



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 4872



Offered by:

REP. CURREY, 11th Dist.

REP. MCCARTY K., 38th Dist.

SEN. MCCRORY, 2nd Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5436

File No. 369

Cal. No. 244

"AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION."

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

3 "Section 1. Section 10-145b of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

5 (a) The State Board of Education, upon receipt of a proper
6 application, shall issue an initial educator certificate to any person who
7 (1) holds a bachelor's degree or an advanced degree from an institution
8 of higher education that is regionally accredited or has received an
9 equivalent accreditation, and (2) has [completed (A) an educator
10 preparation program approved by the State Board of Education or the
11 appropriate governing body in the state in which the institution of
12 higher education is located, or (B) an alternate route to certification
13 program approved by the State Board of Education or the appropriate
14 governing body in the state in which such alternate route to certification

15 program is located, and satisfies the requirements for a temporary
16 ninety-day certificate, pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, or a
17 resident teacher certificate, pursuant to section 10-145m] successfully
18 completed one of the pathways described in section 6 of this act. In
19 addition, on and after July 1, 2018, each applicant shall have completed
20 a subject area major as defined by the State Board of Education, except
21 [(i)] (A) as provided in section 10-145l, or [(ii)] (B) where an applicant
22 achieves a satisfactory evaluation on an appropriate State Board of
23 Education approved subject area assessment or has completed
24 advanced coursework in a relevant subject area. [Each] Any such initial
25 educator certificate issued prior to July 1, 2025, that has not expired on
26 or before July 1, 2025, shall be extended to be valid for a period of ten
27 years from the date of issuance, and any such initial educator certificate
28 issued on and after July 1, 2025, shall be valid for [three] ten years [,
29 except as provided in subsection (c) of this section,] and may be
30 extended by the Commissioner of Education for an additional year for
31 good cause upon the request of the superintendent in whose school
32 district such person is employed or upon the request of the assessment
33 team reviewing such person's performance, provided the commissioner
34 may not grant such extension more than three times to any person. The
35 commissioner may, upon application, reissue an initial educator
36 certificate to any person who holds, but has not served under, an initial
37 educator certificate, if such person can demonstrate that he or she
38 satisfies the preparation and eligibility requirements that were in place
39 at the time such initial educator certificate was originally issued to such
40 person.

41 (b) During the period of employment in a public school, a person
42 holding an initial educator certificate shall (1) be under the supervision
43 of the superintendent of schools or of a principal, administrator or
44 supervisor designated by such superintendent who shall regularly
45 observe, guide and evaluate the performance of assigned duties by such
46 holder of an initial certificate, and (2) participate in a beginning educator
47 program if there is such a program for such person's certification
48 endorsement area.

49 (c) (1) The State Board of Education, upon request of a local or
50 regional board of education, shall issue a temporary ninety-day
51 certificate to any applicant in the certification endorsement areas of
52 elementary education, middle grades education, secondary academic
53 subjects, special subjects or fields, special education, early childhood
54 education and administration and supervision, or in the certification
55 endorsement areas corresponding to teacher shortage areas, as
56 determined by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 10-
57 8b, when the following conditions are met:

58 (A) The employing agent of a board of education makes a written
59 request for the issuance of such certificate and attests to the existence of
60 a special plan for supervision of temporary ninety-day certificate
61 holders;

62 (B) The applicant meets the following requirements, except as
63 otherwise provided in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision:

64 (i) Holds a bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education
65 accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of
66 Higher Education or regionally accredited with a major either in or
67 closely related to the certification endorsement area in which the
68 requesting board of education is placing the applicant or, in the case of
69 secondary or special subject or field endorsement area, possesses at least
70 the minimum total number of semester hours of credit required for the
71 content area, except as provided in section 10-145/;

72 (ii) Has met the requirements pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-
73 145f, as amended by this act;

74 (iii) Presents a written application on such forms as the
75 Commissioner of Education shall prescribe;

76 (iv) Has successfully completed an alternate route to certification
77 program provided by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or the
78 Office of Higher Education or public or independent institutions of
79 higher education, regional educational service centers or private teacher

80 or administrator training organizations and approved by the State
81 Board of Education;

82 (v) Possesses an undergraduate college overall grade point average
83 of at least "B" or, if the applicant has completed at least twenty-four
84 hours of graduate credit, possesses a graduate grade point average of at
85 least "B"; and

86 (vi) Presents supporting evidence of appropriate experience working
87 with children; and

88 (C) The Commissioner of Education may waive the requirements of
89 subparagraphs (B)(v) or (B)(vi), or both, of this subdivision upon a
90 showing of good cause.

