



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 363**

February Session, 2024



**AN ACT CONCERNING ASSORTED REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-16b 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2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  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) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall  
5 include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally  
6 qualified teachers: [, the] The arts; career education; consumer  
7 education; personal financial management and financial literacy; health  
8 and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and  
9 development, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary  
10 resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-  
11 16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not  
12 limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in  
13 performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast  
14 cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health, physical,  
15 mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention,  
16 substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use  
17 and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe use of social  
18 media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the dangers of gang

19 membership, and accident prevention; language arts, including reading,  
20 writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical  
21 education; science, which shall include the climate change curriculum  
22 described in subsection (d) of this section; social studies, including, but  
23 not limited to, citizenship, economics, geography, government, history  
24 and Holocaust and genocide education and awareness in accordance  
25 with the provisions of section 10-18f; African-American and black  
26 studies in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16ss; Puerto  
27 Rican and Latino studies in accordance with the provisions of section  
28 10-16ss; Native American studies, in accordance with the provisions of  
29 section 10-16vv; computer programming instruction; recycling and  
30 renewable energy; and in addition, on at least the secondary level, one  
31 or more world languages; vocational education; and the black and  
32 Latino studies course in accordance with the provisions of sections 10-  
33 16tt and 10-16uu. For purposes of this subsection, world languages shall  
34 include American Sign Language, provided such subject matter is  
35 taught by a qualified instructor under the supervision of a teacher who  
36 holds a certificate issued by the State Board of Education. For purposes  
37 of this subsection, the "arts" means any form of visual or performing  
38 arts, which may include, but not be limited to, dance, music, art and  
39 theatre; and "reading" means evidence-based instruction that focuses on  
40 competency in oral language, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency,  
41 vocabulary, rapid automatic name or letter name fluency and reading  
42 comprehension.

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

48 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall on September 1,  
49 1982, and annually thereafter at such time and in such manner as the  
50 Commissioner of Education shall request, attest to the State Board of  
51 Education that such local or regional board of education offers at least

52 the program of instruction required pursuant to this section, and that  
53 such program of instruction is planned, ongoing and systematic.

54 (d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum  
55 materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional  
56 boards of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to  
57 this section. The State Board of Education, within available  
58 appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist  
59 and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (1)  
60 Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; (2) the historical  
61 events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (3) African-American  
62 and black studies; (4) Puerto Rican and Latino studies; (5) Native  
63 American studies; (6) personal financial management, including, but  
64 not limited to, financial literacy as developed in the plan provided under  
65 section 10-16pp; (7) training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the  
66 use of automatic external defibrillators; (8) labor history and law,  
67 including organized labor, the collective bargaining process, existing  
68 legal protections in the workplace, the history and economics of free  
69 market capitalism and entrepreneurialism, and the role of labor and  
70 capitalism in the development of the American and world economies;  
71 (9) climate change consistent with the Next Generation Science  
72 Standards; (10) topics approved by the state board upon the request of  
73 local or regional boards of education as part of the program of  
74 instruction offered pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; [and] (11)  
75 instruction relating to the Safe Haven Act, sections 17a-57 to 17a-61,  
76 inclusive; and (12) recycling and renewable energy, including, but not  
77 limited to, protocols for recycling and reducing food waste. The  
78 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall be available  
79 to each local and regional board of education for the development of  
80 curriculum on climate change as described in this subsection.

