



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 4302



Offered by:

SEN. MCCRORY, 2nd Dist.

REP. CURREY, 11th Dist.

To: Senate Bill No. 154

File No. 51

Cal. No. 64

"AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOLS."

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

3 "Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) The Department of Education shall,
4 in consultation with national assessment experts and local and regional
5 boards of education in the state, conduct a comprehensive audit of the
6 assessments that are administered to students. Such audit shall include,
7 but not be limited to, (1) issuance of guidance to local and regional
8 boards of education for conducting an inventory of the assessments
9 administered to students at the classroom, school and school district
10 levels, (2) development of a program of professional learning for
11 teachers concerning assessment literacy, and (3) an evaluation of the
12 assessments inventoried by local and regional boards of education with
13 the goals of eliminating redundant assessments, discouraging
14 classroom activities that focus only on test preparation, reducing testing
15 time and maximizing assessments that provide actionable information

16 for classroom teachers. Not later than January 31, 2026, the Department
17 of Education shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section
18 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the
19 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education a
20 report concerning the audit and related activities conducted pursuant to
21 this section and any requisite legislative proposals to accomplish the
22 goals of such audit.

23 Sec. 2. Subdivision (2) of subsection (g) of section 10-266aa of the 2024
24 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
25 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

26 (2) (A) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, and each fiscal year
27 thereafter, the department shall provide, within available
28 appropriations, an annual grant to the local or regional board of
29 education for each receiving district if one of the following conditions
30 are met as follows: (i) (I) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, three
31 thousand dollars, and (II) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and
32 each fiscal year thereafter, at least three thousand dollars for each out-
33 of-district student who attends school in the receiving district under the
34 program if the number of such out-of-district students is less than two
35 per cent of the total student population of such receiving district plus
36 any amount available pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,
37 (ii) (I) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, four thousand dollars, and
38 (II) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year
39 thereafter, at least four thousand dollars for each out-of-district student
40 who attends school in the receiving district under the program if the
41 number of such out-of-district students is greater than or equal to two
42 per cent but less than three per cent of the total student population of
43 such receiving district plus any amount available pursuant to
44 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, (iii) (I) for the fiscal year ending
45 June 30, 2024, six thousand dollars, and (II) for the fiscal year ending
46 June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, at least six thousand
47 dollars for each out-of-district student who attends school in the
48 receiving district under the program if the number of such out-of-
49 district students is greater than or equal to three per cent but less than

50 four per cent of the total student population of such receiving district
51 plus any amount available pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this
52 subdivision, (iv) (I) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, six thousand
53 dollars, and (II) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal
54 year thereafter, at least six thousand dollars for each out-of-district
55 student who attends school in the receiving district under the program
56 if the Commissioner of Education determines that the receiving district
57 has an enrollment of greater than four thousand students and has
58 increased the number of students in the program by at least fifty per cent
59 from the previous fiscal year plus any amount available pursuant to
60 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, or (v) (I) for the fiscal year ending
61 June 30, 2024, eight thousand dollars, and (II) for the fiscal year ending
62 June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, at least eight thousand
63 dollars for each out-of-district student who attends school in the
64 receiving district under the program if the number of such out-of-
65 district students is greater than or equal to four per cent of the total
66 student population of such receiving district plus any amount available
67 pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this subdivision.

68 (B) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year
69 thereafter, the department shall, in order to assist the state in meeting
70 its obligations under commitment 9B of the Comprehensive School
71 Choice Plan pursuant to the settlement in Sheff v. O'Neill, HHD-X07-
72 CV89-4026240-S, provide, within available appropriations, an
73 additional grant to the local or regional board of education for each
74 receiving district in the amount of two thousand dollars for each out-of-
75 district student who resides in the Hartford region and attends school
76 in the receiving district under the program.

77 (C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year
78 thereafter, the local or regional board of education for each receiving
79 district shall include the amount of the grants projected to be received
80 pursuant to this subdivision in such board's annual budget and
81 projected revenue statement.

82 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-226b of the general statutes is

83 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
84 *2024*):

85 (a) Whenever the State Board of Education finds that racial imbalance
86 exists in a public school, it shall notify in writing the board of education
87 having jurisdiction over said school that such finding has been made,
88 except the State Board of Education shall not notify a board of education
89 of such finding until July 1, 2025.

