



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 201**

February Session, 2024

Substitute Senate Bill No. 5

*Senate, April 3, 2024*

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. MCCRORY, D. of the 2nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL RESOURCES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-76g of the 2024 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

4 (a) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1984, and each fiscal year  
5 thereafter, in any case in which special education is being provided at a  
6 private residential institution, including the residential components of  
7 regional educational service centers, to a child for whom no local or  
8 regional board of education can be found responsible under subsection  
9 (b) of section 10-76d, the Department of Children and Families shall pay  
10 the costs of special education to such institution pursuant to its authority  
11 under sections 17a-1 to 17a-26, inclusive, 17a-28 to 17a-49, inclusive, 17a-  
12 52 and 17a-861. (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1993, and each  
13 fiscal year thereafter, any local or regional board of education which  
14 provides special education and related services for any child (A) who is  
15 placed by a public agency, including, but not limited to, offices of a

16 government of a federally recognized Native American tribe, in a  
17 private residential facility or who is placed in a facility or institution  
18 operated by the Department of Children and Families and who receives  
19 such special education at a program operated by a regional education  
20 service center or program operated by a local or regional board of  
21 education, and (B) for whom no local or regional board of education can  
22 be found responsible under subsection (b) of section 10-76d, shall be  
23 eligible to receive one hundred per cent of the reasonable costs of special  
24 education for such child as defined in the regulations of the State Board  
25 of Education. Any such board eligible for payment shall file with the  
26 Department of Education, in such manner as prescribed by the  
27 Commissioner of Education, annually, on or before December first a  
28 statement of the cost of providing special education for such child,  
29 provided a board of education may submit, not later than March first,  
30 claims for additional children or costs not included in the December  
31 filing. Payment by the state for such costs shall be made to the local or  
32 regional board of education as follows: Seventy-five per cent of the cost  
33 in February and the balance in May.

34 (b) Any local or regional board of education which provides special  
35 education pursuant to the provisions of sections 10-76a to 10-76g,  
36 inclusive, as amended by this act, for any exceptional child described in  
37 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (5) of section 10-76a, under its  
38 jurisdiction, excluding (1) children placed by a state agency for whom a  
39 board of education receives payment pursuant to the provisions of  
40 subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section 10-76d, and (2) children who  
41 require special education, who reside on state-owned or leased  
42 property, and who are not the educational responsibility of the unified  
43 school districts established pursuant to sections 17a-37 and 18-99a, shall  
44 be financially responsible for the reasonable costs of special education  
45 instruction, as defined in the regulations of the State Board of Education,  
46 in an amount equal to, for the fiscal year [commencing July 1, 2023]  
47 ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, four and one-half  
48 times the net current expenditures per pupil of such board of education,  
49 [. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d) of this section, the] and  
50 shall be entitled to a grant under this section for any such costs in an

51 amount that is the excess of such four and one-half times the net current  
52 expenditures per pupil of such board of education. The State Board of  
53 Education shall [, within available appropriations,] pay on a current  
54 basis any costs in excess of the local or regional board's basic  
55 contribution paid by such board in accordance with the provisions of  
56 this subsection. Any amounts paid by the State Board of Education on a  
57 current basis pursuant to this subsection shall not be reimbursable in the  
58 subsequent year. Application for such grant shall be made by filing with  
59 the Department of Education, in such manner as prescribed by the  
60 commissioner, annually on or before December first a statement of the  
61 cost of providing special education pursuant to this subsection,  
62 provided a board of education may submit, not later than March first,  
63 claims for additional children or costs not included in the December  
64 filing. Payment by the state for such excess costs shall be made to the  
65 local or regional board of education as follows: Seventy-five per cent of  
66 the cost in February and the balance in May. The amount due each town  
67 pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be paid to the  
68 treasurer of each town entitled to such aid, provided the treasurer shall  
69 treat such grant, or a portion of the grant, which relates to special  
70 education expenditures incurred in excess of such town's board of  
71 education budgeted estimate of such expenditures, as a reduction in  
72 expenditures by crediting such expenditure account, rather than town  
73 revenue. Such expenditure account shall be so credited no later than  
74 thirty days after receipt by the treasurer of necessary documentation  
75 from the board of education indicating the amount of such special  
76 education expenditures incurred in excess of such town's board of  
77 education budgeted estimate of such expenditures.