81 Sec. 2. Section 10-16b of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes,  
82 as amended by section 32 of public act 22-80, section 3 of public act 23-  
83 21, section 7 of public act 23-150 and section 19 of public act 23-160, is  
84 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*

85 2025):

86 (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall  
87 include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally  
88 qualified teachers: [, the] The arts; career education; consumer  
89 education; personal financial management and financial literacy; health  
90 and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and  
91 development, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary  
92 resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-  
93 16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not  
94 limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in  
95 performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast  
96 cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health, physical,  
97 mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention,  
98 substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use  
99 and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe use of social  
100 media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the dangers of gang  
101 membership, and accident prevention; language arts, including reading,  
102 writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical  
103 education; science, which may include the climate change curriculum  
104 described in subsection (d) of this section; social studies, including, but  
105 not limited to, civics and media literacy, citizenship, economics,  
106 geography, government, history and Holocaust and genocide education  
107 and awareness in accordance with the provisions of section 10-18f;  
108 African-American and black studies in accordance with the provisions  
109 of section 10-16ss; Puerto Rican and Latino studies in accordance with  
110 the provisions of section 10-16ss; Native American studies, in  
111 accordance with the provisions of section 10-16vv; Asian American and  
112 Pacific Islander studies, in accordance with the provisions of section [10-  
113 66ww] 10-16ww; computer programming instruction; recycling and  
114 renewable energy; and in addition, on at least the secondary level, one  
115 or more world languages; vocational education; and the black and  
116 Latino studies course in accordance with the provisions of sections 10-  
117 16tt and 10-16uu. For purposes of this subsection, world languages shall  
118 include American Sign Language, provided such subject matter is

119 taught by a qualified instructor under the supervision of a teacher who  
120 holds a certificate issued by the State Board of Education. For purposes  
121 of this subsection, the "arts" means any form of visual or performing  
122 arts, which may include, but not be limited to, dance, music, art and  
123 theatre; and "reading" means evidence-based instruction that focuses on  
124 competency in oral language, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency,  
125 vocabulary, rapid automatic name or letter name fluency and reading  
126 comprehension.

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

132 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall on September 1,  
133 1982, and annually thereafter at such time and in such manner as the  
134 Commissioner of Education shall request, attest to the State Board of  
135 Education that such local or regional board of education offers at least  
136 the program of instruction required pursuant to this section, and that  
137 such program of instruction is planned, ongoing and systematic.

138 (d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum  
139 materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional  
140 boards of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to  
141 this section. The State Board of Education, within available  
142 appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist  
143 and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (1)  
144 Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; (2) the historical  
145 events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (3) African-American  
146 and black studies; (4) Puerto Rican and Latino studies; (5) Native  
147 American studies; (6) Asian American and Pacific Islander studies; (7)  
148 personal financial management, including, but not limited to, financial  
149 literacy as developed in the plan provided under section 10-16pp; (8)  
150 training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automatic  
151 external defibrillators; (9) labor history and law, including organized

152 labor, the collective bargaining process, existing legal protections in the  
153 workplace, the history and economics of free market capitalism and  
154 entrepreneurialism, and the role of labor and capitalism in the  
155 development of the American and world economies; (10) climate change  
156 consistent with the Next Generation Science Standards; (11) topics  
157 approved by the state board upon the request of local or regional boards  
158 of education as part of the program of instruction offered pursuant to  
159 subsection (a) of this section; [and] (12) instruction relating to the Safe  
160 Haven Act, sections 17a-57 to 17a-61, inclusive; and (13) recycling and  
161 renewable energy, including, but not limited to, protocols for recycling  
162 and reducing food waste. The Department of Energy and  
163 Environmental Protection shall be available to each local and regional  
164 board of education for the development of curriculum on climate  
165 change as described in this subsection.

166 Sec. 3. Section 10-211f of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes  
167 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
168 *1, 2024*):

169 For the school year commencing July 1, 2024, and each school year  
170 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall annually  
171 approve and provide professional development programs or activities  
172 for all school nurses and nurse practitioners appointed by or under  
173 contract with such board. [Each board shall provide] As part of such  
174 professional development programs or activities [related to] provided  
175 by each local and regional board of education under this section, each  
176 new school nurse or nurse practitioner shall receive and complete (1)  
177 training and instruction in the implementation of individualized  
178 education programs and plans pursuant to Section 504 of the  
179 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to time, [to any new  
180 school nurse or nurse practitioner] not later than thirty days after such  
181 school nurse or nurse practitioner has been appointed by or entered into  
182 a contract with such board, and (2) an orientation to school health  
183 services, developed by an association that represents nurses in the state,  
184 not later than six months after such nurse or nurse practitioner has been

185 appointed by or entered into a contract with such board.