90 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-226c of the general statutes is
91 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
92 *2024*):

93 (a) Any board of education receiving notification of the existence of
94 racial imbalance as specified in section 10-226b, as amended by this act,
95 shall forthwith prepare a plan to correct such imbalance and file a copy
96 of said plan with the State Board of Education, except such board of
97 education shall not be required to prepare and file said plan until July
98 1, 2025. Said plan may be limited to addressing the imbalance existing
99 at any school and need not result in a district-wide plan or district-wide
100 pupil reassignment. A school district may request an extension of time
101 in cases in which the number of students causing said imbalance is
102 fewer than five students at a school.

103 Sec. 5. Section 10-226d of the general statutes is repealed and the
104 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

105 Upon receipt of any plan required under the provisions of subsection
106 (b) of section 10-226c, the State Board of Education shall review said
107 plan. If it determines that the plan is satisfactory, it shall approve the
108 plan and shall provide to the board of education such assistance and
109 services as may be available. The board of education shall submit annual
110 reports on the implementation of the approved plan, as the State Board
111 of Education may require. The State Board of Education shall not take
112 action on any plan received on or after July 1, 2024, until July 1, 2025.

113 Sec. 6. Subsection (d) of section 10-212a of the general statutes is

114 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
115 *2024*):

116 (d) (1) (A) With the written authorization of a student's parent or
117 guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order of a qualified medical
118 professional, a school nurse and a school medical advisor, if any, may
119 jointly approve and provide general supervision to an identified [school
120 paraprofessional] paraeducator to administer medication, including,
121 but not limited to, medication administered with a cartridge injector, to
122 a specific student with a medically diagnosed allergic condition that
123 may require prompt treatment in order to protect the student against
124 serious harm or death. Each such paraeducator and any qualified school
125 employee authorized to administer epinephrine in the absence of a
126 school nurse pursuant to policies and procedures adopted by a board of
127 education in accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this
128 section shall annually complete the training program described in
129 section 10-212g.

130 (2) A school nurse or, in the absence of a school nurse, a qualified
131 school employee shall maintain epinephrine in cartridge injectors for the
132 purpose of emergency first aid to students who experience allergic
133 reactions and do not have a prior written authorization of a parent or
134 guardian or a prior written order of a qualified medical professional for
135 the administration of epinephrine. A school nurse or a school principal
136 shall select qualified school employees to administer such epinephrine
137 under this subdivision, and there shall be at least one such qualified
138 school employee on the grounds of the school during regular school
139 hours in the absence of a school nurse. A school nurse or, in the absence
140 of such school nurse, such qualified school employee may administer
141 such epinephrine under this subdivision, provided such administration
142 of epinephrine is in accordance with policies and procedures adopted
143 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such administration of
144 epinephrine by a qualified school employee shall be limited to situations
145 when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. No qualified school
146 employee shall administer such epinephrine under this subdivision
147 unless such qualified school employee annually completes the training

148 program described in section 10-212g. The parent or guardian of a
149 student may submit, in writing, to the school nurse and school medical
150 advisor, if any, that epinephrine shall not be administered to such
151 student under this subdivision.

152 (3) In the case of a student with a medically diagnosed life-
153 threatening allergic condition, (A) with the written authorization of
154 such student's parent or guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order
155 of a qualified medical professional, such student may possess, self-
156 administer or possess and self-administer medication, including, but
157 not limited to, medication administered with a cartridge injector, to
158 protect such student against serious harm or death.

159 (4) For purposes of this subsection, (A) "cartridge injector" means an
160 automatic prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable
161 equipment used to deliver epinephrine in a standard dose for
162 emergency first aid response to allergic reactions, (B) "qualified school
163 employee" means a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed
164 physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach
165 or school paraprofessional, and (C) "qualified medical professional"
166 means (i) a physician licensed under chapter 370, (ii) an optometrist
167 licensed to practice optometry under chapter 380, (iii) an advanced
168 practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance with
169 section 20-94a, or (iv) a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in
170 accordance with section 20-12d.

171 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) No local or regional board of
172 education shall require a parent or guardian of a student to participate
173 in school activities, such as through volunteering, as a condition for the
174 enrollment of such student in a school under the jurisdiction of such
175 board.