78 (c) Commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, and for  
79 each fiscal year thereafter, within available appropriations, each town  
80 whose ratio of (1) net costs of special education, as defined in subsection  
81 (h) of section 10-76f, for the fiscal year prior to the year in which the  
82 grant is to be paid to (2) the product of its total need students, as defined  
83 in section 10-262f, and the average regular program expenditures, as  
84 defined in section 10-262f, per need student for all towns for such year  
85 exceeds the state-wide average for all such ratios shall be eligible to

86 receive a supplemental special education grant. Such grant shall be  
87 equal to the product of a town's eligible excess costs and the town's base  
88 aid ratio, as defined in section 10-262f, provided each town's grant shall  
89 be adjusted proportionately if necessary to stay within the  
90 appropriation. Payment pursuant to this subsection shall be made in  
91 June. For purposes of this subsection, a town's eligible excess costs are  
92 the difference between its net costs of special education and the amount  
93 the town would have expended if it spent at the state-wide average rate.

94 [(d) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, for the  
95 fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year thereafter, if the  
96 total of the amount of the grants payable to local or regional boards of  
97 education in accordance with (1) subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of this  
98 section, except grants paid in accordance with subdivision (2) of  
99 subsection (a) of this section, (2) subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of  
100 section 10-76d, and (3) subsection (b) of section 10-253, in any fiscal year  
101 exceeds the amount appropriated for the purposes of the grants  
102 described in subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of this subsection for such  
103 fiscal year, then each town shall be ranked in descending order from one  
104 to one hundred sixty-nine according to such town's adjusted equalized  
105 net grand list per capita, as defined in section 10-261, and the state board  
106 shall pay such grant to the local or regional board of education for a  
107 town as follows: (A) For any town ranked one hundred fifteen to one  
108 hundred sixty-nine, inclusive, ninety-one per cent of the amount of such  
109 town's eligible excess costs, (B) for any town ranked fifty-nine to one  
110 hundred fourteen, inclusive, eighty-eight per cent of the amount of such  
111 town's eligible excess costs, and (C) for any town ranked one to fifty-  
112 eight, inclusive, eighty-five per cent of the amount of such town's  
113 eligible excess costs. In the case of a regional board of education, such  
114 ranking shall be determined by (i) multiplying the total population, as  
115 defined in section 10-261, of each town in the regional school district by  
116 such town's ranking, as determined in this subsection, (ii) adding  
117 together the figures determined under clause (i) of this subparagraph,  
118 and (iii) dividing the total computed under clause (ii) of this  
119 subparagraph by the total population of all towns in the district. The  
120 ranking of each regional board of education shall be rounded to the next

121 higher whole number. If the total amount of the grants payable to local  
122 and regional boards of education calculated under subparagraphs (A)  
123 to (C), inclusive, of this subsection in any fiscal year exceeds the total  
124 amount appropriated for the grants described in subdivisions (1) to (3),  
125 inclusive, of this subsection for such fiscal year, the amount of the grants  
126 payable under this subsection shall be reduced proportionately.

127 (e) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year  
128 thereafter, if the total amount appropriated in any fiscal year for the  
129 grants described in subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of subsection (d) of  
130 this section exceeds the total of the amount of the grants payable to local  
131 and regional boards of education under subsection (d) of this section,  
132 for such fiscal year, such excess amount shall be distributed to each local  
133 and regional board of education as follows:

134 (A) Subtract the sum of all grants paid to local and regional boards of  
135 education in such fiscal year under subsection (d) of this section from  
136 the sum of all grants calculated under subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of  
137 this section, subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section 10-76d and  
138 subsection (b) of section 10-253;

139 (B) Subtract the sum of all grants paid to local and regional boards of  
140 education in such fiscal year under subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of  
141 this section from the total amount appropriated in such fiscal year for  
142 all grants under this section;

143 (C) Divide the amount calculated under subparagraph (B) of this  
144 subdivision by the amount calculated under subparagraph (A) of this  
145 subdivision; and

146 (D) To determine the amount of such excess to be distributed to each  
147 local and regional board of education, multiply the amount calculated  
148 under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision that is attributable to such  
149 local or regional board of education by the per cent calculated under  
150 subparagraph (C) of this subdivision.

151 (2) Any grants paid in accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection

152 (a) of this section shall be excluded from the calculations described in  
153 subdivision (1) of this subsection.]