91 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section on
92 and after July 1, 1989, the State Board of Education, upon receipt of a
93 proper application, shall issue an initial educator certificate [, which
94 shall be valid for three years,] to any person who has taught successfully
95 while holding a temporary ninety-day certificate and meets the
96 requirements established in regulations adopted pursuant to section 10-
97 145d, as amended by this act.

98 (d) (1) On and after July 1, 2019, in order to be eligible to obtain an
99 initial educator certificate, each person shall be required to complete (A)
100 a course of study in special education comprised of not fewer than
101 thirty-six hours, which shall include (i) instruction on the growth and
102 development of exceptional children, including children with a
103 disability, gifted and talented children and children who may require
104 special education, and (ii) methods for identifying, planning for and
105 working effectively with special needs children in a regular classroom,
106 and (B) a course or courses of study in special education relating to
107 instruction on classroom techniques in reading, differentiated
108 instruction, social-emotional learning, culturally responsive pedagogy
109 and practice and assistive technology. The provisions of this subdivision
110 shall not apply to any person who has been issued an initial educator
111 certificate prior to July 1, 2019.

112 (2) On and after July 1, 2016, in order to be eligible to obtain a
113 provisional educator certificate, each person shall be required to
114 complete a course of study in special education comprised of not fewer
115 than thirty-six hours, which shall include an understanding of the
116 growth and development of exceptional children, including children
117 with a disability, gifted and talented children and children who may
118 require special education, and methods for identifying, planning for and
119 working effectively with special needs children in a regular classroom.

120 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection to the contrary,
121 each applicant for such certificates who has met all requirements for
122 certification except the completion of the course in special education
123 shall be entitled to a certificate (A) for a period not to exceed one year,
124 provided the applicant completed a teacher preparation program either
125 in the state prior to July 1, 1987, or outside the state, or completed the
126 necessary combination of professional experience or coursework as
127 required by the State Board of Education, or (B) for a period not to
128 exceed two years if the applicant applies for certification in an area for
129 which a bachelor's degree is not required.

130 (e) (1) On and after July 1, 1989, and until June 30, 2025, the State
131 Board of Education, upon receipt of a proper application, shall issue a
132 provisional educator certificate to any person who [(1)] (A) has
133 successfully completed a beginning educator program and one school
134 year of successful teaching as attested to by the superintendent, or the
135 superintendent's designee, in whose local or regional school district
136 such person was employed, [(2)] (B) has completed at least three years
137 of successful teaching in a public school in another state or a nonpublic
138 school approved by the State Board of Education or appropriate
139 governing body in another state within ten years prior to application for
140 such provisional educator certificate, as attested to by the
141 superintendent, or the superintendent's designee, in whose school
142 district such person was employed, or by the supervising agent of the
143 nonpublic school in which such person was employed, and has met
144 preparation and eligibility requirements for an initial educator
145 certificate, or [(3)] (C) has successfully taught with a provisional

146 teaching certificate for the year immediately preceding an application
147 for a provisional educator certificate as an employee of a local or
148 regional board of education or facility approved for special education
149 by the State Board of Education. The commissioner may, upon
150 application, reissue a provisional educator certificate to any person who
151 holds a provisional educator certificate, if such person can demonstrate
152 that he or she satisfies the preparation and eligibility requirements that
153 were in place at the time such provisional educator certificate was
154 originally issued to such person.

155 (2) The commissioner may not issue or reissue any provisional
156 educator certificates on or after July 1, 2025. Any person who holds a
157 provisional educator certificate and is not eligible to advance to the
158 professional educator certificate shall be eligible to be issued an initial
159 educator certificate.

160 (f) Any person holding a standard or permanent certificate on July 1,
161 1989, shall be eligible to receive upon application a professional
162 educator certificate to replace said standard or permanent certificate. On
163 and after July 1, 1989, standard and permanent certificates shall no
164 longer be valid.

165 (g) (1) On or after July 1, 1989, and prior to July 1, 2018, to qualify for
166 a professional educator certificate, a person who holds or has held a
167 provisional educator certificate under subsection (e) of this section shall
168 have completed thirty credit hours of course work beyond the
169 baccalaureate degree. It is not necessary that such course work be taken
170 for a master's degree and such work may include graduate or
171 undergraduate courses.

172 (2) On and after July 1, 2018, and prior to July 1, 2025, to qualify for a
173 professional educator certificate, a person who holds or has held a
174 provisional educator certificate under subsection (d) of this section shall
175 hold a master's degree in an appropriate subject matter area, as
176 determined by the State Board of Education, related to such teacher's
177 certification endorsement area.