176 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Each regional community-
177 technical college shall consult with the school counselors and school
178 administrators at public high schools located within the region of the
179 state in which such college is located for the purpose of establishing

180 collaborative partnerships between such schools and such college. Such
181 partnerships may include, but not be limited to, collaborative
182 counseling programs for students interested in specific careers,
183 evaluation and alignment of curricula and offering support or
184 educational programs to improve student outcomes.

185 Sec. 9. Section 19a-900a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
186 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
187 *1, 2024*):

188 Any provider of child care services, as described in section 19a-77,
189 that is licensed by the Office of Early Childhood [, that] or is exempt
190 from licensure pursuant to subsection (b) of section 19a-77, and
191 maintains a supply of epinephrine cartridge injectors pursuant to
192 section 19a-909, may administer such epinephrine for the purpose of
193 emergency first aid to a child in the care of such provider who
194 experiences an allergic reaction and does not have a prior written
195 authorization of a parent or guardian or a prior written order of a
196 qualified medical professional for the administration of epinephrine,
197 provided the person administering such epinephrine is a person with
198 training, as defined in section 19a-909. The parent or guardian of a child
199 may submit, in writing, to such child's provider of child care services,
200 that epinephrine shall not be administered to such child pursuant to this
201 section.

202 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than December 31,
203 2024, and each December thirty-first thereafter, the Department of
204 Education shall calculate an estimated amount that each town may
205 receive under the provisions of section 10-262h of the general statutes,
206 for the next fiscal year using data collected during the current fiscal year,
207 and notify each such town of such estimated amount.

208 Sec. 11. Section 10-236c of the general statutes is repealed and the
209 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

210 (a) A school principal or other school administrator shall notify a
211 parent or guardian of a student whose behavior has caused a serious

212 disruption to the instruction of other students, caused self-harm or
213 caused physical harm to a teacher, another student or other school
214 employee not later than twenty-four hours after such behavior occurs.
215 Such notice shall include, but not be limited to, informing such parent
216 or guardian that the teacher of record in the classroom in which such
217 behavior occurred may request a behavior intervention meeting, as
218 described in subsection (b) of this section.

219 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year
220 thereafter, any teacher of record in a classroom may request a behavior
221 intervention meeting with the crisis intervention team for the school, as
222 described in section 10-236b, for any student whose behavior has caused
223 a serious disruption to the instruction of other students, or caused self-
224 harm or physical harm to such teacher or another student or staff
225 member in such teacher's classroom. The crisis intervention team shall,
226 upon the request of such teacher and notifying such student's parent or
227 guardian, convene a behavior intervention meeting regarding such
228 student. The participants of such behavior intervention meeting shall
229 identify resources and supports to address such student's social,
230 emotional and instructional needs. Not later than seven days after the
231 behavior intervention meeting, the crisis intervention team shall submit
232 to the parent or guardian of such student, in the dominant language of
233 such parent or guardian, a written summary of such meeting, including,
234 but not limited to, the resources and supports identified.

235 Sec. 12. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 10-233d of the 2024
236 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
237 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

238 (3) Unless an emergency exists, no pupil shall be expelled without a
239 formal hearing held pursuant to sections 4-176e to 4-180a, inclusive, and
240 section 4-181a, provided whenever such pupil is a minor, the notice
241 required by section 4-177 and section 4-180 shall also be given to the
242 parents or guardian of the pupil at least five business days before such
243 hearing, not including the day of such hearing. If an emergency exists,
244 such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible. The

245 notice shall include information concerning the parent's or guardian's
246 and the pupil's legal rights and concerning legal services provided free
247 of charge or at a reduced rate that are available locally and how to access
248 such services. An attorney or other advocate may represent any pupil
249 subject to expulsion proceedings. The parent or guardian of the pupil
250 shall have the right to have the expulsion hearing postponed for up to
251 one week to allow time to obtain representation, except that if an
252 emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion
253 as possible.

254 Sec. 13. Section 6 of public act 23-150 is repealed and the following is
255 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

256 (a) As used in this section:

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

260 (2) "Civics" means the study of the rights and obligations of citizens;
261 and

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

266 (b) There is established the Connecticut Civics Education, Civics
267 Engagement and Media Literacy Task Force to study and develop
268 strategies to improve and promote civic engagement and instruction on
269 civics, citizenship, media literacy and American government. Such
270 study shall include, but need not be limited to (1) reviewing existing
271 state and national curricula and standards, classroom practices and high
272 school and college graduation requirements to identify and publicize
273 best practices in instruction on civics, citizenship, media literacy and
274 American government, (2) receiving recommendations from educators,
275 administrators, governmental entities, nongovernmental organizations

276 and the public, (3) a review of existing civics, citizenship, media literacy
277 and American government educational opportunities provided by
278 governmental entities and nongovernmental organizations throughout
279 the state, and (4) exploring the feasibility of establishing public and
280 private partnerships to fund, coordinate, promote and support
281 enhancements to such engagement and instruction.