186       Sec. 4. Section 10-227 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes  
187 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
188 *1, 2024*):

189       (a) Each board of education shall cause the superintendent to make  
190 returns not later than September first of each year to the Commissioner  
191 of Education of the receipts, expenditures and statistics, as prescribed  
192 by the commissioner, provided each such board may submit revisions  
193 to the returns in such form and with such documentation as required by  
194 the commissioner [no] not later than [December] January thirty-first of  
195 each year following the September submission. Such reports or returns  
196 required shall be filed in accordance with the instructions furnished by  
197 the commissioner, shall be certified [no] not later than [December]  
198 January thirty-first of each year by the independent public accountant  
199 selected pursuant to section 7-392 for the purpose of auditing municipal  
200 accounts, and shall be subject to Department of Education verification.  
201 If the returns and statistics and revisions called for by said commissioner  
202 are not filed on or before the days specified in this section or if the  
203 returns are not certified as required by the commissioner on or before  
204 [December] January thirty-first, each local and regional board of  
205 education required by law to make separate returns, whose returns and  
206 statistics or revisions are delayed until after those days, shall forfeit of  
207 the total sum which is paid for such board of education from the State  
208 Treasurer an amount to be determined by the State Board of Education,  
209 which amount shall be not less than one thousand dollars nor more than  
210 ten thousand dollars. The amount so forfeited shall be withheld from a  
211 subsequent grant payment as determined by the commissioner.  
212 Notwithstanding the penalty provision of this section, the  
213 Commissioner of Education may waive said forfeiture for good cause.

214       (b) Not later than [February 15, 2024] March 15, 2025, and annually  
215 thereafter, the Department of Education shall publish on its Internet  
216 web site the data contained in the reports and returns filed pursuant to  
217 subsection (a) of this section by education program type, expense

218 function, expense object and funding source, including, but not limited  
219 to, federal, combined state and local and combined private and other  
220 sources for the school and district level. The department shall develop  
221 and publish a guide that contains definitions for each category of  
222 expenditure and funding source.

223 (c) Not later than [February] March 15, 2025, and annually thereafter,  
224 the Department of Education shall develop and publish the data  
225 contained in the reports and returns filed pursuant to subsection (a) of  
226 this section in a format that allows financial comparisons between  
227 school districts and schools, including student enrollment and  
228 demographic statistics as of October first of the school year in which  
229 such reports and returns were filed.

230 Sec. 5. Subsection (d) of section 10-76d of the 2024 supplement to the  
231 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
232 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

233 (d) To meet its obligations under sections 10-76a to 10-76g, inclusive,  
234 any local or regional board of education may make agreements with  
235 another such board or subject to the consent of the parent or guardian  
236 of any child affected thereby, make agreements, or on and after July 1,  
237 2019, enter into a contract with any private provider of special education  
238 services, as defined in section 10-91g, private school, or public or private  
239 agency or institution, including a group home to provide the necessary  
240 programs or services, but no expenditures made pursuant to a contract  
241 with a private provider of special education services, private school,  
242 agency or institution for such special education shall be paid under the  
243 provisions of section 10-76g, unless (1) such contract includes a  
244 description of the educational program and other treatment the child is  
245 to receive, a statement of minimal goals and objectives which it is  
246 anticipated such child will achieve, an estimated time schedule for  
247 returning the child to the community or transferring such child to  
248 another appropriate facility, and an explanation of how the tuition or  
249 costs for services provided under the agreement or contract are to be  
250 calculated, (2) subject to the provisions of this subsection, the