154       Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025,  
155 the Department of Education shall select and utilize an existing artificial  
156 intelligence tool that can be used by educators and students for  
157 classroom instruction and student learning. Such artificial intelligence  
158 tool shall comply with the laws governing the use of artificial  
159 intelligence and the protection of student data and privacy, including,  
160 but not limited to, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of  
161 1974, 20 USC 1232g, as amended from time to time, and sections 10-  
162 234aa to 10-234gg, inclusive, of the general statutes. Not later than July  
163 1, 2025, the department shall make such tool available for use by local  
164 and regional boards of education. As used in this section, "artificial  
165 intelligence" means any technology, including, but not limited to,  
166 machine learning that uses data to train an algorithm or predictive  
167 model for the purpose of enabling a computer system or service to  
168 autonomously perform any task, including, but not limited to, visual  
169 perception, language processing or speech recognition, that is normally  
170 associated with human intelligence or perception.

171       Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Not later than January 1, 2025,  
172 the Department of Education shall, in consultation with the Connecticut  
173 Commission for Education Technology, develop a professional learning  
174 program for educators and students on how to properly and safely  
175 utilize artificial intelligence as part of instruction in the classroom. Such  
176 professional learning program shall include, but need not be limited to,  
177 (1) how artificial intelligence can benefit (A) educators in lesson  
178 planning and development and classroom instruction, and (B) students  
179 in learning, academic achievement and workforce development, and (2)  
180 the laws governing the use of artificial intelligence and the protection of  
181 student data and privacy, including, but not limited to, the Family  
182 Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 USC 1232g, as amended  
183 from time to time, and sections 10-234aa to 10-234gg, inclusive, of the  
184 general statutes. As used in this section, "artificial intelligence" means  
185 any technology, including, but not limited to, machine learning that

186 uses data to train an algorithm or predictive model for the purpose of  
187 enabling a computer system or service to autonomously perform any  
188 task, including, but not limited to, visual perception, language  
189 processing or speech recognition, that is normally associated with  
190 human intelligence or perception.

191 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the fiscal year ending June  
192 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Department of Emergency  
193 Services and Public Protection shall, within available appropriations,  
194 administer a program to provide grants to local and regional boards of  
195 education for services to provide school mapping data that meets the  
196 requirements described in subsection (b) of this section.

197 (b) A local or regional board of education may apply for a grant for  
198 services to provide school mapping data for one or more schools under  
199 the jurisdiction of such board, provided such school mapping data:

200 (1) Is compatible with software platforms used by local, state and  
201 federal public safety agencies that provide emergency services to the  
202 specific school for which the data is provided without requiring such  
203 agencies to purchase additional software or requiring a fee to view or  
204 access the data;

205 (2) Is compatible with security software platforms in use by the  
206 specific school for which the data is provided without requiring the local  
207 law enforcement agencies or board of education to purchase additional  
208 software or requiring a fee to view or access the data;

209 (3) Is in a printable format and, if requested, in a digital file format  
210 that can be integrated into interactive mobile platforms in use;

211 (4) Is verified for accuracy by the entity producing the data by  
212 conducting a walk-through of the school buildings and grounds being  
213 mapped;

214 (5) Is oriented true north;

215 (6) Includes accurate floor plans overlaid on current, verified aerial

216 imagery of the school campus;

217 (7) Contains site-specific labels that match the structure of school  
218 buildings, including room labels, hallway names, external door or  
219 stairwell numbers and the location of hazards, critical utility locations,  
220 key boxes, automated external defibrillators and trauma kits;

221 (8) Contains site-specific labels that match the school grounds,  
222 including parking areas, athletic fields, surrounding roads and  
223 neighboring properties;

224 (9) Is overlaid with gridded "x" and "y" coordinates;

225 (10) Cannot be modified or updated independently without  
226 corresponding updates to school mapping data within software  
227 platforms used by local, state and federal public safety agencies that  
228 provide emergency services to the specific school; and

229 (11) Will be provided to the board of education and appropriate  
230 public safety agencies at no cost beyond the initial cost of producing  
231 such mapping data, and shall be available to such board and agencies  
232 permanently.

233 (c) Not later than October 1, 2024, the department shall develop  
234 eligibility criteria, application forms and deadlines for such program  
235 and post in a conspicuous location on the department's Internet web site  
236 a description of the grant program that includes, but is not limited to,  
237 such criteria, forms and deadlines.

238 (d) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the  
239 department shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of  
240 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of  
241 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
242 safety and security and education. Such report shall include information  
243 for the preceding calendar year on the number of applications for grants  
244 that were received, the number of grants that were awarded and a list  
245 of the schools that received services for school mapping data pursuant  
246 to such grants.