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

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

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

288 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
289 Representatives, who shall be an officer or member of a
290 nongovernmental organization that promotes civic education, civic
291 engagement or media literacy;

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

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

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

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

302 (8) One appointed jointly by the House chairperson and the House
303 ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General
304 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, who is a

305 student at an institution of higher education in the state;

306 (9) One appointed jointly by the Senate chairperson and the Senate
307 ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General
308 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, who is a
309 student at a high school in the state;

310 ~~[(8)]~~ (10) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee;

311 ~~[(9)]~~ (11) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's
312 designee;

313 ~~[(10)]~~ (12) The president of the Connecticut State Colleges and
314 Universities, or the president's designee;

315 ~~[(11)]~~ (13) The president of The University of Connecticut, or the
316 president's designee;

317 ~~[(12)]~~ (14) The president of the Connecticut Bar Association, or the
318 president's designee;

319 ~~[(13)]~~ (15) The Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court
320 Administrator's designee;

321 ~~[(14)]~~ (16) The chairpersons of the Connecticut Hate Crimes Advisory
322 Council, or the chairpersons' designees;

323 ~~[(15)]~~ (17) The executive director of the Connecticut Humanities
324 Council, or the executive director's designee;

325 ~~[(16)]~~ (18) The president of the Connecticut Democracy Center, or the
326 president's designee; and

327 ~~[(17)]~~ (19) The executive director of the Commission on Women,
328 Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's
329 designee.

330 (d) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
331 (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) or (7) of subsection (c) of this section may be a member

332 of the General Assembly.

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

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

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

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

350 Sec. 14. Section 3 of public act 21-95, as amended by section 3 of public
351 act 22-116 and section 13 of public act 23-150, is repealed and the
352 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

353 (a) There is established a task force to study issues relating to the
354 provision and funding of special education in the state during the school
355 years commencing July 1, 2016, to July 1, 2020, inclusive. Such study
356 shall focus on funding, eligibility and delivery of special education
357 services and include, but need not be limited to, an examination of (1)
358 the provision of special education and related services, including the
359 provision of services to students identified as gifted and talented, and
360 services or accommodations for a student as part of a plan pursuant to
361 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to
362 time, and whether local and regional boards of education are providing

363 such services directly or partnering with regional educational service
364 centers, contracting with a private provider of special education
365 services, as defined in section 10-91g of the general statutes, or as part
366 of a cooperative arrangement pursuant to section 10-158a of the general
367 statutes, (2) the cost of providing special education and related services,
368 including gifted and talented services, the total aggregate amount per
369 school district per year and the annual percentage increase or decrease
370 per school district of such cost, (3) the effect that the cost of special
371 education and gifted and talented services has on a board of education's
372 minimum budget requirement, (4) the level of state reimbursement to
373 boards of education for special education and gifted and talented
374 services, including the total amount for reimbursement submitted by
375 each school district per year and the total amount received by such
376 school district per year, and the percentage increase or decrease per year
377 of the difference of the total amount submitted and the total amount
378 received for each school district, (5) the criteria and manner by which
379 school districts are identifying students who require special education
380 and related services or as gifted and talented, including whether school
381 districts are overidentifying or underidentifying such students and the
382 causes and reasons for such overidentification and underidentification,
383 (6) the feasibility of authorizing independent evaluators from the
384 Department of Education or hired by the parents and guardians of
385 students receiving special education and related services to observe the
386 provision of such services in the classroom, (7) delaying the age in which
387 a classification category of special education services shall be made for
388 a child requiring special education and related services, (8) special
389 education student-to-teacher ratios prescribed by case load policies,
390 regulations and formulas in effect in other states, with a focus on
391 provisions regarding the numbers of special education students and
392 intensity of services required for such students, (9) the prohibition of the
393 use of seclusion under section 10-236b of the general statutes and the
394 implementation of alternative methods in lieu of seclusion for certain
395 student behavior, and (10) any other issues or topics relating to special
396 education that the task force deems necessary.

