



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2023

LCO No. 9026



Offered by:

REP. CURREY, 11<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. MCCARTY K., 38<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. MCCRORY, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dist.

To: House Bill No. 6762

File No. 535

Cal. No. 330

**"AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOLS."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-16q of the  
4 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
5 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

6 (b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, the per child cost of  
7 the Office of Early Childhood school readiness program offered by a  
8 school readiness provider shall not exceed eight thousand nine hundred  
9 twenty-seven dollars. For the fiscal [year] years ending June 30, 2021,  
10 [and each fiscal year thereafter] to June 30, 2024, inclusive, the per child  
11 cost of the Office of Early Childhood school readiness program offered  
12 by a school readiness provider shall not exceed nine thousand twenty-  
13 seven dollars. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the per child cost  
14 of the Office of Early Childhood full-time school readiness program

15 offered by a school readiness provider shall not exceed fourteen  
16 thousand two hundred fifty dollars.

17 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 17b-749 of the general statutes is  
18 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
19 *2023*):

20 (a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall establish and operate  
21 a child care subsidy program to increase the availability, affordability  
22 and quality of child care services for families with a parent or caretaker  
23 who (1) is (A) working or attending high school, or (B) subject to the  
24 provisions of subsection (d) of this section, is enrolled or participating  
25 in (i) a public or independent institution of higher education, (ii) a  
26 private career school authorized pursuant to sections 10a-22a to 10a-22o,  
27 inclusive, (iii) a job training or employment program administered by a  
28 regional workforce development board, (iv) an apprenticeship program  
29 administered by the Labor Department's office of apprenticeship  
30 training, (v) an alternate route to certification program approved by the  
31 State Board of Education, (vi) an adult education program pursuant to  
32 section 10-69 or other high school equivalency program, or (vii) a local  
33 Even Start program or other adult education program approved by the  
34 Commissioner of Early Childhood; or (2) receives cash assistance under  
35 the temporary family assistance program from the Department of Social  
36 Services and is participating in an education, training or other job  
37 preparation activity approved pursuant to subsection (b) of section 17b-  
38 688i or subsection (b) of section 17b-689d. Services available under the  
39 child care subsidy program shall include the provision of child care  
40 subsidies for children under the age of thirteen or children under the  
41 age of nineteen with special needs. The Commissioner of Early  
42 Childhood may institute a protective service class in which the  
43 commissioner may waive eligibility requirements for at-risk  
44 populations that meet the guidelines prescribed by the commissioner,  
45 and subject to review by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
46 Management. Such at-risk populations are children placed in a foster  
47 home by the Department of Children and Families and for whom the  
48 parent or legal guardian receives foster care payments, adopted children

49 for one year from the date of adoption and homeless children and  
50 youths, as defined in 42 USC 11434a, as amended from time to time. The  
51 Office of Early Childhood shall open and maintain enrollment for the  
52 child care subsidy program and shall administer such program within  
53 the existing budgetary resources available. The office shall issue a notice  
54 on the office's Internet web site any time the office closes the program to  
55 new applications, changes eligibility requirements, changes program  
56 benefits or makes any other change to the program's status or terms,  
57 except the office shall not be required to issue such notice when the  
58 office expands program eligibility. Any change in the office's acceptance  
59 of new applications, eligibility requirements, program benefits or any  
60 other change to the program's status or terms for which the office is  
61 required to give notice pursuant to this subsection, shall not be effective  
62 until thirty days after the office issues such notice.

63 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) Any provider of child care  
64 services, as described in section 19a-77 of the general statutes, licensed  
65 by the Office of Early Childhood, that maintains a supply of epinephrine  
66 cartridge injectors pursuant to section 19a-909 of the general statutes,  
67 may administer such epinephrine for the purpose of emergency first aid  
68 to a child in the care of such provider who experiences an allergic  
69 reaction and does not have a prior written authorization of a parent or  
70 guardian or a prior written order of a qualified medical professional for  
71 the administration of epinephrine, provided the person administering  
72 such epinephrine is a person with training, as defined in section 19a-909  
73 of the general statutes. The parent or guardian of a child may submit, in  
74 writing, to such child's provider of child care services, that epinephrine  
75 shall not be administered to such child pursuant to this section.

76 Sec. 4. Section 10-502 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
77 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

78 The Office of Early Childhood shall collaborate with and may, within  
79 available appropriations, provide funding to local [and regional] early  
80 childhood [councils] collaboratives for the implementation of early care  
81 and education and child development programs at the local level. Such

82 local early childhood [councils] collaboratives shall: (1) Develop and  
83 implement a comprehensive plan for an early childhood system for the  
84 community served by such local early childhood [council] collaborative,  
85 (2) develop policy and program planning, (3) encourage community  
86 participation by emphasizing substantial parental involvement, (4)  
87 collect, analyze and evaluate data with a focus on program and service  
88 outcomes, (5) allocate resources, and (6) perform any other functions  
89 that will assist in the provision of early childhood programs and  
90 services. Such local early childhood [councils] collaboratives may enter  
91 into memoranda of agreement with the local or regional school  
92 readiness council, described in section 10-16r, of the town or region  
93 served by such local early childhood [council] collaborative to perform  
94 the duties and functions of a school readiness council, in accordance  
95 with the provisions of section 10-16r, or if no such local or regional  
96 school readiness council exists for the town or region of such local early  
97 childhood [council] collaborative, perform the duties and functions of a  
98 school readiness council, in accordance with the provisions of section  
99 10-16r.

100 Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2025, the  
101 Commissioner of Education shall, within available appropriations,  
102 conduct an audit of state and local testing requirements and  
103 administration. Such audit shall focus on (1) the state-wide mastery  
104 examination, as described in section 10-14n of the general statutes, and  
105 local standardized assessments used to monitor student and district  
106 academic progress and achievement, (2) the amount of time devoted to  
107 student preparation or educator instruction for the state-wide mastery  
108 examination and such local standardized assessments, including the  
109 amount of time that such preparation and instruction takes away from  
110 regular instruction. Such audit shall also include recommendations  
111 relating to any limitations on the amount of time that may be devoted  
112 to administering the state-wide mastery examination and such local  
113 standardized assessments. If a grant to conduct such audit is available  
114 under 20 USC 6361 to 20 USC 6363, inclusive, as amended from time to  
115 time, the commissioner shall submit an application for such grant and

116 conduct such audit in a manner that complies with the requirements set  
117 forth in said 20 USC 6361 to 20 USC 6363, inclusive, as amended from  
118 time to time.

119 (b) Not later than January 1, 2025, the commissioner shall submit a  
120 report of the audit described in subsection (a) of this section to the joint  
121 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
122 matters relating to education and appropriations and the budgets of  
123 state agencies, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
124 general statutes.

125 Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

126 (1) "Civic engagement" means participation in improving the quality  
127 of life in a community and developing the combination of knowledge  
128 and skills to enable such participation;

129 (2) "Civics" means the study of the rights and obligations of citizens;  
130 and

131 (3) "Media literacy" means the ability to access, analyze, evaluate,  
132 create and participate with media in all forms by understanding the role  
133 of media in society, and building skills of inquiry and self-expression  
134 essential to participation and collaboration in a democratic society.

135 (b) There is established the Connecticut Civics Education, Civics  
136 Engagement and Media Literacy Task Force to study and develop  
137 strategies to improve and promote civic engagement and instruction on  
138 civics, citizenship, media literacy and American government. Such  
139 study shall include, but need not be limited to (1) reviewing existing  
140 state and national curricula and standards, classroom practices and high  
141 school and college graduation requirements to identify and publicize  
142 best practices in instruction on civics, citizenship, media literacy and  
143 American government, (2) receiving recommendations from educators,  
144 administrators, governmental entities, nongovernmental organizations  
145 and the public, (3) a review of existing civics, citizenship, media literacy  
146 and American government educational opportunities provided by

147 governmental entities and nongovernmental organizations throughout  
148 the state, and (4) exploring the feasibility of establishing public and  
149 private partnerships to fund, coordinate, promote and support  
150 enhancements to such engagement and instruction.