178 (3) On and after July 1, 2025, to qualify for a professional educator
179 certificate, a person who holds an initial educator certificate or a
180 provisional educator certificate shall (A) have completed at least fifty
181 school months of successful teaching for one or more boards of
182 education or approved nonpublic schools in this state while holding
183 such initial educator certificate or provisional educator certificate, (B)
184 have satisfactorily completed the teacher education and mentoring
185 program, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-145o, and (C)
186 either (i) hold a master's degree or higher in an appropriate subject
187 matter area, or (ii) complete an alternate pathway to professional
188 licensure jointly approved by the State Board of Education and the
189 Educator Preparation and Certification Board. On and after July 1, 2025,
190 the state board, upon receipt of a proper application, shall issue a
191 professional educator certificate to any person who satisfies the
192 qualifications described in this subdivision, except the state board may
193 waive the requirement described in subparagraph (C) of this
194 subdivision upon a showing of good cause.

195 [(h) (1) Unless otherwise provided in regulations adopted under
196 section 10-145d, in not less than three years or more than eight years
197 after the issuance of a provisional educator certificate pursuant to
198 subsection (e) of this section and upon the statement of the
199 superintendent, or the superintendent's designee, in whose school
200 district such certificate holder was employed, or the supervisory agent
201 of a nonpublic school approved by the State Board of Education, in
202 whose school such certificate holder was employed, that the provisional
203 educator certificate holder and such superintendent, or such
204 superintendent's designee, or supervisory agent have mutually
205 determined or approved an individual program pursuant to
206 subdivision (2) of subsection (g) of this section and upon the statement
207 of such superintendent, or such superintendent's designee, or
208 supervisory agent that such certificate holder has a record of
209 competency in the discharge of such certificate holder's duties during
210 such provisional period, the state board upon receipt of a proper
211 application shall issue such certificate holder a professional educator

212 certificate. A signed recommendation from the superintendent of
213 schools, or the superintendent's designee, for the local or regional board
214 of education or from the supervisory agent of a nonpublic school
215 approved by the State Board of Education shall be evidence of
216 competency. Such recommendation shall state that the person who
217 holds or has held a provisional educator certificate has successfully
218 completed at least three school years of satisfactory teaching for one or
219 more local or regional boards of education or such nonpublic schools.
220 Each applicant for a certificate pursuant to this subsection shall provide
221 to the Department of Education, in such manner and form as prescribed
222 by the commissioner, evidence that the applicant has successfully
223 completed coursework pursuant to subsection (g) of this section, as
224 appropriate.]

225 [(2)] (h) Each professional educator certificate shall be valid for ten
226 years and continued every ten years thereafter.

227 [(3) Except as otherwise provided in section 10-146c, upon receipt of
228 a proper application, the State Board of Education shall issue to a teacher
229 from another state, territory or possession of the United States or the
230 District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico who (A) has
231 taught in another state, territory or possession of the United States or
232 the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for a
233 minimum of two years in the preceding ten years, (B) has received at
234 least two satisfactory performance evaluations while teaching in such
235 other state, territory or possession of the United States or the District of
236 Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and (C) has fulfilled
237 post-preparation assessments as approved by the commissioner, a
238 provisional educator certificate with the appropriate endorsement,
239 subject to the provisions of subsection (i) of this section relating to denial
240 of applications for certification. An applicant who has taught under an
241 appropriate certificate issued by another state, territory or possession of
242 the United States or the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of
243 Puerto Rico for two or more years shall be exempt from completing the
244 beginning educator program based upon such teaching experience
245 upon a showing of effectiveness as a teacher, as determined by the State

246 Board of Education, which may include, but need not be limited to, a
247 demonstrated record of improving student achievement. An applicant
248 who has successfully completed a teacher preparation program or an
249 alternate route to certification program in another state, territory or
250 possession of the United States or the District of Columbia or the
251 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and holds an appropriate certificate
252 issued by another state, territory or possession of the United States or
253 the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall not
254 be required to complete a course of study in special education, pursuant
255 to subsection (d) of this section. An applicant with two or more years of
256 teaching experience in this state at a nonpublic school, approved by the
257 State Board of Education, in the past ten years shall be exempt from
258 completing the beginning educator program based upon such teaching
259 experience upon a showing of effectiveness as a teacher, as determined
260 by the State Board of Education, which may include, but need not be
261 limited to, a demonstrated record of improving student achievement.]

262 (i) (1) The State Board of Education may take one or more of the
263 following actions, in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2)
264 of this subsection, against a person holding a certificate, permit or
265 authorization based on conduct that occurred prior or subsequent to the
266 issuance of such certificate, permit or authorization: (A) Revoke the
267 holder's certificate, permit or authorization; (B) suspend the holder's
268 certificate, permit or authorization; or (C) place the holder's certificate
269 on probation, subject to conditions determined by the Commissioner of
270 Education.