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

398 (1) Three appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
399 one of whom is a representative of the Special Education Equity for Kids
400 of Connecticut, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut
401 Association of Boards of Education and one of whom is the parent or
402 guardian of a student who is enrolled in a public school and receiving
403 special education services;

404 (2) Three appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one
405 of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Public
406 School Superintendents, one of whom is a representative of the
407 Connecticut Education Association and one of whom is the parent or
408 guardian of a student who is enrolled in a public school and receiving
409 special education services;

410 (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of
411 Representatives, one of whom is a representative of the American
412 Federation of Teachers-Connecticut and one of whom is a representative
413 of the Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center;

414 (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom
415 is a representative of the Connecticut Council of Administrators of
416 Special Education and one of whom is a representative of the RESC
417 Alliance;

418 (5) Three appointed by the minority leader of the House of
419 Representatives, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut
420 Association of School Administrators, one of whom is a representative
421 of the School and State Finance Project and one of whom is a
422 representative from an educator preparation program offered at a
423 public institution of higher education in the state;

424 (6) Three appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of
425 whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Schools, one
426 of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of School
427 Business Officials and one of whom is a representative from an educator

428 preparation program offered at an independent institution of higher
429 education in the state;

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

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

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

436 (10) A representative of the Connecticut Association of Private
437 Special Education Facilities, designated by the association; and

438 (11) A representative of the Connecticut Council of Administrators of
439 Special Education, designated by the council.

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

443 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
444 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the cochairpersons of the task force
445 from among the members of the task force. Such cochairpersons shall
446 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later
447 than sixty days after the effective date of this section. On and after the
448 effective date of this section, the representative designated pursuant to
449 subdivision (11) of subsection (b) of this section shall serve as the third
450 cochairperson of the task force.

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

454 (f) (1) Not later than January 1, 2024, the task force shall submit an
455 interim report on its findings to the joint standing committee of the
456 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,

457 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

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

463 (3) The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such
464 report or July 1, 2025, whichever is later.

465 Sec. 15. Section 10-211f of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
466 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
467 *1, 2024*):

468 For the school year commencing July 1, 2024, and each school year
469 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall annually
470 approve and provide professional development programs or activities
471 for all school nurses and nurse practitioners appointed by or under
472 contract with such board. [Each board shall provide] As part of such
473 professional development programs or activities [related to] provided
474 by each local and regional board of education under this section, each
475 new school nurse or nurse practitioner shall receive and complete (1)
476 training and instruction in the implementation of individualized
477 education programs and plans pursuant to Section 504 of the
478 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to time, [to any new
479 school nurse or nurse practitioner] not later than thirty days after such
480 school nurse or nurse practitioner has been appointed by or entered into
481 a contract with such board, and (2) an orientation to school health
482 services, developed by an association that represents nurses in the state,
483 not later than six months after such nurse or nurse practitioner has been
484 appointed by or entered into a contract with such board.

485 Sec. 16. Section 10-227 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
486 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
487 *1, 2024*):

488 (a) Each board of education shall cause the superintendent to make
489 returns not later than September first of each year to the Commissioner
490 of Education of the receipts, expenditures and statistics, as prescribed
491 by the commissioner, provided each such board may submit revisions
492 to the returns in such form and with such documentation as required by
493 the commissioner [no] not later than [December] January thirty-first of
494 each year following the September submission. Such reports or returns
495 required shall be filed in accordance with the instructions furnished by
496 the commissioner, shall be certified [no] not later than [December]
497 January thirty-first of each year by the independent public accountant
498 selected pursuant to section 7-392 for the purpose of auditing municipal
499 accounts, and shall be subject to Department of Education verification.
500 If the returns and statistics and revisions called for by said commissioner
501 are not filed on or before the days specified in this section or if the
502 returns are not certified as required by the commissioner on or before
503 [December] January thirty-first, each local and regional board of
504 education required by law to make separate returns, whose returns and
505 statistics or revisions are delayed until after those days, shall forfeit of
506 the total sum which is paid for such board of education from the State
507 Treasurer an amount to be determined by the State Board of Education,
508 which amount shall be not less than one thousand dollars nor more than
509 ten thousand dollars. The amount so forfeited shall be withheld from a
510 subsequent grant payment as determined by the commissioner.
511 Notwithstanding the penalty provision of this section, the
512 Commissioner of Education may waive said forfeiture for good cause.

