



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5**

February Session, 2024



**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2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  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.