247       Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) For the school year commencing July 1,  
248 2024, the Department of Education, in collaboration with the regional  
249 educational service centers, shall implement a pilot program to provide  
250 fifty schools in the state with a curriculum designed for students in  
251 grades six to twelve, inclusive, that explores the impact of social media  
252 through science, technology, engineering and mathematics for the  
253 purpose of positively impacting student relationships and school  
254 climate, as defined in section 10-222aa of the general statutes. The  
255 department may accept gifts, grants and donations, including in-kind  
256 donations, designated for the implementation of the pilot program  
257 under this section.

258       Sec. 6. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 17b-749 of the 2024  
259 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is  
260 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

261       (a) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall establish and operate  
262 a child care subsidy program to increase the availability, affordability  
263 and quality of child care services for families with a parent or caretaker  
264 who (1) is (A) working or attending high school, or (B) subject to the  
265 provisions of subsection (d) of this section, is enrolled or participating  
266 in (i) a public or independent institution of higher education, (ii) a  
267 private career school authorized pursuant to sections 10a-22a to 10a-22o,  
268 inclusive, (iii) a job training or employment program administered by a  
269 regional workforce development board, (iv) an apprenticeship program  
270 administered by the Labor Department's office of apprenticeship  
271 training, (v) an alternate route to certification program approved by the  
272 State Board of Education, (vi) an adult education program pursuant to  
273 section 10-69 or other high school equivalency program, or (vii) a local  
274 Even Start program or other adult education program approved by the  
275 Commissioner of Early Childhood; [or] (2) receives cash assistance  
276 under the temporary family assistance program from the Department of  
277 Social Services and is participating in an education, training or other job  
278 preparation activity approved pursuant to subsection (b) of section 17b-  
279 688i or subsection (b) of section 17b-689d; or (3) is the parent or legal  
280 guardian of a child who is enrolled in Medicaid. Services available

281 under the child care subsidy program shall include the provision of  
282 child care subsidies for children under the age of thirteen or children  
283 under the age of nineteen with special needs. The Commissioner of  
284 Early Childhood may institute a protective service class in which the  
285 commissioner may waive eligibility requirements for at-risk  
286 populations that meet the guidelines prescribed by the commissioner,  
287 and subject to review by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
288 Management. Such at-risk populations are children placed in a foster  
289 home by the Department of Children and Families and for whom the  
290 parent or legal guardian receives foster care payments, adopted children  
291 for one year from the date of adoption and homeless children and  
292 youths, as defined in 42 USC 11434a, as amended from time to time. The  
293 Office of Early Childhood shall open and maintain enrollment for the  
294 child care subsidy program and shall administer such program within  
295 the existing budgetary resources available. The office shall issue a notice  
296 on the office's Internet web site any time the office closes the program to  
297 new applications, changes eligibility requirements, changes program  
298 benefits or makes any other change to the program's status or terms,  
299 except the office shall not be required to issue such notice when the  
300 office expands program eligibility. Any change in the office's acceptance  
301 of new applications, eligibility requirements, program benefits or any  
302 other change to the program's status or terms for which the office is  
303 required to give notice pursuant to this subsection, shall not be effective  
304 until thirty days after the office issues such notice.

305 (b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for applicants  
306 and recipients at a level to include a family with gross income up to fifty  
307 per cent of the state-wide median income, except the commissioner: (1)  
308 [may] May increase the income level up to the maximum level allowed  
309 under federal law, (2) upon the request of the Commissioner of Children  
310 and Families, may waive the income standards for adoptive families so  
311 that children adopted on or after October 1, 1999, from the Department  
312 of Children and Families are eligible for the child care subsidy program,  
313 and (3) shall establish a two-tiered income eligibility threshold in  
314 accordance with 45 CFR 98.21(b), as amended from time to time. The  
315 commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to

316 establish income criteria and durational requirements for such waiver  
317 of income standards.

318 (c) The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of  
319 Social Services, shall establish eligibility and program standards  
320 including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and eligibility system  
321 with preference given to serving (A) recipients of temporary family  
322 assistance who are employed or engaged in employment activities  
323 under the Department of Social Services' "Jobs First" program, (B)  
324 working families whose temporary family assistance was discontinued  
325 not more than five years prior to the date of application for the child care  
326 subsidy program, (C) teen parents, (D) low-income working families,  
327 (E) adoptive families of children who were adopted from the  
328 Department of Children and Families and who are granted a waiver of  
329 income standards under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section,  
330 (F) working families who are at risk of welfare dependency, (G) parents  
331 or caretakers participating in an apprenticeship program administered  
332 by the Labor Department's office of apprenticeship training, (H) parents  
333 or caretakers enrolled in an adult education program pursuant to  
334 section 10-69 or other high school equivalency program, (I) parents or  
335 caretakers participating in a job training or employment program  
336 administered by a regional workforce development board, [and] (J)  
337 parents or caretakers enrolled in a public or independent institution of  
338 higher education, and (K) parents or legal guardians of children  
339 enrolled in Medicaid; (2) health and safety standards for child care  
340 providers not required to be licensed; (3) a reimbursement system for  
341 child care services which account for differences in the age of the child,  
342 number of children in the family, the geographic region and type of care  
343 provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers, the cost and type of  
344 services provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers, successful  
345 completion of fifteen hours of annual in-service training or credentialing  
346 of child care directors and administrators, and program accreditation;  
347 (4) supplemental payment for special needs of the child and extended  
348 nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process for providers  
349 which assures that reimbursement rates are maintained at levels which  
350 permit equal access to a variety of child care settings; (6) a sliding