513 (b) Not later than [February 15, 2024] March 15, 2025, and annually
514 thereafter, the Department of Education shall publish on its Internet
515 web site the data contained in the reports and returns filed pursuant to
516 subsection (a) of this section by education program type, expense
517 function, expense object and funding source, including, but not limited
518 to, federal, combined state and local and combined private and other
519 sources for the school and district level. The department shall develop
520 and publish a guide that contains definitions for each category of
521 expenditure and funding source.

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

529 Sec. 17. Subsection (d) of section 10-76d of the 2024 supplement to the
530 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
531 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

532 (d) To meet its obligations under sections 10-76a to 10-76g, inclusive,
533 any local or regional board of education may make agreements with
534 another such board or subject to the consent of the parent or guardian
535 of any child affected thereby, make agreements, or on and after July 1,
536 2019, enter into a contract with any private provider of special education
537 services, as defined in section 10-91g, private school, or public or private
538 agency or institution, including a group home to provide the necessary
539 programs or services, but no expenditures made pursuant to a contract
540 with a private provider of special education services, private school,
541 agency or institution for such special education shall be paid under the
542 provisions of section 10-76g, unless (1) such contract includes a
543 description of the educational program and other treatment the child is
544 to receive, a statement of minimal goals and objectives which it is
545 anticipated such child will achieve, an estimated time schedule for
546 returning the child to the community or transferring such child to
547 another appropriate facility, and an explanation of how the tuition or
548 costs for services provided under the agreement or contract are to be
549 calculated, (2) subject to the provisions of this subsection, the
550 educational needs of the child for whom such special education is being
551 provided cannot be met by public school arrangements in the opinion
552 of the commissioner who, before granting approval of such contract for
553 purposes of payment, shall consider such factors as the particular needs
554 of the child, the appropriateness and efficacy of the program offered by
555 such private school, agency or institution, and the economic feasibility

556 of comparable alternatives, and (3) commencing with the 1987-1988
557 school year and for each school year thereafter, each such private
558 provider of special education services, private school, agency or
559 institution has been approved for special education by the
560 Commissioner of Education or by the appropriate agency for facilities
561 located out of state, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section.
562 Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection or
563 any regulations adopted by the State Board of Education setting
564 placement priorities, placements pursuant to this section and payments
565 under section 10-76g may be made pursuant to such a contract if the
566 public arrangements are more costly than the private provider of special
567 education services, private school, institution or agency, provided the
568 private provider of special education services, private school, institution
569 or agency meets the educational needs of the child and its program is
570 appropriate and efficacious. Any payment under the provisions of
571 section 10-76g shall include all expenditures incurred by a local or
572 regional board of education pursuant to a contract with a private
573 provider of special education services, private school, agency or
574 institution, to the extent permitted under said section, during the school
575 year in which such private provider of special education services,
576 private school, agency or institution provided such services, even if such
577 private provider of special education services, private school, agency or
578 institution is approved for special education by the Commissioner of
579 Education during such school year. Notwithstanding the provisions of
580 this subsection to the contrary, nothing in this subsection shall (A)
581 require the removal of a child from a nonapproved facility if the child
582 was placed there prior to July 7, 1987, pursuant to the determination of
583 a planning and placement team that such a placement was appropriate
584 and such placement was approved by the Commissioner of Education,
585 or (B) prohibit the placement of a child at a nonapproved facility if a
586 planning and placement team determines prior to July 7, 1987, that the
587 child be placed in a nonapproved facility for the 1987-1988 school year.
588 Each child placed in a nonapproved facility as described in
589 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (3) of this subsection may
590 continue at the facility provided the planning and placement team or