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

152 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
153 who shall be a certified social studies teacher and a member of the  
154 American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut;

155 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who  
156 shall be a representative of the Connecticut Education Association;

157 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
158 Representatives, who shall be an officer or member of a  
159 nongovernmental organization that promotes civic education, civic  
160 engagement or media literacy;

161 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
162 an officer or member of a nongovernmental organization that promotes  
163 civic education, civic engagement or media literacy;

164 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
165 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut  
166 Association of Public School Superintendents;

167 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
168 a representative of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education;

169 (7) One appointed by the chairperson of the Black and Puerto Rican  
170 Caucus of the General Assembly;

171 (8) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee;

172 (9) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

173 (10) The president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities,  
174 or the president's designee;

175 (11) The president of The University of Connecticut, or the president's  
176 designee;

177 (12) The president of the Connecticut Bar Association, or the  
178 president's designee;

179 (13) The Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court  
180 Administrator's designee;

181 (14) The chairpersons of the Connecticut Hate Crimes Advisory  
182 Council, or the chairpersons' designees;

183 (15) The executive director of the Connecticut Humanities Council, or  
184 the executive director's designee;

185 (16) The president of the Connecticut Democracy Center, or the  
186 president's designee; and

187 (17) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,  
188 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee.

189 (d) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
190 (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) or (7) of subsection (c) of this section may be a member  
191 of the General Assembly.

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

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

200 (g) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
201 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education  
202 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

203 (h) Not later than January 1, 2025, the task force shall submit a report  
204 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of  
205 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
206 education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
207 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it  
208 submits such report or July 1, 2025, whichever is later.

209 Sec. 7. Section 10-16b of the general statutes, as amended by section  
210 32 of public act 22-80, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
211 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

212 (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall  
213 include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally  
214 qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education;  
215 health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and  
216 development, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary  
217 resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-  
218 16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not  
219 limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in  
220 performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast  
221 cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health, physical,  
222 mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention,  
223 substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use  
224 and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe use of social  
225 media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the dangers of gang  
226 membership, and accident prevention; language arts, including reading,  
227 writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical  
228 education; science, which may include the climate change curriculum  
229 described in subsection (d) of this section; social studies, including, but  
230 not limited to, civics and media literacy, citizenship, economics,  
231 geography, government, history and Holocaust and genocide education  
232 and awareness in accordance with the provisions of section 10-18f;  
233 African-American and black studies in accordance with the provisions  
234 of section 10-16ss; Puerto Rican and Latino studies in accordance with  
235 the provisions of section 10-16ss; Native American studies, in  
236 accordance with the provisions of section 10-16vv; Asian American and



237 Pacific Islander studies, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-  
238 66ww; computer programming instruction; and in addition, on at least  
239 the secondary level, one or more world languages; vocational education;  
240 and the black and Latino studies course in accordance with the  
241 provisions of sections 10-16tt and 10-16uu. For purposes of this  
242 subsection, world languages shall include American Sign Language,  
243 provided such subject matter is taught by a qualified instructor under  
244 the supervision of a teacher who holds a certificate issued by the State  
245 Board of Education. For purposes of this subsection, the "arts" means  
246 any form of visual or performing arts, which may include, but not be  
247 limited to, dance, music, art and theatre.

248 (b) If a local or regional board of education requires its pupils to take  
249 a course in a world language, the parent or guardian of a pupil  
250 identified as deaf or hard of hearing may request in writing that such  
251 pupil be exempted from such requirement and, if such a request is  
252 made, such pupil shall be exempt from such requirement.

253 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall on September 1,  
254 1982, and annually thereafter at such time and in such manner as the  
255 Commissioner of Education shall request, attest to the State Board of  
256 Education that such local or regional board of education offers at least  
257 the program of instruction required pursuant to this section, and that  
258 such program of instruction is planned, ongoing and systematic.

259 (d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum  
260 materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional  
261 boards of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to  
262 this section. The State Board of Education, within available  
263 appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist  
264 and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (1)  
265 Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; (2) the historical  
266 events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (3) African-American  
267 and black studies; (4) Puerto Rican and Latino studies; (5) Native  
268 American studies; (6) Asian American and Pacific Islander studies; (7)  
269 personal financial management, including, but not limited to, financial

270 literacy as developed in the plan provided under section 10-16pp; (8)  
271 training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automatic  
272 external defibrillators; (9) labor history and law, including organized  
273 labor, the collective bargaining process, existing legal protections in the  
274 workplace, the history and economics of free market capitalism and  
275 entrepreneurialism, and the role of labor and capitalism in the  
276 development of the American and world economies; (10) climate change  
277 consistent with the Next Generation Science Standards; (11) topics  
278 approved by the state board upon the request of local or regional boards  
279 of education as part of the program of instruction offered pursuant to  
280 subsection (a) of this section; and (12) instruction relating to the Safe  
281 Haven Act, sections 17a-57 to 17a-61, inclusive. The Department of  
282 Energy and Environmental Protection shall be available to each local  
283 and regional board of education for the development of curriculum on  
284 climate change as described in this subsection.

285       Sec. 8. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The board of the Technical Education  
286 and Career System shall study the programs offered at technical  
287 education and career schools to determine whether such programs align  
288 with the technical careers available in the state. Such study shall include,  
289 but need not be limited to, an evaluation of (1) the skills or certifications  
290 required to fill the available jobs in the state, (2) any deficiencies in the  
291 training or the availability of equipment at the technical education and  
292 career schools to teach the skills required for such available jobs, and (3)  
293 opportunities to partner with employers or labor organizations in the  
294 state to provide relevant apprenticeships or internships to students.

295       (b) Not later than January 1, 2025, the board of the Technical  
296 Education and Career System shall submit a report, in accordance with  
297 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint  
298 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
299 matters relating to education concerning the study conducted pursuant  
300 to subsection (a) of this section. Such report shall include, but need not  
301 be limited to, any legislative or policy recommendations for improving  
302 the programs offered at technical education and career schools to align  
303 with the skills required for available jobs.

304       Sec. 9. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024,  
305 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Department of Education shall not  
306 include any federal funds received by a local or regional board of  
307 education pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic  
308 Security Act, P.L. 116-136, as amended from time to time, the  
309 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act,  
310 P.L. 116-260, as amended from time to time, and the American Rescue  
311 Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, as amended from time to time, in the  
312 calculation of such board's net current expenditures per pupil for  
313 purposes of determining the amount of the grant paid by the State Board  
314 of Education to such board under section 10-76g of the general statutes.