351 reimbursement scale for participating families; (7) an administrative  
352 appeals process; (8) an administrative hearing process to adjudicate  
353 cases of alleged fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions and recover  
354 overpayments; (9) an extended period of program and payment  
355 eligibility when a parent who is receiving a child care subsidy  
356 experiences a temporary interruption in employment or other approved  
357 activity; and (10) a waiting list for the child care subsidy program that  
358 (A) allows the commissioner to exercise discretion in prioritizing within  
359 and between existing priority groups, including, but not limited to,  
360 children described in 45 CFR 98.46, as amended from time to time, and  
361 households with an infant or toddler, and (B) reflects the priority and  
362 eligibility system set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection, which is  
363 reviewed periodically, with the inclusion of this information in the  
364 annual report required to be issued annually by the office to the  
365 Governor and the General Assembly in accordance with section 17b-733.  
366 Such action will include, but not be limited to, family income, age of  
367 child, region of state and length of time on such waiting list.

368 Sec. 7. Section 10-231e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
369 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

370 (a) For purposes of this section "Standard 62" means the American  
371 Society of Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning Engineers  
372 Standard 62 entitled "Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality", as  
373 referenced by the State Building Code adopted under section 29-252.

374 (b) Each local or regional board of education shall ensure that its  
375 heating, ventilation and air conditioning system is (1) maintained and  
376 operated in accordance with the prevailing maintenance standards,  
377 such as Standard 62, at the time of installation or renovation of such  
378 system, and (2) operated continuously during the hours in which  
379 students or school personnel occupy school facilities, except (A) during  
380 scheduled maintenance and emergency repairs, and (B) during periods  
381 for which school officials can demonstrate to the local or regional board  
382 of education's satisfaction that the quantity of outdoor air supplied by  
383 an air supply system that is not mechanically driven meets the Standard

384 62 requirements for air changes per hour.

385 (c) Each local or regional board of education shall (1) maintain and  
386 update all records of the maintenance of its heating, ventilation and air  
387 conditioning systems for a period of not less than five years, and (2)  
388 submit such records to the Department of Administrative Services any  
389 time such records have been updated following any such maintenance.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2024	10-76g
Sec. 2	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 3	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 4	from passage	New section
Sec. 5	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 6	July 1, 2024	17b-749(a) to (c)
Sec. 7	July 1, 2024	10-231e

**ED** 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 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	90 million to 140 million	90 million to 140 million
Education, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost	87,954	87,954
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	34,219	34,219
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	Revenue Gain	90 million to 140 million	90 million to 140 million
Various Local Boards of Education	Cost/Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

**Explanation**

The bill results in significant costs annually beginning in FY 25 to the State Department of Education (SDE) and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP). It: (1) uncaps funding for the Excess Cost grant; (2) establishes new requirements of SDE relating to artificial intelligence and to social media; and (3) requires DESPP to

<sup>1</sup>The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.25% of payroll in FY 25.

administer a new grant program. The bill also makes a minor reporting change that has no fiscal impact.

**Section 1** results in a cost to the State Department of Education (SDE), annually beginning in FY 25, of an estimated \$90 million to \$140 million. It requires SDE to annually pay to school districts the full amount they are owed under the Excess Cost formula, regardless of the appropriation. There is a corresponding revenue gain to districts of between \$90 million and \$140 million annually beginning in FY 25 as a result of the bill.

**Sections 2 and 3** result in potentially significant costs annually beginning in FY 25 to the State Department of Education by requiring SDE to: (1) purchase and make available an artificial intelligence (AI) tool for use in classrooms; and (2) develop a professional development program for teachers to use AI in the classroom. Any costs would vary based on the type of AI purchased and the materials developed for professional development.