251 educational needs of the child for whom such special education is being  
252 provided cannot be met by public school arrangements in the opinion  
253 of the commissioner who, before granting approval of such contract for  
254 purposes of payment, shall consider such factors as the particular needs  
255 of the child, the appropriateness and efficacy of the program offered by  
256 such private school, agency or institution, and the economic feasibility  
257 of comparable alternatives, and (3) commencing with the 1987-1988  
258 school year and for each school year thereafter, each such private  
259 provider of special education services, private school, agency or  
260 institution has been approved for special education by the  
261 Commissioner of Education or by the appropriate agency for facilities  
262 located out of state, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section.  
263 Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection or  
264 any regulations adopted by the State Board of Education setting  
265 placement priorities, placements pursuant to this section and payments  
266 under section 10-76g may be made pursuant to such a contract if the  
267 public arrangements are more costly than the private provider of special  
268 education services, private school, institution or agency, provided the  
269 private provider of special education services, private school, institution  
270 or agency meets the educational needs of the child and its program is  
271 appropriate and efficacious. Any payment under the provisions of  
272 section 10-76g shall include all expenditures incurred by a local or  
273 regional board of education pursuant to a contract with a private  
274 provider of special education services, private school, agency or  
275 institution, to the extent permitted under said section, during the school  
276 year in which such private provider of special education services,  
277 private school, agency or institution provided such services, even if such  
278 private provider of special education services, private school, agency or  
279 institution is approved for special education by the Commissioner of  
280 Education during such school year. Notwithstanding the provisions of  
281 this subsection to the contrary, nothing in this subsection shall (A)  
282 require the removal of a child from a nonapproved facility if the child  
283 was placed there prior to July 7, 1987, pursuant to the determination of  
284 a planning and placement team that such a placement was appropriate  
285 and such placement was approved by the Commissioner of Education,

286 or (B) prohibit the placement of a child at a nonapproved facility if a  
287 planning and placement team determines prior to July 7, 1987, that the  
288 child be placed in a nonapproved facility for the 1987-1988 school year.  
289 Each child placed in a nonapproved facility as described in  
290 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (3) of this subsection may  
291 continue at the facility provided the planning and placement team or  
292 hearing officer appointed pursuant to section 10-76h determines that the  
293 placement is appropriate. Expenditures incurred by any local or  
294 regional board of education to maintain children in nonapproved  
295 facilities as described in said subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall be paid  
296 pursuant to the provisions of section 10-76g. Any local or regional board  
297 of education may enter into a contract with the owners or operators of  
298 any sheltered workshop or rehabilitation center for provision of an  
299 education occupational training program for children requiring special  
300 education who are at least sixteen years of age, provided such workshop  
301 or institution shall have been approved by the appropriate state agency.  
302 Whenever any child is identified by a local or regional board of  
303 education as a child requiring special education and such board of  
304 education determines that the requirements for special education could  
305 be met by a program provided within the district or by agreement with  
306 another board of education except for the child's need for services other  
307 than educational services such as medical, psychiatric or institutional  
308 care or services, such board of education may meet its obligation to  
309 furnish special education for such child by paying the reasonable cost of  
310 special education instruction in a private provider of special education  
311 services, private school, hospital or other institution provided such  
312 board of education or the commissioner concurs that placement in such  
313 institution is necessary and proper and no state institution is available  
314 to meet such child's needs. Any such private provider of special  
315 education services, private school, hospital or other institution receiving  
316 such reasonable cost of special education instruction by such board of  
317 education shall submit all required documentation to such board of  
318 education for purposes of submitting claims to the Medicaid School  
319 Based Child Health Program administered by the Department of Social  
320 Services.