315       Sec. 10. Subsection (b) of section 10-76g of the general statutes, as  
316 amended by section 8 of public act 23-1, is repealed and the following is  
317 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

318       (b) Any local or regional board of education which provides special  
319 education pursuant to the provisions of sections 10-76a to 10-76g,  
320 inclusive, as amended by public act 23-1 and this act, for any exceptional  
321 child described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (5) of section 10-76a,  
322 under its jurisdiction, excluding (1) children placed by a state agency for  
323 whom a board of education receives payment pursuant to the  
324 provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section 10-76d, as  
325 amended by public act 23-1 and this act, and (2) children who require  
326 special education, who reside on state-owned or leased property, and  
327 who are not the educational responsibility of the unified school districts  
328 established pursuant to sections 17a-37 and 18-99a, shall be financially  
329 responsible for the reasonable costs of special education instruction, as  
330 defined in the regulations of the State Board of Education, in an amount  
331 equal to [(A) for any fiscal year commencing prior to July 1, 2005, five  
332 times the average per pupil educational costs of such board of education  
333 for the prior fiscal year, determined in accordance with the provisions  
334 of subsection (a) of section 10-76f, and (B)] for the fiscal year  
335 commencing July 1, [2005] 2023, and each fiscal year thereafter, four and  
336 one-half times [such average per pupil educational costs] the net current  
337 expenditures per pupil of such board of education. Except as otherwise

338 provided in subsection (d) of this section, the State Board of Education  
339 shall, within available appropriations, pay on a current basis any costs  
340 in excess of the local or regional board's basic contribution paid by such  
341 board in accordance with the provisions of this subsection. Any  
342 amounts paid by the State Board of Education on a current basis  
343 pursuant to this subsection shall not be reimbursable in the subsequent  
344 year. Application for such grant shall be made by filing with the  
345 Department of Education, in such manner as prescribed by the  
346 commissioner, annually on or before December first a statement of the  
347 cost of providing special education pursuant to this subsection,  
348 provided a board of education may submit, not later than March first,  
349 claims for additional children or costs not included in the December  
350 filing. Payment by the state for such excess costs shall be made to the  
351 local or regional board of education as follows: Seventy-five per cent of  
352 the cost in February and the balance in May. The amount due each town  
353 pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be paid to the  
354 treasurer of each town entitled to such aid, provided the treasurer shall  
355 treat such grant, or a portion of the grant, which relates to special  
356 education expenditures incurred in excess of such town's board of  
357 education budgeted estimate of such expenditures, as a reduction in  
358 expenditures by crediting such expenditure account, rather than town  
359 revenue. Such expenditure account shall be so credited no later than  
360 thirty days after receipt by the treasurer of necessary documentation  
361 from the board of education indicating the amount of such special  
362 education expenditures incurred in excess of such town's board of  
363 education budgeted estimate of such expenditures.

364 Sec. 11. Section 10-76f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
365 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

366 For the purposes of sections 10-76a to 10-76g, inclusive, as amended  
367 by this act:

368 [(a)] (1) "Per pupil cost" in a school district is the quotient of net  
369 current [expenses, as defined in section 10-261, divided by]  
370 expenditures and such school district's average daily membership. [, as

371 defined in section 10-261.]

372 [(b)] (2) "Special education instructional personnel" includes those  
373 employees of a board of education who, for at least one-half of their  
374 employment time, are assigned exclusively to the task of implementing  
375 or supervising special education programs. "Pupil personnel staff"  
376 includes those employees of a board of education who, for at least one-  
377 third of their employment time, are assigned exclusively to the task of  
378 identifying and implementing special education programs and services.

379 [(c)] (3) "Special education equipment and materials" means such  
380 equipment and materials as are used primarily to implement special  
381 education in accordance with regulations made pursuant to said  
382 sections.

383 [(d)] (4) "Special education tuition" means the tuition, board, room  
384 and other fees paid to another public or private school, agency or  
385 institution by a board of education to meet the educational needs of  
386 children requiring special education, provided such payments have  
387 been pursuant to an agreement approved by the commissioner.

388 [(e)] (5) "Special education transportation costs" are the amounts paid  
389 by a claimant town or regional board of education for transporting any  
390 child to and from any clinic, physician's office, agency or institution to  
391 which the board requests the child go for the purposes of determining  
392 the need for special education and amounts paid for transporting such  
393 child to and from any school, agency or institution for the purposes of  
394 special education unless such transportation is on a bus which is  
395 transporting, at the same time, children in the standard educational  
396 program provided by the claimant board.

397 [(f)] (6) "Special education rent" means any expenditure for rental of  
398 space or equipment to implement special education in accordance with  
399 regulations made pursuant to said sections.

400 [(g)] (7) "Special education consultant services" means  
401 noninstructional services rendered concerning children requiring

402 special education by professional persons other than employees of a  
403 board of education for programs approved pursuant to said sections.

404 [(h)] (8) "Net cost of special education" means the result obtained by  
405 subtracting from the expenditures made by a claimant board for special  
406 education personnel, equipment, materials, tuition, transportation, rent  
407 and consultant services, [(1)] (A) the total amount of any funds from  
408 other state or federal grants, private grants or special education tuition  
409 received by the board or town in such year and used to implement  
410 special education programs approved pursuant to said sections, [(2)] (B)  
411 the total amount of any funds from Medicaid payments expended by  
412 the board in such year and used to implement special education  
413 programs, and [(3)] (C) expenditures for special education provided to  
414 children requiring special education who are described in subparagraph  
415 (B) of subdivision (5) of section 10-76a.

416 (9) "Net current expenditures" has the same meaning as provided in  
417 section 10-261.

418 (10) "Average daily membership" has the same meaning as provided  
419 in section 10-261.

420 (11) "Net current expenditures per pupil" means the quotient of net  
421 current expenditures of a school district and such school district's  
422 average daily membership.

423 Sec. 12. Section 10-4w of the general statutes is repealed and the  
424 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

425 (a) As used in this section:

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

429 (2) "Dual instruction" means the simultaneous instruction by a  
430 teacher to students in-person in the classroom and students engaged in  
431 remote learning.

432 (b) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Education  
433 shall develop, and update as necessary, standards for remote learning.

434 (c) For the school years commencing July 1, 2022, and July 1, 2023, a  
435 local or regional board of education may authorize remote learning to  
436 students in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, provided such board (1)  
437 provides such instruction in compliance with the standards developed  
438 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, (2) adopts a policy regarding  
439 the requirements for student attendance during remote learning, which  
440 shall (A) be in compliance with the Department of Education's guidance  
441 on student attendance during remote learning, and (B) count the  
442 attendance of any student who spends not less than one-half of the  
443 school day during such instruction engaged in (i) virtual classes, (ii)  
444 virtual meetings, (iii) activities on time-logged electronic systems, and  
445 (iv) the completion and submission of assignments, and (3) prohibits the  
446 provision of dual instruction as part of remote learning, except such  
447 dual instruction may be provided in cases when such dual instruction is  
448 (A) required in, or necessary to implement, the individualized  
449 education program of a student who requires special education and  
450 related services or a plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation  
451 Act of 1973, as amended from time to time, or (B) provided as part of an  
452 intradistrict or interdistrict cooperative learning program that provides  
453 remote learning opportunities to students who are present in a  
454 classroom on school grounds during the regular school day and in  
455 which a certified educator is present in each such classroom providing  
456 such dual instruction or supervising the students receiving such dual  
457 instruction, provided such program is implemented in accordance with  
458 an agreement between each local or regional board of education and the  
459 representatives of each exclusive bargaining unit for certified employees  
460 chosen pursuant to section 10-153b participating in such intradistrict or  
461 interdistrict cooperative learning program.