**Section 4** requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) administer a program to give grants to local or regional boards of education for services to provide school mapping data, resulting in a potential cost to the state of at least \$122,173 in both FY 25 and FY 26. The potential cost is contingent upon funding being made available for the grant program.<sup>2</sup>

Depending on the requirements of the program, the complexity of the applications, and the number of applications received, DESPP may need to hire one emergency management program specialist. This results in a potential cost to DESPP of \$87,954 for salary and other expenses and a potential cost to the Office of the State Comptroller of \$34,219 for fringe benefits in FY 25 and FY 26.

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<sup>2</sup>The bill does not allocate funds from any source. Historically, DESPP has received funds for similar programs from a variety of sources including appropriations, bond authorizations, and federal funds (including ARPA). If DESPP receives state funding, it is assumed to be a General Fund appropriation or bond authorization.

A district that chooses not to participate in the grant program will incur no fiscal impact. A district that chooses to participate will incur a cost to build school mapping data. This cost would be at least partially offset by grant funding it receives from DESPP under the bill's provisions. The net impact to districts will depend on: (1) the per facility cost of building school mapping data; (2) the number of facilities mapped; and (3) the grant funding provided by DESPP.

The typical cost of services to provide school mapping data for one building is approximately \$4,000 to \$5,000. There are 900 to 1,100 eligible school buildings in the state.

**Section 5** results in potential costs annually beginning in FY 25. It requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to develop a pilot program for participating schools to study the impact of social media in various ways. Costs are associated with hiring a contractor assist with pilot administration and purchasing any necessary materials.

**Section 6** expands eligibility for the Care 4 Kids program to include parents or guardians of children who are enrolled in Medicaid and adds them to the priority intake and eligibility list. This makes families enrolled in Medicaid eligible without any of the work, job training, or education requirements. This could result in a cost to the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to the extent that more families qualify under the provisions of the bill. OEC manages Care4Kids expenditures with the use of the waitlist which may be increased should more families qualify for Care4Kids.

**Section 7** has no fiscal impact. It requires local and regional school districts to report certain HVAC maintenance information to the Department of Administrative Services. It is anticipated that districts can meet this requirement with existing resources.

### ***The Out Years***

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



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**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 5****AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL RESOURCES.**

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Requires the state, starting with FY 25, to fully reimburse school districts for any costs for special education in excess of four and a half times their net current expenditures per pupil; repeals the existing language creating a tiered reimbursement structure used when grant amounts exceed the appropriation; decouples two other special education grants from the tiered reimbursement approach

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[§ 6 — INCLUDING MEDICAID CHILDREN IN CARE 4 KIDS](#)

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Expands eligibility for the Care 4 Kids program to include parents or guardians of children who are enrolled in Medicaid and adds them to the priority intake and eligibility list

§ 7 — SUBMITTING SCHOOL HVAC MAINTENANCE RECORDS TO DAS

Requires each school board to submit its HVAC systems maintenance records to DAS any time records have been updated

BACKGROUND

**SUMMARY**

This bill makes various changes to education law. Among other things, it does the following:

1. requires the state, starting with FY 25, to fully reimburse school districts for any special education costs more than four and a half times their net current expenditures per pupil (§ 1);
2. requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to select and utilize an existing artificial intelligence (AI) tool for educators and students to use in the classroom and make it available to school boards by July 1, 2026 (§ 2);
3. requires SDE, in consultation with the Connecticut Commission for Education Technology, to develop a professional learning program for educators and students on proper classroom use of AI (§ 3);
4. creates a new Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP)-administered school mapping data grant for local school districts beginning in FY 25 and requires DESPP to develop eligibility criteria, application forms, and deadlines by October 1, 2024 (§ 4);
5. requires SDE, in collaboration with regional education service centers (RESC), to implement a pilot curriculum program in 50 schools that explores the impact of social media to positively

- impact student relationships and school climate (§ 5);
6. expands eligibility for the Care 4 Kids program to include parents or guardians of children who are enrolled in Medicaid and adds them to the priority intake and eligibility list (§ 6); and
  7. requires each school board to submit records for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system maintenance to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) any time records have been updated (§ 7).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024, except the section on school mapping data grants is upon passage.

### **§ 1 — EXCESS COST GRANT**

*Requires the state, starting with FY 25, to fully reimburse school districts for any costs for special education in excess of four and a half times their net current expenditures per pupil; repeals the existing language creating a tiered reimbursement structure used when grant amounts exceed the appropriation; decouples two other special education grants from the tiered reimbursement approach*

This bill requires the state, starting with FY 25, to fully reimburse school districts for any special education costs in excess of four and a half times their net current expenditures per pupil. The bill eliminates the current tiered reimbursement structure that is used to distribute the excess cost grants in any year when the total amount of the grant payable to school districts exceeds the amount of the state appropriation for the grant. It also eliminates language limiting the grants to within available appropriations.

