



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 591

February Session, 2024

Substitute House Bill No. 5416

House of Representatives, April 22, 2024

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) In determining the rights and
2 benefits earned by a teacher under sections 10-151 and 10-156 of the
3 general statutes, employment in a school operated by Goodwin
4 University Magnet Schools, Inc. or Goodwin University Educational
5 Services, Inc. shall not be deemed to interrupt the continuous
6 employment of a teacher who was employed by a local or regional board
7 of education during the school year immediately prior to employment
8 in such school and such teacher shall continue as an employee of
9 Goodwin University Magnet Schools, Inc. or Goodwin University
10 Educational Services, Inc., subject to the provisions of section 10-151 of
11 the general statutes.

12 Sec. 2. Section 10-212g of the general statutes is repealed and the
13 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

14 Not later than December 31, 2014, the Departments of Education and
15 Public Health shall jointly develop, in consultation with the School
16 Nurse Advisory Council, established pursuant to section 10-212f, an
17 annual training program regarding emergency first aid to students who
18 experience allergic reactions and do not have a prior written order of a
19 physician licensed to practice medicine, a dentist licensed to practice
20 dental medicine, an optometrist licensed to practice under chapter 380,
21 an advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in
22 accordance with section 20-94a or a physician assistant licensed to
23 prescribe in accordance with section 20-12d, and the written
24 authorization of a parent or guardian of such child. Such annual training
25 program shall include instruction in (1) cardiopulmonary resuscitation,
26 (2) first aid, (3) food allergies, (4) the signs and symptoms of
27 anaphylaxis, (5) prevention and risk-reduction strategies regarding
28 allergic reactions, (6) emergency management and administration of
29 epinephrine, (7) follow-up and reporting procedures after a student has
30 experienced an allergic reaction, (8) carrying out the provisions of
31 subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 10-212a, and (9) any other
32 relevant issues and topics related to emergency first aid to students who
33 experience allergic reactions. The Department of Education shall make
34 such annual training program available to local and regional boards of
35 education.

36 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) No local or regional board of
37 education shall require a parent or guardian of a student to participate
38 in school activities, such as through volunteering, as a condition for the
39 enrollment of such student in a school under the jurisdiction of such
40 board.

41 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Each regional community-
42 technical college shall consult with the school counselors and school
43 administrators at public high schools located within the region of the
44 state in which such college is located for the purpose of establishing
45 collaborative partnerships between such schools and such college. Such
46 partnerships may include, but not be limited to, collaborative
47 counseling programs for students interested in specific careers,

48 evaluation and alignment of curricula and offering support or
49 educational programs to improve student outcomes.

50 Sec. 5. Section 19a-900a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
51 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
52 *1, 2024*):

53 Any provider of child care services, as described in section 19a-77,
54 that is licensed by the Office of Early Childhood [, that] or is exempt
55 from licensure pursuant to subsection (b) of section 19a-77, and
56 maintains a supply of epinephrine cartridge injectors pursuant to
57 section 19a-909, may administer such epinephrine for the purpose of
58 emergency first aid to a child in the care of such provider who
59 experiences an allergic reaction and does not have a prior written
60 authorization of a parent or guardian or a prior written order of a
61 qualified medical professional for the administration of epinephrine,
62 provided the person administering such epinephrine is a person with
63 training, as defined in section 19a-909. The parent or guardian of a child
64 may submit, in writing, to such child's provider of child care services,
65 that epinephrine shall not be administered to such child pursuant to this
66 section.

67 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than December 31,
68 2024, and each December thirty-first thereafter, the Department of
69 Education shall calculate an estimated amount that each town is entitled
70 to receive under the provisions of section 10-262h of the general statutes,
71 for the next fiscal year using data collected during the current fiscal year,
72 and notify each such town of such estimated amount.

73 Sec. 7. Subsection (h) of section 10-236b of the 2024 supplement to the
74 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
75 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

76 (h) Each local or regional board of education shall notify a parent or
77 guardian of a student who is placed in physical restraint or seclusion
78 [not later than twenty-four hours after] on the day the student was
79 placed in physical restraint or seclusion and shall make a reasonable

80 effort to provide such notification immediately after such physical
81 restraint or seclusion is initiated. Such notice shall, if possible, be
82 provided by means of electronic communication, including, but not
83 limited to, electronic mail or cellular mobile telephone.

84 Sec. 8. Section 10-236c of the general statutes is repealed and the
85 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

86 (a) A school principal or other school administrator shall notify a
87 parent or guardian of a student whose behavior has caused a serious
88 disruption to the instruction of other students, caused self-harm or
89 caused physical harm to another student or a teacher or other school
90 employee on the same day such behavior occurs. Such notice shall
91 include, but not be limited to, informing such parent or guardian that
92 the teacher of record in the classroom in which such behavior occurred
93 may request a behavior intervention meeting, as described in subsection
94 (b) of this section.