462 (d) For the school year commencing July 1, 2024, and each school year  
463 thereafter, a local or regional board of education may authorize remote  
464 learning to students in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive,  
465 provided such board (1) provides such instruction in compliance with

466 the standards developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, (2)  
467 adopts a policy regarding the requirements for student attendance  
468 during remote learning, which shall (A) be in compliance with the  
469 Department of Education's guidance on student attendance during  
470 remote learning, and (B) count the attendance of any student who  
471 spends not less than one-half of the school day during such instruction  
472 engaged in (i) virtual classes, (ii) virtual meetings, (iii) activities on time-  
473 logged electronic systems, and (iv) the completion and submission of  
474 assignments, and (3) prohibits the provision of dual instruction as part  
475 of remote learning, except such dual instruction may be provided in  
476 cases when such dual instruction is (A) required in, or necessary to  
477 implement, the individualized education program of a student who  
478 requires special education and related services or a plan pursuant to  
479 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to  
480 time, or (B) provided as part of an intradistrict or interdistrict  
481 cooperative learning program that provides remote learning  
482 opportunities to students who are present in a classroom on school  
483 grounds during the regular school day and in which a certified educator  
484 is present in each such classroom providing such dual instruction or  
485 supervising the students receiving such dual instruction, provided such  
486 program is implemented in accordance with an agreement between  
487 each local or regional board of education and the representatives of each  
488 exclusive bargaining unit for certified employees chosen pursuant to  
489 section 10-153b participating in such intradistrict or interdistrict  
490 cooperative learning program.

491 Sec. 13. Section 3 of public act 21-95, as amended by section 3 of public  
492 act 22-116, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
493 (*Effective from passage*):

494 (a) There is established a task force to study issues relating to the  
495 provision and funding of special education in the state during the school  
496 years commencing July 1, 2016, to July 1, 2020, inclusive. Such study  
497 shall focus on funding, eligibility and delivery of special education  
498 services and include, but need not be limited to, an examination of (1)  
499 the provision of special education and related services, including the



500 provision of services to students identified as gifted and talented, and  
501 services or accommodations for a student as part of a plan pursuant to  
502 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to  
503 time, and whether local and regional boards of education are providing  
504 such services directly or partnering with regional educational service  
505 centers, contracting with a private provider of special education  
506 services, as defined in section 10-91g of the general statutes, or as part  
507 of a cooperative arrangement pursuant to section 10-158a of the general  
508 statutes, (2) the cost of providing special education and related services,  
509 including gifted and talented services, the total aggregate amount per  
510 school district per year and the annual percentage increase or decrease  
511 per school district of such cost, (3) the effect that the cost of special  
512 education and gifted and talented services has on a board of education's  
513 minimum budget requirement, (4) the level of state reimbursement to  
514 boards of education for special education and gifted and talented  
515 services, including the total amount for reimbursement submitted by  
516 each school district per year and the total amount received by such  
517 school district per year, and the percentage increase or decrease per year  
518 of the difference of the total amount submitted and the total amount  
519 received for each school district, [and] (5) the criteria and manner by  
520 which school districts are identifying students who require special  
521 education and related services or as gifted and talented, including  
522 whether school districts are overidentifying or underidentifying such  
523 students and the causes and reasons for such overidentification and  
524 underidentification, (6) the feasibility of authorizing independent  
525 evaluators from the Department of Education or hired by the parents  
526 and guardians of students receiving special education and related  
527 services to observe the provision of such services in the classroom, (7)  
528 delaying the age in which a classification category of special education  
529 services shall be made for a child requiring special education and related  
530 services, (8) special education student-to-teacher ratios prescribed by  
531 case load policies, regulations and formulas in effect in other states, with  
532 a focus on provisions regarding the numbers of special education  
533 students and intensity of services required for such students, (9) the  
534 prohibition of the use of seclusion under section 10-236b of the general

535 statutes and the implementation of alternative methods in lieu of  
536 seclusion for certain student behavior, and (10) any other issues or topics  
537 relating to special education that the task force deems necessary.

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

539 (1) Three appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
540 one of whom is a representative of the Special Education Equity for Kids  
541 of Connecticut, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut  
542 Association of Boards of Education and one of whom is the parent or  
543 guardian of a student who is enrolled in a public school and receiving  
544 special education services;

545 (2) Three appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one  
546 of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Public  
547 School Superintendents, one of whom is a representative of the  
548 Connecticut Education Association and one of whom is the parent or  
549 guardian of a student who is enrolled in a public school and receiving  
550 special education services;

551 (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
552 Representatives, one of whom is a representative of the American  
553 Federation of Teachers-Connecticut and one of whom is a representative  
554 of the Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center;

555 (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom  
556 is a representative of the Connecticut Council of Administrators of  
557 Special Education and one of whom is a representative of the RESC  
558 Alliance;

559 (5) [Two] Three appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
560 Representatives, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut  
561 Association of School Administrators, [and] one of whom is a  
562 representative of the School and State Finance Project and one of whom  
563 is a representative from an educator preparation program offered at a  
564 public institution of higher education in the state;

565 (6) [Two] Three appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one  
566 of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Schools,  
567 [and] one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of  
568 School Business Officials and one of whom is a representative from an  
569 educator preparation program offered at an independent institution of  
570 higher education in the state; [and]

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

572 (8) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
573 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
574 relating to education, or their designees;

575 (9) The chairperson of the Advisory Council for Special Education,  
576 established pursuant to section 10-76i of the general statutes; and

577 (10) A representative of the Connecticut Association of Private  
578 Special Education Facilities, designated by the association.

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

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

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

590 (f) (1) Not later than January 1, 2024, the task force shall submit [a] an  
591 interim report on its findings [and recommendations] to the joint  
592 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
593 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of  
594 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

595 (2) Not later than January 1, 2025, the task force shall submit a final  
596 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing  
597 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
598 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
599 of the general statutes.

600 (3) The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such  
601 report or [January 1, 2024] July 1, 2025, whichever is later.

602 Sec. 14. Subsection (j) of section 10-66bb of the general statutes is  
603 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
604 *2023*):

605 (j) (1) The governing council of a state or local charter school may  
606 apply to the State Board of Education for a waiver of the requirements  
607 of the enrollment lottery described in subdivision (8) of subsection (d)  
608 of this section, provided such state or local charter school has as its  
609 primary purpose the establishment of education programs designed to  
610 serve one or more of the following populations: (A) Students with a  
611 history of behavioral and social difficulties, (B) students identified as  
612 requiring special education, (C) students who are [English language]  
613 multilingual learners, or (D) students of a single gender.

614 (2) An enrollment lottery described in subdivision (8) of subsection  
615 (d) of this section shall not be held for a local charter school that is  
616 established at a school that is among the schools with a percentage equal  
617 to or less than five per cent when all schools are ranked highest to lowest  
618 in accountability index scores, as defined in section 10-223e.

619 (3) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection,  
620 on and after July 1, 2023, no application for enrollment in a state or local  
621 charter school shall inquire or request information about an applicant  
622 student's need for or receipt of special education and related services,  
623 and the criteria for administering an enrollment lottery for a state or  
624 local charter school shall not include consideration of a student's need  
625 for or status as requiring special education and related services.

626 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) On and after July 1, 2023, the  
627 Department of Education shall make available on the department's  
628 Internet web site summaries of the complaints filed with and corrective  
629 actions required by the department regarding the provision of special  
630 education and related services by a local or regional board of education  
631 or other entity responsible for the provision of special education and  
632 related services to a student. The department shall redact any personally  
633 identifiable information of a student prior to making such decisions and  
634 documents available.

635 Sec. 16. Subsection (i) of section 10-76d of the general statutes is  
636 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
637 *2023*):

638 (i) (1) No local or regional board of education shall discipline,  
639 suspend, terminate or otherwise punish any member of a planning and  
640 placement team employed by such board who discusses or makes  
641 recommendations concerning the provision of special education and  
642 related services for a child during a planning and placement team  
643 meeting for such child.

644 (2) No birth-to-three service coordinator or qualified personnel, as  
645 those terms are defined in section 17a-248, who discusses or makes  
646 recommendations concerning the provision of special education and  
647 related services for a child during a planning and placement team  
648 meeting for such child or in a transition plan, as required by section 17a-  
649 248e, shall be subject to discipline, suspension, termination or other  
650 punishment on the basis of such recommendations.