The bill repeals the language that creates a related method of distributing funds that remain after the tiered approach is used.

It also decouples from these distribution methods two smaller special education grants: (1) excess special education costs for state agency-placed students under a temporary custody order (CGS § 10-76d(e)(2)) and (2) excess regular education costs for state-placed children educated at private residential facilities (CGS § 10-253(b)(3)).

### ***Tiered Reimbursement Grants***

Under current law, when the state's fiscal year appropriation for the special education excess cost grant is less than the amount needed to completely fund the payable grants according to the calculation, the law triggers a reduced tiered reimbursement method. This formula groups towns in three tiers depending upon their respective adjusted equalized net grand list per capita (AENGLPC). The formula calculates reduced grants for local boards of education using the three tiers as follows: boards from towns in the groups that have (1) the lowest AENGLPC receive 91% of their full excess cost grant, (2) a midrange AENGLPC receive 88%, and (3) the highest AENGLPC receive 85%.

The bill repeals this method and the corresponding language that addresses any remaining funds after the tiered method is implemented.

## **§ 2 — ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)**

*Requires SDE to select and utilize an existing AI tool for educators and students to use in the classroom; requires the tool to be made available to school boards by July 1, 2026*

The bill requires SDE, for FY 25, to select and utilize an existing AI tool for educators and students that can be used for classroom instruction and student learning. The tool must comply with laws governing the use of AI, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), the Connecticut student data privacy law (see BACKGROUND), and other laws protecting student data and privacy.

SDE must make the tool available for local or regional boards of education by July 1, 2026 (it's unclear whether this means at no cost to the school boards).

Under the bill, AI means any technology, including, but not limited to, machine learning that uses data to train an algorithm or predictive model to help a computer system or service autonomously perform any task, including visual perception, language processing, or speech recognition, that is normally associated with human intelligence or perception.

## **§ 3 — AI TRAINING**

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*Requires SDE, in consultation with the Connecticut Commission for Education Technology, to develop a professional learning program for educators and students on proper classroom use of AI*

The bill requires SDE, in consultation with the Connecticut Commission for Education Technology, to develop a professional learning program for educators and students on proper and safe classroom instruction using AI. The learning program, which must be developed by January 1, 2025, must include, at a minimum, (1) how AI can benefit (a) educators in lesson planning and development and classroom instruction and (b) students in learning, academic achievement, and workforce development, and (2) the laws governing AI use and the protection of student data and privacy, including, at a minimum, FERPA and Connecticut student data privacy law (see BACKGROUND).

#### **§ 4 — SCHOOL MAPPING DATA GRANT**

*Creates a new DESPP-administered school mapping data grant for local school districts beginning in FY 25; allows school boards to apply for a grant provided school mapping data will be provided to the school board and appropriate public safety agencies at no cost beyond the initial cost of producing the data; requires DESPP to develop eligibility criteria, application forms, and deadlines by October 1, 2024*

The bill creates a new school mapping data grant for local school districts that DESPP will administer beginning in FY 25, within available appropriations. Under the bill, a school board may apply for a grant for services to provide school mapping data for one or more schools under the board's jurisdiction, provided school mapping data will be provided to the school board and appropriate public safety agencies at no cost beyond the initial cost of producing the mapping data, and permanently available to the board and public safety agencies.

Additionally, the bill requires the mapping service to provide data that:

1. is compatible with software platforms of local, state, and federal public safety agencies that provide emergency services to the specific school or schools seeking the grant without requiring the agencies to (a) buy additional software or (b) pay a fee to view or access the data;

2. is compatible with the school or schools' security software platform for which the data is provided without requiring the law enforcement agencies or school board to (a) buy additional software or (b) pay a fee to view or access the data;
3. is in a printable format and, if requested, in a digital file format that can be integrated into interactive mobile platforms in use;
4. is verified for accuracy by the entity producing the data by conducting a walk-through of the school buildings and grounds being mapped;
5. is oriented true north and is overlaid with gridded "x" and "y" coordinates;
6. includes accurate floor plans overlaid on current, verified aerial imagery of the school campus;
7. contains site-specific labels that match the (a) structure of school buildings, including room labels, hallway names, door and stairwell numbers, and the locations of hazards, utility locations, automated external defibrillators, and trauma kits, and (b) school grounds, including parking areas, athletic fields, surrounding roads, and neighboring properties;
8. is provided to the school board and the appropriate public safety agencies at no cost beyond the initial cost of producing the mapping data; and
9. cannot be modified or updated independently without corresponding updates to school mapping data within software platforms used by local, state, and federal public safety agencies that provide emergency services to the specific school.