591 hearing officer appointed pursuant to section 10-76h determines that the
592 placement is appropriate. Expenditures incurred by any local or
593 regional board of education to maintain children in nonapproved
594 facilities as described in said subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall be paid
595 pursuant to the provisions of section 10-76g. Any local or regional board
596 of education may enter into a contract with the owners or operators of
597 any sheltered workshop or rehabilitation center for provision of an
598 education occupational training program for children requiring special
599 education who are at least sixteen years of age, provided such workshop
600 or institution shall have been approved by the appropriate state agency.
601 Whenever any child is identified by a local or regional board of
602 education as a child requiring special education and such board of
603 education determines that the requirements for special education could
604 be met by a program provided within the district or by agreement with
605 another board of education except for the child's need for services other
606 than educational services such as medical, psychiatric or institutional
607 care or services, such board of education may meet its obligation to
608 furnish special education for such child by paying the reasonable cost of
609 special education instruction in a private provider of special education
610 services, private school, hospital or other institution provided such
611 board of education or the commissioner concurs that placement in such
612 institution is necessary and proper and no state institution is available
613 to meet such child's needs. Any such private provider of special
614 education services, private school, hospital or other institution receiving
615 such reasonable cost of special education instruction by such board of
616 education shall submit all required documentation to such board of
617 education for purposes of submitting claims to the Medicaid School
618 Based Child Health Program administered by the Department of Social
619 Services.

620 Sec. 18. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Each local and regional board of
621 education shall conform the design of any school playground designed
622 on or after July 1, 2025, to the principles of universal design. Such
623 playgrounds shall include, at a minimum, (1) play spaces that appeal to
624 a variety of senses and allow multiple forms of play, (2) landform

625 designed to encourage unstructured play, (3) multiple options for
626 accessing play spaces and equipment that allow for varying levels of
627 ability, and (4) sensory-engaging materials and use of trees and other
628 plantings. As used in this section, "universal design" means a concept of
629 designing spaces with the goal of maximizing usability and access,
630 without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

631 Sec. 19. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 10-14gg of the 2024
632 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
633 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

634 (b) The Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success shall be
635 under the direction of a director who shall, in consultation with the
636 Reading Leadership Implementation Council described in subsection (c)
637 of this section, be responsible for (1) overseeing all activities of the
638 center, (2) facilitating communication between the center, local and
639 regional boards of education and other affiliates of the center, and (3)
640 coordinating the dissemination of information, tools and services made
641 available by the center.

642 (c) The activities of the center shall be informed by the Reading
643 Leadership Implementation Council which shall consist of the following
644 members: (1) The director of the center, or the director's designee; (2) the
645 executive director of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors,
646 Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee; (3) an
647 individual designated by the Governor, who has experience in literacy
648 or education and is engaged in the development and implementation of
649 the intensive reading instruction program; (4) an individual designated
650 by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who has experience in
651 literacy or education; (5) an individual designated by the president pro
652 tempore of the Senate, who has experience in literacy or education; (6)
653 an individual designated by the minority leader of the House of
654 Representatives, who has experience in literacy or education; (7) an
655 individual designated by the minority leader of the Senate, who has
656 experience in literacy or education; (8) two individuals, designated by
657 the chairperson of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus of the General

658 Assembly, one of whom has experience with literacy or education and
 659 is engaged in the development and implementation of the intensive
 660 reading instruction program, provided such individual is not a member
 661 of the General Assembly; (9) the dean of the Neag School of Education
 662 at The University of Connecticut, or the dean's designee; and (10) three
 663 individuals designated by the Commissioner of Education. The initial
 664 terms of the members of the council shall expire on June 30, 2024, and
 665 the subsequent appointments shall be made by July 1, 2024. Members
 666 shall serve two-year terms and may serve consecutive terms. The
 667 Reading Leadership Implementation Council shall develop and publish
 668 annual goals for the center and meet at least once every two months.
 669 The Reading Leadership Implementation Council may consult with
 670 representatives from public, private and philanthropic organizations.

671 Sec. 20. Section 25 of public act 23-167 is repealed. (*Effective July 1,*
 672 *2024*)"

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2024	10-266aa(g)(2)
Sec. 3	July 1, 2024	10-226b(a)
Sec. 4	July 1, 2024	10-226c(a)
Sec. 5	July 1, 2024	10-226d
Sec. 6	July 1, 2024	10-212a(d)
Sec. 7	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 8	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 9	July 1, 2024	19a-900a
Sec. 10	from passage	New section
Sec. 11	July 1, 2024	10-236c
Sec. 12	July 1, 2024	10-233d(a)(3)
Sec. 13	from passage	PA 23-150, Sec. 6
Sec. 14	from passage	PA 21-95, Sec. 3
Sec. 15	July 1, 2024	10-211f
Sec. 16	July 1, 2024	10-227
Sec. 17	July 1, 2024	10-76d(d)
Sec. 18	July 1, 2024	New section

Sec. 19	<i>from passage</i>	10-14gg(b) and (c)
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	Repealer section