance district and to offset any
176 other local education costs approved by the commissioner.

177 Sec. 8. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2023) (a) As used in this section:

178 (1) "Alliance district" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-
179 262u of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

180 (2) "Private entity" means any individual, corporation, general
181 partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, joint
182 venture, nonprofit organization or other business entity;

183 (3) "Public-private partnership" means the relationship established
184 between the local or regional board of education for a town designated
185 as an alliance district, a community college and a private entity for the
186 purpose of implementing a pathways in technology early college high
187 school program; and

188 (4) "Pathways in technology early college high school program"
189 means a program of instruction in which students in grades nine to
190 twelve, inclusive, complete high school and college-level coursework
191 while simultaneously engaging in industry-guided workforce
192 development.

193 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year
194 thereafter, the Department of Education shall annually issue a request
195 for proposals to local and regional boards of education for towns
196 designated as alliance districts for the establishment of a new public-
197 private partnership or the enhancement of an existing pathways in
198 technology early college high school program. The department shall
199 review such proposals and award a grant to two such boards for the
200 costs associated with the establishment of a new public-private
201 partnership or enhancement of a pathways in technology early college
202 high school program.

203 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) No person shall sell or offer for
204 sale to any local or regional board of education, or in any public school,
205 any food product in which the name and branding on the packaging
206 that is available at retail in the general market place is the same or
207 similar to the name and branding on the packaging for sale in a public
208 school, but in which the nutritional value per portion or ingredients in

209 such food product deviate from the same or similarly named and
210 branded food product that is for sale in a public school.

211 Sec. 10. (Effective July 1, 2023) (a) For the fiscal years ending June 30,
212 2024, to June 30, 2026, inclusive, the Department of Education shall
213 administer a wholesome school meals pilot program that awards a grant
214 to an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u of the general
215 statutes, as amended by this act, for the purpose of embedding a
216 professional chef in such alliance district to assist school meal programs
217 in building the capacity of food service staff, improving school meal
218 quality, increasing diner satisfaction, streamlining operations and
219 establishing a financially viable school meal program. The department
220 shall partner with an organization that specializes in the placement of
221 chefs for the purposes described in this subsection.

222 (b) Not later than October 1, 2023, a local or regional board of
223 education for a town designated as an alliance district may apply to the
224 department, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, for a
225 grant under this section.

226 (c) The department shall review each application submitted under
227 subsection (b) of this section and award five grants under this section.
228 Each grant recipient shall receive an annual grant of one hundred fifty
229 thousand dollars in each year of the pilot program. Such grant shall be
230 expended for the purposes described in subsection (a) of this section.

231 (d) Not later than January 1, 2027, the department shall submit a
232 report on the wholesome school meals pilot program to the joint
233 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
234 matters relating to education and appropriations, in accordance with the
235 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 2	from passage	10-227

Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	10-10c
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-145a(i)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-262u(a) to (c)
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

APP *Joint Favorable*