### ***Application Forms, Deadlines, and Report to the Legislature***

By October 1, 2024, DESPP must develop program eligibility criteria, application forms, and deadlines and post a description of the grant program that includes the criteria, forms, and deadlines in a

conspicuous location on the DESPP website.

By January 1, 2026, and each following year, DESPP must submit a report to the Education and Public Safety committees with information for the preceding calendar year on the number of applications received, the number of grants awarded, and a list of the schools that received school mapping data services pursuant to the grants.

## **§ 5 — SOCIAL MEDIA CURRICULUM PILOT PROGRAM**

*Requires SDE, in collaboration with RESCs, to implement a pilot curriculum program in 50 schools that explores the impact of social media to positively impact student relationships and school climate*

The bill requires SDE, in collaboration with RESCs, to implement a pilot program to provide 50 schools in the state with a curriculum for students in grades 6 to 12, inclusive, that explores social media's impact through various approaches to positively impact student relationships and school climate. The bill requires social media's impact to be explored through science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The bill cites existing law, unchanged by the bill, that defines "school climate" as the quality and character of school life that (1) focuses on the quality of the relationships within the school community and (2) is based on patterns of people's experiences of school life and that reflects the norms, goals, values, interpersonal relationships, teaching, learning, leadership practices, and organizational structures within the school community.

It permits SDE to accept gifts, grants, and donations, including in-kind donations, designated for the implementation of the pilot program under this section.

## **§ 6 — INCLUDING MEDICAID CHILDREN IN CARE 4 KIDS**

*Expands eligibility for the Care 4 Kids program to include parents or guardians of children who are enrolled in Medicaid and adds them to the priority intake and eligibility list*

The bill expands Care 4 Kids program eligibility to parents or guardians of children who are enrolled in Medicaid and adds them to the existing priority intake and eligibility list. Under current law, to be

eligible, a family must have a parent or caretaker who is working or attending high school or enrolled or participating in (1) a job training or employment program, (2) a Department of Labor-administered apprenticeship program, (3) an institution of higher education, or (4) one of several other education or career pathways. The bill makes the parents or guardians of a child enrolled in Medicaid eligible without any of the work, job-training, or education requirements.

Under current law, the maximum income level to be eligible for the Care 4 Kids program is 60% of the state median income (SMI) and income eligibility for Medicaid is 155% of the federal poverty level (FPL). Therefore, on the income criteria, any family that qualified for Medicaid would also be eligible for Care 4 Kids (see BACKGROUND).

Care 4 Kids provides a child care subsidy to eligible parents and caretakers.

## **§ 7 — SUBMITTING SCHOOL HVAC MAINTENANCE RECORDS TO DAS**

*Requires each school board to submit its HVAC systems maintenance records to DAS any time records have been updated*

By law, each school board is required to ensure that its schools' HVAC systems are maintained in accordance with prevailing standards and the boards must maintain records of the HVAC maintenance. The bill requires the boards to update the records and submit them to DAS any time they have been updated after maintenance.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Student Data Privacy Law***

Connecticut's student data privacy law restricts how website and mobile app operators and consultants who contract with boards of education may process or access student data. It applies to student records and information and student-generated content. Among other things, it requires operators and consultants to use reasonable security practices to safeguard student data and generally prohibits contractors from selling or disclosing student information (CGS §§ 10-234aa- to -234gg).



**Selected Annual SMI and FPL Table\***

Family Size	1	2	3	4
100% (FPL)	15,060	20,440	25,820	31,200
150% (FPL)	22,590	30,660	38,730	46,800
200% (FPL)	30,120	40,880	51,640	62,400
50% (SMI)	34,627	45,282	55,937	66,592
250% (FPL)	37,650	51,100	64,550	78,000
60% (SMI)	41,553	54,338	67,124	79,910

\*SMI from CT Department of Social Services, September 2023, and FPL provided for 2024 by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

**Related Bill**

sSB 287, favorably voted out by the Education Committee, makes changes to the school HVAC inspection and evaluation process.

SB 229, favorably voted out by the Public Safety Committee, has the same school mapping grant as section 4.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 43 Nay 1 (03/18/2024)