651 (3) No local or regional board of education shall discipline, suspend,  
652 terminate or otherwise punish any school employee, as defined in  
653 section 10-222d, who discusses or makes recommendations concerning  
654 the provision of services or accommodations for a student as part of a  
655 plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as  
656 amended from time to time, during any meeting held to discuss such  
657 plan for such student.

658 Sec. 17. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The State Board of Education  
659 shall draft a written bill of rights for parents or guardians of students  
660 who are multilingual learners to guarantee that the rights of such  
661 parents and students are adequately safeguarded and protected in the  
662 provision of bilingual education under chapter 164 of the general  
663 statutes. Such bill of rights shall include, but need not be limited to, the  
664 following declarations:

665 (1) The right of a multilingual learner student to attend a public  
666 school in the state regardless of such student's immigration status or the  
667 immigration status of such student's parent or guardian;

668 (2) The right of a parent or guardian of a multilingual learner student  
669 to enroll such student in a public school without being required to  
670 submit immigration documentation, including, but not limited to, a  
671 Social Security number, visa documentation or proof of citizenship;

672 (3) The right of a multilingual learner student to have translation  
673 services provided (A) by an interpreter who is present in person or  
674 available by telephone or through an online technology platform, or (B)  
675 through an Internet web site or other electronic application approved  
676 by the State Board of Education, during critical interactions with  
677 teachers and administrators, including, but not limited to, parent-  
678 teacher conferences, meetings with administrators of the school in  
679 which such student is attending, and at properly noticed regular or  
680 special meetings of the board of education or scheduled meetings with  
681 a member or members of the board of education responsible for  
682 educating such student, in accordance with section 18 of this act;

683 (4) The right of a multilingual learner student to participate in a  
684 program of bilingual education offered by the local or regional board of  
685 education when there are twenty or more eligible students classified as  
686 dominant in a language, other than English, as such student, in  
687 accordance with the provisions of section 10-17f of the general statutes;

688 (5) The right of a parent or guardian of a multilingual learner student  
689 to receive written notice, in both English and the dominant language of

690 such parent or guardian, that such student is eligible to participate in a  
691 program of bilingual education or English as a new language program  
692 offered by the local or regional board of education;

693 (6) The right of a multilingual learner student and the parent or  
694 guardian of such student to receive a high-quality orientation session,  
695 in the dominant language of such student and parent or guardian, from  
696 the local or regional board of education that provides information  
697 relating to state standards, tests and expectations at the school for  
698 multilingual learner students, as well as the goals and requirements for  
699 programs of bilingual education and English as a new language, prior  
700 to participation in such program of bilingual education or English as a  
701 new language;

702 (7) The right of the parent or guardian of a multilingual learner  
703 student to receive information about the progress of such student's  
704 English language development and acquisition;

705 (8) The right of a multilingual learner student and the parent or  
706 guardian of such student to meet with school personnel to discuss such  
707 student's English language development and acquisition;

708 (9) The right of a multilingual learner student to be placed in a  
709 program of bilingual education or English as a new language, if offered  
710 by the local or regional board of education;

711 (10) The right of a multilingual learner student to have equal access  
712 to all grade-level school programming;

713 (11) The right of a multilingual learner student to have equal access  
714 to all core grade-level subject matter;

715 (12) The right of a multilingual learner student to receive annual  
716 language proficiency testing;

717 (13) The right of a multilingual learner student to receive support  
718 services aligned with any intervention plan that the school or school  
719 district provides to all students;

720 (14) The right of a multilingual learner student to be continuously  
721 and annually enrolled in a program of bilingual education or English as  
722 a new language while such student remains an eligible student, as  
723 defined in section 10-17e of the general statutes; and

724 (15) The right of a parent or guardian of a multilingual learner  
725 student to contact the Department of Education with any questions or  
726 concerns regarding such student's right to receive multilingual learner  
727 services or accommodations available to such student or parent or  
728 guardian, including information regarding any recourse for failure of  
729 the board of education to provide or ensure such services or  
730 accommodations.

731 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2024, and each school year  
732 thereafter, each local and regional board of education providing a  
733 program of bilingual education or English as a new language shall (1)  
734 provide the parents and guardians of eligible students with a copy of  
735 the multilingual learner bill of rights in the dominant language of such  
736 parents and guardians, and (2) make such copies of the multilingual  
737 learner bill of rights available on the Internet web site of such board.

738 (c) For purposes of this section, "multilingual learner" means "English  
739 learner", as defined in 20 USC 7801, as amended from time to time.

740 Sec. 18. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) Each local and regional board of  
741 education shall, upon request of the parent or guardian of a multilingual  
742 learner student or of the multilingual learner student, provide  
743 translation services to such parent or guardian and student at a properly  
744 noticed regular or special meeting of such board or a scheduled meeting  
745 with a member or members of such board. Such request for translation  
746 services shall be made at least one day in advance of such meeting of the  
747 board or with a member or members of such board. As used in this  
748 section, "multilingual learner" has the same meaning as provided in  
749 section 17 of this act.

750 Sec. 19. Section 10-3c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
751 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):



752 There shall be a director of reading initiatives within the Department  
753 of Education. The director shall be responsible for (1) administering the  
754 intensive reading instruction program to improve student literacy in  
755 kindergarten to grade three, inclusive, and close the achievement gaps  
756 that result from opportunity gaps, pursuant to section 10-14u, as  
757 amended by this act, (2) assisting in the development and  
758 administration of the program of professional development for teachers  
759 and principals in scientifically based reading research and instruction,  
760 pursuant to section 10-148b, (3) administering the coordinated state-  
761 wide reading plan for students in kindergarten to grade three, inclusive,  
762 pursuant to section 10-14v, (4) administering, within available  
763 appropriations, the incentive program described in section 10-14w, (5)  
764 providing assistance to local and regional boards of education in the  
765 administration of the reading assessments described in section 10-14t,  
766 and the implementation of school district reading plans, (6) providing  
767 information and assistance to parents and guardians of students relating  
768 to reading and literacy instruction, (7) addressing reading and literacy  
769 issues related to students who are [English language] multilingual  
770 learners, and (8) developing and administering any other state-wide  
771 reading and literacy initiatives for students in kindergarten to grade  
772 twelve, inclusive.

773 Sec. 20. Subsection (f) of section 10-14n of the general statutes is  
774 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
775 *2023*):

776 (f) (1) For the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and each school  
777 year thereafter, the scores on each component of the mastery  
778 examination for students who are [English language] multilingual  
779 learners, as defined in section 10-76kk, as amended by this act, and who  
780 have been enrolled in a school in this state or another state for fewer  
781 than twenty school months, shall not be used for purposes of calculating  
782 the accountability index, as defined in section 10-223e, for a school or  
783 school district.

784 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and each school year

785 thereafter, mastery examinations pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
786 section shall be offered in the most common native language of students  
787 who are [English language] multilingual learners taking such mastery  
788 examinations and any additional native languages of such students  
789 when mastery examinations in such native languages are developed  
790 and have been approved by the United States Department of Education.

791 Sec. 21. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 10-14u of the  
792 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
793 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

794 (1) "Achievement gaps" means the existence of a significant disparity  
795 in the academic performance of students among and between (A) racial  
796 groups, (B) ethnic groups, (C) socioeconomic groups, (D) genders, and  
797 (E) [English language] multilingual learners and students whose  
798 primary language is English.