95 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year
96 thereafter, any teacher of record in a classroom may request a behavior
97 intervention meeting with the crisis intervention team for the school, as
98 described in section 10-236b, as amended by this act, for any student
99 whose behavior has caused a serious disruption to the instruction of
100 other students, or caused self-harm or physical harm to such teacher or
101 another student or staff member in such teacher's classroom. The crisis
102 intervention team shall, upon the request of such teacher and notifying
103 such student's parent or guardian, convene a behavior intervention
104 meeting regarding such student. The participants of such behavior
105 intervention meeting shall identify resources and supports to address
106 such student's social, emotional and instructional needs. Not later than
107 seven days after the behavior intervention meeting, the crisis
108 intervention team shall submit to the parent or guardian of such student
109 a written summary of such meeting, including, but not limited to, the
110 resources and supports identified.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-212g
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	19a-900a
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-236b(h)
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-236c

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 8(a), "a teacher, another student or other school employee" was changed to "another student or a teacher or other school employee" for consistency.

ED *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

APP

APP *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Board of Regents	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Various Local and Regional School Districts	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill results in potential costs annually beginning in FY 25 to certain local and regional school districts and to the Board of Regents. The bill makes several other changes to education statutes that have no fiscal impact. These changes are described by section below.

Section 1 makes a technical change regarding teachers at Goodwin University magnet schools and has no fiscal impact.

Section 2 makes an adjustment to certain first aid training that the State Department of Education is required to make available to local and regional school districts. This has no fiscal impact, as it is not expected to change the cost of any training.

Section 3 has no fiscal impact. It prohibits districts from requiring parents to participate in school activities as a condition of enrolling their child.

Section 4 requires community college campuses to establish

collaborative partnerships with school districts in their region. Any cost would depend on the provisions of such partnerships.

Section 5 allows child care providers that are exempt from licensure to administer epinephrine, which has no fiscal impact.

Section 6 requires the State Department of Education, in December of each fiscal year, to provide projections of Education Cost Sharing grants by town in the following fiscal year. This has no fiscal impact as the department has sufficient expertise to do so.

Sections 7 and 8 require districts to notify parents when certain incidents occur on the day that the incident occurs, rather than 24 hours following the incident. This procedural change has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

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

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5416

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.

SUMMARY

This bill makes various changes to the education statutes. The bill:

1. allows Goodwin University magnet school teachers to be considered continuously employed for tenure and sick leave purposes when they are hired by Goodwin from another board of education;
2. specifies that the training for nonmedical staff to administer emergency epinephrine must apply to students who do not have a prior written allergy treatment order from a medical professional and written permission from their parent or guardian;
3. bans a school board from requiring a student's parent or guardian to participate in school activities, such as volunteering, as a condition for the student to enroll in one of the board's schools;
4. requires each regional community-technical college to consult with the public high school counselors and administrators within the college's region to establish collaborative partnerships;
5. authorizes unlicensed child care providers to administer epinephrine for emergency first aid to a child in their care who experiences an allergic reaction and does not have a prior written parent or guardian authorization or a prior written qualified medical professional order;

6. requires that by December 31, 2024, and each following December 31, the State Department of Education (SDE) calculate the estimated education cost sharing (ECS) grant that each town is entitled to receive for the next fiscal year;
7. requires school boards to notify a parent or guardian of a student who is placed in physical restraint or seclusion on the day the student was physically restrained or secluded; and
8. requires a school principal or other administrator to notify a parent or guardian of a student whose behavior has caused (a) a serious disruption to the instruction of other students, (b) self-harm, or (c) physical harm to another student or a teacher, or other school employee on the same day the behavior occurs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024, except the section requiring SDE to calculate ECS grant estimates is effective upon passage.

§ 1 — CONTINUOUS EMPLOYMENT AND TEACHER TENURE

The bill permits teachers employed by Goodwin University Magnet Schools, Inc. or Goodwin University Educational Services, Inc. to be considered continuously employed when they previously worked for a local or regional board of education during the school year immediately prior to employment with Goodwin. It applies to teacher tenure and paid sick leave accumulation and accrual from year to year. By treating the employment as continuous, a teacher does not lose tenure rights or accumulated sick leave earned before gaining employment with Goodwin.

Goodwin University Educational Services, Inc. (GUES) and Goodwin University Magnet Schools, Inc. (GUMS) currently operate two magnet schools adjacent to Goodwin University in East Hartford. GUES is the parent organization and GUMS has the day to day responsibility to run the magnet schools.

By law, a similar provision exists for teachers who are either being hired by a newly formed regional school district or are no longer

employed by a regional district due to its dissolution.