321 Sec. 6. Section 10-357e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
322 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

323 The Commissioner of Education [may] shall allocate funds to allow  
324 the State Education Resource Center, established pursuant to section 10-  
325 357a, to provide professional development services, technical assistance  
326 and evaluation activities, policy analysis and other forms of assistance  
327 to local and regional boards of education, the Department of Education,  
328 state and local charter schools, as defined in section 10-66aa, the  
329 Technical Education and Career System, established pursuant to section  
330 10-95, providers of school readiness programs, as defined in section 10-  
331 16p, and other educational entities and providers. The State Education  
332 Resource Center shall expend such funds in accordance with procedures  
333 and conditions prescribed by the commissioner.

334 Sec. 7. Section 10-145aa of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes  
335 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
336 *1, 2024*):

337 [On and after July 1, 2022, the] The preservice performance  
338 assessment, edTPA, as adopted by the State Board of Education on  
339 December 7, 2016, shall be used exclusively as an accountability tool for  
340 teacher preparation programs, as defined in section 10-10a, offered at  
341 institutions of higher education in the state. The results of such  
342 preservice performance assessment shall not be used by (1) the State  
343 Board of Education to deny an application for the issuance of an initial  
344 educator certificate under section 10-145b, or (2) an institution of higher  
345 education to deny successful completion of a teacher preparation  
346 program.

347 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Each local and regional board of  
348 education shall conform the design of any school playground designed  
349 on or after July 1, 2025, to the principles of universal design. Such  
350 playgrounds shall include, at a minimum, (1) play spaces that appeal to  
351 a variety of senses and allow multiple forms of play, (2) landform  
352 designed to encourage unstructured play, (3) multiple options for

353 accessing play spaces and equipment that allow for varying levels of  
354 ability, and (4) sensory-engaging materials and use of trees and other  
355 plantings. As used in this section, "universal design" means a concept of  
356 designing spaces with the goal of maximizing usability and access,  
357 without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

358 Sec. 9. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 10-14gg of the 2024  
359 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is  
360 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

361 (b) The Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success shall be  
362 under the direction of a director who shall, in consultation with the  
363 Reading Leadership Implementation Council described in subsection (c)  
364 of this section, be responsible for (1) overseeing all activities of the  
365 center, (2) facilitating communication between the center, local and  
366 regional boards of education and other affiliates of the center, and (3)  
367 coordinating the dissemination of information, tools and services made  
368 available by the center.

369 (c) The activities of the center shall be informed by the Reading  
370 Leadership Implementation Council which shall consist of the following  
371 members: (1) The director of the center, or the director's designee; (2) the  
372 executive director of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors,  
373 Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee; (3) an  
374 individual designated by the Governor, who has experience in literacy  
375 or education and is engaged in the development and implementation of  
376 the intensive reading instruction program; (4) an individual designated  
377 by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who has experience in  
378 literacy or education; (5) an individual designated by the president pro  
379 tempore of the Senate, who has experience in literacy or education; (6)  
380 an individual designated by the minority leader of the House of  
381 Representatives, who has experience in literacy or education; (7) an  
382 individual designated by the minority leader of the Senate, who has  
383 experience in literacy or education; (8) two individuals, designated by  
384 the chairperson of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus of the General  
385 Assembly, one of whom has experience with literacy or education and

386 is engaged in the development and implementation of the intensive  
 387 reading instruction program, provided such individual is not a member  
 388 of the General Assembly; (9) the dean of the Neag School of Education  
 389 at The University of Connecticut, or the dean's designee; and (10) three  
 390 individuals designated by the Commissioner of Education. The initial  
 391 terms of the members of the council shall expire on June 30, 2024, and  
 392 the subsequent appointments shall be made by July 1, 2024. Members  
 393 shall serve two-year terms and may serve consecutive terms. The  
 394 Reading Leadership Implementation Council shall develop and publish  
 395 annual goals for the center and meet at least once every two months.  
 396 The Reading Leadership Implementation Council may consult with  
 397 representatives from public, private and philanthropic organizations.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-16b
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-16b
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-211f
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-227
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-76d(d)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-357e
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-145aa
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	10-14gg(b) and (c)

**ED**                      *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*    APP