799 Sec. 22. Section 10-14x of the general statutes is repealed and the  
800 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

801 To the extent permitted by federal law or the terms of a federal waiver  
802 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, 20 USC 6301,  
803 et seq., as amended from time to time, as it relates to the grade eleven  
804 mastery examination requirement pursuant to section 10-14n, as  
805 amended by this act, not later than January 1, 2016, the State Board of  
806 Education, in consultation with the Mastery Examination Committee,  
807 established pursuant to section 1 of public act 15-238, shall enter into an  
808 agreement with a provider of a nationally recognized college readiness  
809 assessment for the provision and administration of such college  
810 readiness assessment as part of such grade eleven mastery examination  
811 requirement, provided such college readiness assessment offers  
812 accommodations for students with disabilities and students who are  
813 [English language] multilingual learners.

814 Sec. 23. Subsection (a) of section 10-16mm of the general statutes is  
815 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
816 *2023*):

817 (a) There is established a task force to address the academic  
818 achievement gaps in Connecticut by considering effective approaches to  
819 closing the achievement gaps in elementary, middle and high schools.  
820 The task force shall develop, in consultation with the Department of  
821 Education, the Connecticut State University System, the Interagency  
822 Council for Ending the Achievement Gap established pursuant to  
823 section 10-16nn, and the joint standing committee of the General  
824 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, a master  
825 plan to eliminate the academic achievement gaps by January 1, 2020.  
826 Such master plan shall: (1) Identify the achievement gaps that exist  
827 among and between (A) racial groups, (B) ethnic groups, (C)  
828 socioeconomic groups, (D) genders, and (E) [English language]  
829 multilingual learners and students whose primary language is English;  
830 (2) focus efforts on closing the achievement gaps identified in  
831 subdivision (1) of this subsection; (3) establish annual benchmarks for  
832 implementation of the master plan and closing the achievement gaps;  
833 and (4) make recommendations regarding the creation of a Secretary of  
834 Education. The task force may amend such master plan at any time. For  
835 purposes of this section, "achievement gaps" means the existence of a  
836 significant disparity in the academic performance of students among  
837 and between (A) racial groups, (B) ethnic groups, (C) socioeconomic  
838 groups, (D) genders, and (E) [English language] multilingual learners  
839 and students whose primary language is English.

840 Sec. 24. Section 10-17g of the general statutes is repealed and the  
841 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

842 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year  
843 thereafter, the board of education for each local and regional school  
844 district that is required to provide a program of bilingual education,  
845 pursuant to section 10-17f, may make application to the State Board of  
846 Education and shall annually receive, within available appropriations,  
847 a grant in an amount equal to the product obtained by multiplying three  
848 million eight hundred thirty-two thousand two hundred sixty by the  
849 ratio which the number of eligible children in the school district bears to  
850 the total number of such eligible children state-wide. The board of

851 education for each local and regional school district receiving funds  
852 pursuant to this section shall annually, on or before September first,  
853 submit to the State Board of Education a progress report which shall  
854 include (1) measures of increased educational opportunities for eligible  
855 students, including language support services and language transition  
856 support services provided to such students, (2) program evaluation and  
857 measures of the effectiveness of its bilingual education and English as a  
858 second language programs, including data on students in bilingual  
859 education programs and students educated exclusively in English as a  
860 second language programs, and (3) certification by the board of  
861 education submitting the report that any funds received pursuant to this  
862 section have been used for the purposes specified. The State Board of  
863 Education shall annually evaluate programs conducted pursuant to  
864 section 10-17f. For purposes of this section, measures of the effectiveness  
865 of bilingual education and English as a second language programs  
866 include, but need not be limited to, mastery examination results, under  
867 section 10-14n, as amended by this act, and graduation and school  
868 dropout rates. Any amount appropriated under this section in excess of  
869 three million eight hundred thirty-two thousand two hundred sixty  
870 dollars shall be spent in accordance with the provisions of [sections]  
871 section 10-17k, [ 10-17n and 10-66t.] Any unexpended funds, as of  
872 November first, appropriated to the Department of Education for  
873 purposes of providing a grant to a local or regional board of education  
874 for the provision of a program of bilingual education, pursuant to  
875 section 10-17f, shall be distributed on a pro rata basis to each local and  
876 regional board of education receiving a grant under this section.  
877 Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, for the fiscal years  
878 ending June 30, 2009, to June 30, 2023, inclusive, the amount of grants  
879 payable to local or regional boards of education for the provision of a  
880 program of bilingual education under this section shall be reduced  
881 proportionately if the total of such grants in such year exceeds the  
882 amount appropriated for such grants for such year.

883 Sec. 25. Subsection (c) of section 10-66bb of the general statutes is  
884 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*

885 2023):

886 (c) On and after July 1, 2015, the State Board of Education shall  
887 review, annually, all applications and grant initial certificates of  
888 approval for charters, in accordance with subsections (e) and (f) of this  
889 section, for a local or state charter school located in a town that has one  
890 or more schools that have been designated as a commissioner's network  
891 school, pursuant to section 10-223h, at the time of such application, or a  
892 town that has been designated as a low achieving school district,  
893 pursuant to section 10-223e, at the time of such application. (1) Except  
894 as provided for in subdivision (2) of this subsection, no state charter  
895 school shall enroll (A) (i) more than two hundred fifty students, or (ii)  
896 in the case of a kindergarten to grade eight, inclusive, school, more than  
897 three hundred students, or (B) twenty-five per cent of the enrollment of  
898 the school district in which the state charter school is to be located,  
899 whichever is less. (2) In the case of a state charter school found by the  
900 State Board of Education to have a demonstrated record of achievement,  
901 said board shall, upon application by such school to said board, waive  
902 the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection for such school. (3)  
903 The State Board of Education shall give preference to applicants for  
904 charter schools (A) whose primary purpose is the establishment of  
905 education programs designed to serve one or more of the following  
906 student populations: (i) Students with a history of low academic  
907 performance, (ii) students who receive free or reduced priced lunches  
908 pursuant to federal law and regulations, (iii) students with a history of  
909 behavioral and social difficulties, (iv) students identified as requiring  
910 special education, (v) students who are [English language] multilingual  
911 learners, or (vi) students of a single gender; (B) whose primary purpose  
912 is to improve the academic performance of an existing school that has  
913 consistently demonstrated substandard academic performance, as  
914 determined by the Commissioner of Education; (C) that will serve  
915 students who reside in a priority school district pursuant to section 10-  
916 266p; (D) that will serve students who reside in a district in which  
917 seventy-five per cent or more of the enrolled students are members of  
918 racial or ethnic minorities; (E) that demonstrate highly credible and

919 specific strategies to attract, enroll and retain students from among the  
920 populations described in subparagraph (A)(i) to (A)(vi), inclusive, of  
921 this subdivision; or (F) that, in the case of an applicant for a state charter  
922 school, such state charter school will be located at a work-site or such  
923 applicant is an institution of higher education. In determining whether  
924 to grant an initial certificate of approval for a charter, the State Board of  
925 Education shall consider (i) the effect of the proposed charter school on  
926 (I) the reduction of racial, ethnic and economic isolation in the region in  
927 which it is to be located, (II) the regional distribution of charter schools  
928 in the state, (III) the potential of over-concentration of charter schools  
929 within a school district or in contiguous school districts, and (IV) the  
930 state's efforts to close achievement gaps, as defined in section 10-1600,  
931 and (ii) the comments made at a public hearing conducted pursuant to  
932 subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of this section or subparagraph (B)(ii)  
933 of subdivision (1) of subsection (f) of this section.