§ 2 — TRAINING FOR EMERGENCY ALLERGIC REACTIONS OF STUDENTS

Under current law, public schools are required to designate and train nonmedical staff to administer emergency epinephrine in cartridge injectors (“epipens”) to students having allergic reactions who were not previously known to have serious allergies. It authorizes emergency use of epipens by nonmedical staff only if the school nurse is not available and certain conditions are met, including training of the designated staff.

A related law requires SDE to annually make training available for the emergency epinephrine administration and related first aid including (1) cardiopulmonary resuscitation, (2) food allergies, and (3) the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis. The bill specifies the training for this must specifically apply to students who do not have a prior written allergy treatment order from a medical professional and written permission from their parent or guardian. The prior written order must be from a licensed physician, dentist, optometrist, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician’s assistant.

§ 3 — BANS REQUIRING A PARENT TO PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AS A CONDITION OF THE CHILD’S ENROLLMENT

The bill bans a local or regional board of education from requiring a student’s parent or guardian to participate in school activities, such as volunteering, as a condition for the student to enroll in one of the board’s schools. Current law does not authorize such a requirement and the state constitution requires the state to provide free public school education (see BACKGROUND).

§ 4 — PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGES

The bill requires each regional community-technical college to consult with the public high school counselors and administrators within the college’s region to establish collaborative partnerships between the schools and the college. The partnerships may include

collaborative counseling programs for (1) students interested in specific careers, (2) evaluation and alignment of curricula, and (3) offering support or programs to improve student outcomes.

§ 5 — EXEMPT CHILD CARE PROVIDERS AND EMERGENCY EPINEPHRINE ADMINISTRATION

By law, Office of Early Childhood (OEC)-licensed child care providers are authorized to administer epinephrine for emergency first aid to a child in their care who experiences an allergic reaction and does not have a prior written parent or guardian authorization or prior written qualified medical professional order for the provider to administer epinephrine. The bill broadens this authorization to include child care providers that are exempt from licensing. Under the law and the bill, the person administering epinephrine must be trained according to statutory requirements.

The child care service providers exempt from OEC licensure include public school systems, municipalities, nationally chartered boys' and girls' clubs that for school-age children, and a number of organizations or arrangements specified in statute.

§ 6 — ECS GRANT ESTIMATES FOR TOWNS

The bill requires that by December 31, 2024, and each following December 31, SDE calculate the estimated education cost sharing (ECS) grant that each town is entitled to receive for the next fiscal year using data collected during the current fiscal year. The department must notify each town of the estimated amount.

§ 7 — PARENTAL NOTIFICATION OF RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION

The bill requires school boards to notify a parent or guardian of a student who is placed in physical restraint or seclusion on the day the student was physically restrained or secluded. Under current law the notice must take place within 24 hours, which can mean notice is the following day, and the school must make a reasonable effort to provide the notification immediately after the restraint or seclusion starts.

The bill also requires the notice be provided by electronic means,

including email or mobile phone, if possible.

By law, school employees are prohibited from using physical restraint or seclusion on a student except in an emergency to prevent immediate or imminent injury to the student or to others. The restraint or seclusion cannot be used for discipline or in place of a less severe or restrictive alternative.

§ 8 — PARENTAL NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT BEHAVIOR CAUSING DISRUPTION OR HARM AND BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION MEETING

The bill creates two new parental notifications related to student behavior.

The bill requires a school principal or other administrator to notify a parent or guardian of a student whose behavior has caused (1) a serious disruption to the instruction of other students, (2) self-harm, or (3) physical harm to another student or a teacher or other school employee on the same day the behavior occurs. The notice must inform the parent or guardian that the teacher in the classroom where the behavior occurred may request a behavior intervention meeting with the school's crisis intervention team as permitted by law.

In these cases, existing law allows a teacher to request a behavioral intervention meeting with a crisis intervention team that includes certain school employees designated by the principal. The bill requires the crisis intervention team, after it receives the teacher's request, to notify the student's parents or guardians of the teacher's request before holding the meeting.

The bill requires the crisis intervention team to submit a summary of the meeting, including any resources and supports identified, to the student's parents or guardian by seven days after the meeting. By law, the meeting participants must identify resources and supports to address the student's social, emotional, and instructional needs.

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sHB 5212 (§ 2), favorably reported by the Appropriations and Education committees, also requires SDE to calculate ECS grant estimates for each town.

Constitutional Right to Free Public Education

The Connecticut State Constitution, Article Eighth, Section 1, states:

“There shall always be free public elementary and secondary schools in the state. The general assembly shall implement this principle by appropriate legislation.”

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference - APP

Yea 44 Nay 0 (03/18/2024)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 52 Nay 0 (04/04/2024)