934 Sec. 26. Subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of section 10-66bb of the  
935 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
936 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

937 (2) On and after July 1, 2012, and before July 1, 2015, the State Board  
938 of Education shall not approve more than four applications for the  
939 establishment of new state charter schools unless two of the four such  
940 applications are for the establishment of two new state charter schools  
941 whose mission, purpose and specialized focus is to provide dual  
942 language programs or other models focusing on language acquisition  
943 for [English language] multilanguage learners. Approval of applications  
944 under this subdivision shall be in accordance with the provisions of this  
945 section.

946 Sec. 27. Subsection (g) of section 10-66bb of the general statutes is  
947 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
948 *2023*):

949 (g) Charters may be renewed, upon application, in accordance with  
950 the provisions of this section for the granting of such charters. Upon

951 application for such renewal, the State Board of Education may  
952 commission an independent appraisal of the performance of the charter  
953 school that includes, but is not limited to, an evaluation of the school's  
954 compliance with the provisions of this section and, on and after July 1,  
955 2015, progress in meeting the academic and organizational performance  
956 goals set forth in the charter granted to the charter school. The State  
957 Board of Education shall consider the results of any such appraisal in  
958 determining whether to renew such charter. The State Board of  
959 Education may deny an application for the renewal of a charter if (1)  
960 student progress has not been sufficiently demonstrated, as determined  
961 by the commissioner, (2) the governing council has not been sufficiently  
962 responsible for the operation of the school or has misused or spent  
963 public funds in a manner that is detrimental to the educational interests  
964 of the students attending the charter school, (3) the school has not been  
965 in compliance with the terms of the charter, applicable laws and  
966 regulations, (4) the efforts of the school have been insufficient to  
967 effectively attract, enroll and retain students from among the following  
968 populations: (A) Students with a history of low academic performance,  
969 (B) students who receive free or reduced priced lunches pursuant to  
970 federal law and regulations, (C) students with a history of behavioral  
971 and social difficulties, (D) students identified as requiring special  
972 education, or (E) students who are [English language] multilingual  
973 learners, or (5) the governing council of the state or local charter school  
974 has not provided evidence that such council has initiated substantive  
975 communication with the local or regional board of education of the town  
976 in which the state or local charter school is located to share student  
977 learning practices and experiences. If the State Board of Education does  
978 not renew a charter, it shall notify the governing council of the charter  
979 school of the reasons for such nonrenewal. On and after July 1, 2015, any  
980 charter renewed by the State Board of Education shall include academic  
981 and organizational performance goals, developed by the state board,  
982 that set forth the performance indicators, measures and metrics that will  
983 be used by the state board to evaluate the charter school.

984 Sec. 28. Subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of

985 section 10-66ee of the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
986 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

987 (A) "Total charter need students" means the sum of (i) the number of  
988 students enrolled in state charter schools under the control of the  
989 governing authority for such state charter schools for the school year,  
990 and (ii) for the school year commencing July 1, 2021, and each school  
991 year thereafter, (I) thirty per cent of the number of children enrolled in  
992 such state charter schools eligible for free or reduced price meals or free  
993 milk, (II) fifteen per cent of the number of such children eligible for free  
994 or reduced price meals or free milk in excess of the number of such  
995 children eligible for free or reduced price meals or free milk that is equal  
996 to sixty per cent of the total number of children enrolled in such state  
997 charter schools, and (III) twenty-five per cent of the number of students  
998 enrolled in such state charter schools who are [English language]  
999 multilingual learners, as defined in section 10-76kk, as amended by this  
1000 act.

1001 Sec. 29. Subsection (b) of section 10-66nn of the general statutes is  
1002 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
1003 *2023*):

1004 (b) In order to be eligible for a grant under this section, an applicant  
1005 for a grant shall submit an application to the Commissioner of  
1006 Education, pursuant to section 10-66bb, as amended by this act, for the  
1007 establishment of a local charter school to be established on or after July  
1008 1, 2012, and such application shall satisfy one of the following  
1009 conditions: (1) Such applicant has high quality, feasible strategies or a  
1010 record of success in serving students from among the following  
1011 populations: (A) Students with histories of low academic performance,  
1012 (B) students who receive free or reduced price school lunches, (C)  
1013 students with histories of behavioral and social difficulties, (D) students  
1014 eligible for special education services, (E) students who are [English  
1015 language] multilingual learners, or (F) students of a single gender; or (2)  
1016 such applicant has a high quality, feasible plan for turning around  
1017 existing schools that have demonstrated consistently substandard



1018 student performance, or a record of success in turning around such  
1019 schools. The department shall determine whether such applicant  
1020 satisfies the provisions of subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection.

1021 Sec. 30. Section 10-76kk of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1022 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

1023 (a) Any local or regional board of education identified by the  
1024 Department of Education that disproportionately and inappropriately  
1025 identifies (1) minority students, or (2) [English language] multilingual  
1026 learners as requiring special education services because such students  
1027 have a reading deficiency in contravention of the provisions of  
1028 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 10-76ff  
1029 shall annually submit a report to the department on the plan adopted  
1030 by such board that reduces the misidentification of such minority  
1031 students or [English language] multilingual learners by improving  
1032 reading assessments and interventions for students in kindergarten to  
1033 grade three, inclusive.

1034 (b) The Department of Education shall study the plans and strategies  
1035 used by a local or regional board of education that demonstrate  
1036 improvement in the reduction of the misidentification of minority  
1037 students or [English language] multilingual learners requiring special  
1038 education under this section. Such study shall examine the association  
1039 between improvements in teacher training in the science of reading and  
1040 the reduction in misidentification of students requiring special  
1041 education services.

1042 (c) For purposes of this section, "minority students" means those  
1043 whose race is defined as other than white, or whose ethnicity is defined  
1044 as Hispanic or Latino by the federal Office of Management and Budget  
1045 for use by the Bureau of Census of the United States Department of  
1046 Commerce; and ["English language learners" means those students  
1047 reported as English language learners by the local or regional board of  
1048 education for such students to the Department of Education]  
1049 "multilingual learners" has the same meaning as provided in section 17

1050 of this act.

1051 Sec. 31. Subsection (b) of section 10-233n of the general statutes is  
1052 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
1053 *2023*):

1054 (b) The Department of Education shall annually examine data  
1055 relating to in-school suspensions, out-of-school suspensions, expulsions  
1056 and school-based arrests that has been submitted as part of the strategic  
1057 school profile report pursuant to section 10-220, and shall disaggregate  
1058 such data by school, race, ethnicity, gender, age, students with  
1059 disabilities, [English language] multilingual learners, as defined in  
1060 section 10-76kk, as amended by this act, students who are eligible for  
1061 free or reduced priced lunch pursuant to federal law and regulations,  
1062 and type of offense for which the school-based arrests were made and  
1063 the number of arrests made annually at each school within the school  
1064 district. The department shall annually submit a report to the State  
1065 Board of Education regarding the examination and disaggregation of  
1066 such data and make the report available on the department's Internet  
1067 web site.

1068 Sec. 32. Subdivision (25) of section 10-262f of the general statutes is  
1069 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
1070 *2023*):

1071 (25) "Total need students" means the sum of (A) the number of  
1072 resident students of the town for the school year, (B) for the school year  
1073 commencing July 1, 2021, and each school year thereafter, (i) thirty per  
1074 cent of the number of children eligible for free or reduced price meals or  
1075 free milk, (ii) fifteen per cent of the number of children eligible for free  
1076 or reduced price meals or free milk in excess of the number of children  
1077 eligible for free or reduced price meals or free milk that is equal to sixty  
1078 per cent of the total number of resident students of the town for the  
1079 school year, and (iii) twenty-five per cent of the number of resident  
1080 students who are [English language] multilingual learners, as defined  
1081 in section 10-76kk, as amended by this act.

1082 Sec. 33. Subsection (d) of section 10-262u of the general statutes is  
1083 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
1084 *2023*):

1085 (d) The local or regional board of education for a town designated as  
1086 an alliance district may apply to the Commissioner of Education, at such  
1087 time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes, to receive any  
1088 increase in funds received over the amount the town received for the  
1089 prior fiscal year pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-262i.  
1090 Applications pursuant to this subsection shall include objectives and  
1091 performance targets and a plan that are developed, in part, on the  
1092 strategic use of student academic performance data. Such plan may  
1093 include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) A tiered system of  
1094 interventions for the schools under the jurisdiction of such board based  
1095 on the needs of such schools, (2) ways to strengthen the foundational  
1096 programs in reading, through the intensive reading instruction program  
1097 pursuant to section 10-14u, as amended by this act, to ensure reading  
1098 mastery in kindergarten to grade three, inclusive, with a focus on  
1099 standards and instruction, proper use of data, intervention strategies,  
1100 current information for teachers, parental engagement, and teacher  
1101 professional development, (3) additional learning time, including  
1102 extended school day or school year programming administered by  
1103 school personnel or external partners, (4) a talent strategy that includes,  
1104 but is not limited to, teacher and school leader recruitment and  
1105 assignment, career ladder policies that draw upon guidelines for a  
1106 model teacher evaluation program adopted by the State Board of  
1107 Education, pursuant to section 10-151b, and adopted by each local or  
1108 regional board of education. Such talent strategy may include  
1109 provisions that demonstrate increased ability to attract, retain, promote  
1110 and bolster the performance of staff in accordance with performance  
1111 evaluation findings and, in the case of new personnel, other indicators  
1112 of effectiveness, (5) training for school leaders and other staff on new  
1113 teacher evaluation models, (6) provisions for the cooperation and  
1114 coordination with early childhood education providers to ensure  
1115 alignment with district expectations for student entry into kindergarten,

1116 including funding for an existing local Head Start program, (7)  
1117 provisions for the cooperation and coordination with other  
1118 governmental and community programs to ensure that students receive  
1119 adequate support and wraparound services, including community  
1120 school models, (8) provisions for implementing and furthering state-  
1121 wide education standards adopted by the State Board of Education and  
1122 all activities and initiatives associated with such standards, (9) strategies  
1123 for attracting and recruiting minority teachers and administrators, (10)  
1124 provisions for the enhancement of bilingual education programs,  
1125 pursuant to section 10-17f, or other language acquisition services to  
1126 [English language] multilingual learners, [including, but not limited to,  
1127 participation in the English language learner pilot program, established  
1128 pursuant to section 10-17n,] (11) entering into the model school district  
1129 responsibilities agreement, described in section 10-223l, (12) leadership  
1130 succession plans that provide training and learning opportunities for  
1131 administrators and are designed to assist in the seamless transition of  
1132 school and district personnel in and out of leadership positions in the  
1133 school district and the continuous implementation of plans developed  
1134 under this subsection, (13) implementing the policy adopted pursuant  
1135 to section 10-223m to improve completion rates of the Free Application  
1136 for Federal Student Aid by students enrolled in grade twelve in a high  
1137 school under the jurisdiction of such board or students enrolled in an  
1138 adult education program maintained by such board pursuant to section  
1139 10-69, and, as applicable, the parent and guardians of such students, and  
1140 (14) any additional categories or goals as determined by the  
1141 commissioner. Such plan shall demonstrate collaboration with key  
1142 stakeholders, as identified by the commissioner, with the goal of  
1143 achieving efficiencies and the alignment of intent and practice of current  
1144 programs with conditional programs identified in this subsection. The  
1145 commissioner may (A) require changes in any plan submitted by a local  
1146 or regional board of education before the commissioner approves an  
1147 application under this subsection, and (B) permit a local or regional  
1148 board of education, as part of such plan, to use a portion of any funds  
1149 received under this section for the purposes of paying tuition charged  
1150 to such board pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (k) of section 10-

1151 264l or subsection (b) of section 10-264o.

1152 Sec. 34. Section 10-264r of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1153 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

1154 Not later than July 1, 2017, the Commissioner of Education shall  
1155 develop reduced-isolation setting standards for interdistrict magnet  
1156 school programs that shall serve as the enrollment requirements for  
1157 purposes of section 10-264l. Such standards shall (1) define the term  
1158 "reduced-isolation student" for purposes of the standards, (2) establish  
1159 a requirement for the minimum percentage of reduced-isolation  
1160 students that can be enrolled in an interdistrict magnet school program,  
1161 provided such minimum percentage is not less than twenty per cent of  
1162 the total school enrollment, (3) allow an interdistrict magnet school  
1163 program to have a total school enrollment of reduced-isolation students  
1164 that is not more than one per cent below the minimum percentage  
1165 established by the commissioner, provided the commissioner approves  
1166 a plan that is designed to bring the number of reduced-isolation  
1167 students of such interdistrict magnet school program into compliance  
1168 with the minimum percentage, and (4) for the school year commencing  
1169 July 1, 2018, authorize the commissioner to establish on or before May  
1170 1, 2018, an alternative reduced-isolation student enrollment percentage  
1171 for an interdistrict magnet school program located in the Sheff region,  
1172 as defined in subsection (k) of section 10-264l, provided the  
1173 commissioner (A) determines that such alternative (i) increases  
1174 opportunities for students who are residents of Hartford to access an  
1175 educational setting with reduced racial isolation or other categories of  
1176 diversity, including, but not limited to, geography, socioeconomic  
1177 status, special education, [English language] multilingual learners and  
1178 academic achievement, (ii) complies with the decision of *Sheff v.*  
1179 *O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect,  
1180 and (B) approves a plan for such interdistrict magnet school program  
1181 that is designed to bring the number of reduced-isolation students of  
1182 such interdistrict magnet school program into compliance with such  
1183 alternative or the minimum percentage described in subdivision (2) of  
1184 this section. Not later than May 1, 2018, the commissioner shall submit

1185 a report on each alternative reduced-isolation student enrollment  
 1186 percentage established, pursuant to subdivision (4) of this section, for  
 1187 an interdistrict magnet school program located in the Sheff region to the  
 1188 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
 1189 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of  
 1190 section 11-4a. The reduced-isolation setting standards for interdistrict  
 1191 magnet school programs shall not be deemed to be regulations, as  
 1192 defined in section 4-166.

1193 Sec. 35. Subsection (a) of section 10a-19j of the general statutes is  
 1194 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
 1195 *2023*):

1196 (a) There is established [an English language] a multilingual learner  
 1197 educator incentive program to be administered by the Office of Higher  
 1198 Education.

1199 Sec. 36. Sections 10-17n and 10-66t of the general statutes are  
 1200 repealed. (*Effective from passage*)"

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-16q(b)(1)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	17b-749(a)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-502
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-16b
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>	10-76g(b)
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-76f
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-4w
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	PA 21-95, Sec. 3
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-66bb(j)
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-76d(i)

Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-3c
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-14n(f)
Sec. 21	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-14u(a)(1)
Sec. 22	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-14x
Sec. 23	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-16mm(a)
Sec. 24	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-17g
Sec. 25	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-66bb(c)
Sec. 26	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-66bb(f)(2)
Sec. 27	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-66bb(g)
Sec. 28	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-66ee(d)(1)(A)
Sec. 29	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-66nn(b)
Sec. 30	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-76kk
Sec. 31	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-233n(b)
Sec. 32	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-262f(25)
Sec. 33	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-262u(d)
Sec. 34	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-264r
Sec. 35	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10a-19j(a)
Sec. 36	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section