271 (2) The State Board of Education may take any of the actions
272 described in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of
273 this subsection with respect to a holder's certificate, permit or
274 authorization issued pursuant to sections 10-144o to 10-149, inclusive,
275 for any of the following reasons: (A) The holder of the certificate, permit
276 or authorization obtained such certificate, permit or authorization
277 through fraud or misrepresentation of a material fact; (B) the holder has
278 persistently neglected to perform the duties for which the certificate,
279 permit or authorization was granted; (C) the holder is professionally

280 unfit to perform the duties for which the certificate, permit or
281 authorization was granted; (D) the holder is convicted in a court of law
282 of a crime involving moral turpitude or of any other crime of such
283 nature that in the opinion of the board continued holding of a certificate,
284 permit or authorization by the person would impair the standing of
285 certificates, permits or authorizations issued by the board; or (E) other
286 due and sufficient cause. The State Board of Education may revoke any
287 certificate, permit or authorization issued pursuant to said sections if the
288 holder is found to have intentionally disclosed specific questions or
289 answers to students or otherwise improperly breached the security of
290 any administration of a mastery examination, pursuant to section 10-
291 14n. In any revocation proceeding pursuant to this section, the State
292 Board of Education shall have the burden of establishing the reason for
293 such revocation by a preponderance of the evidence. Revocation shall
294 be in accordance with procedures established by the State Board of
295 Education pursuant to chapter 54.

296 (3) When the Commissioner of Education is notified, pursuant to
297 section 10-149a, as amended by this act, or 17a-101i, as amended by this
298 act, that a person holding a certificate, permit or authorization issued by
299 the State Board of Education under the provisions of sections 10-144o to
300 10-149, inclusive, has been convicted of (A) a capital felony, under the
301 provisions of section 53a-54b in effect prior to April 25, 2012, (B) arson
302 murder, pursuant to section 53a-54d, (C) a class A felony, (D) a class B
303 felony, except a violation of section 53a-122, 53a-252 or 53a-291, (E) a
304 crime involving an act of child abuse or neglect as described in section
305 46b-120, or (F) a violation of section [17a-101a] 17a-101o, as amended by
306 this act, 53-21, 53-37a, 53a-60b, 53a-60c, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b, 53a-
307 73a, 53a-88, 53a-90a, 53a-99, 53a-103a, 53a-181c, 53a-191, 53a-196, 53a-
308 196c, 53a-216, 53a-217b or 21a-278 or subsection (a) of section 21a-277,
309 any certificate, permit or authorization issued by the State Board of
310 Education and held by such person shall be deemed revoked and the
311 commissioner shall notify such person of such revocation, provided
312 such person may request reconsideration pursuant to regulations
313 adopted by the State Board of Education, in accordance with the

314 provisions of chapter 54. As part of such reconsideration process, the
315 board shall make the initial determination as to whether to uphold or
316 overturn the revocation. The commissioner shall make the final
317 determination as to whether to uphold or overturn the revocation.

318 (4) The State Board of Education may deny an application for the
319 initial issuance or renewal of a certificate, permit or authorization for
320 any of the following reasons: (A) The applicant seeks to obtain a
321 certificate, permit or authorization through fraud or misrepresentation
322 of a material fact; (B) the applicant has been convicted in a court of law
323 of a crime involving moral turpitude or of any other crime of such
324 nature that in the opinion of the board issuance of a certificate, permit
325 or authorization would impair the standing of certificates, permits or
326 authorizations issued by the board; or (C) other due and sufficient cause.
327 Any applicant denied a certificate, permit or authorization shall be
328 notified in writing of the reasons for denial. Any applicant denied a
329 certificate, permit or authorization may request a review of such denial
330 by the State Board of Education.

331 (5) A person whose certificate, permit or authorization has been
332 denied, revoked or suspended may not be employed in a public school
333 during the period of denial, revocation or suspension. A person whose
334 certificate, permit or authorization has been placed on probation may be
335 employed in a public school during the period of probation in
336 accordance with the terms of such probation.

337 (6) The State Board of Education may take any of the actions
338 described in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of
339 this subsection, with respect to an applicant's or holder's certificate,
340 permit or authorization a result of the applicant or holder having been
341 subject to disciplinary action for any of the reasons described in
342 subdivision (2) of this subsection by a duly authorized professional
343 disciplinary agency of any state, a federal governmental agency, the
344 District of Columbia, a United States possession or territory or a foreign
345 jurisdiction. The State Board of Education may rely upon the findings
346 and conclusions made by a duly authorized professional disciplinary

347 agency of any state, a federal governmental agency, the District of
348 Columbia, a United States possession or territory or foreign jurisdiction
349 in taking such action.

350 (7) Any local or regional board of education or private special
351 education facility approved by the commissioner shall report to the
352 commissioner when an employee, who holds a certificate, permit or
353 authorization, is dismissed pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (d)
354 of section 10-151.

355 (8) The State Board of Education may, pursuant to chapter 54, adopt
356 or revise regulations relating to the procedure by which the State Board
357 of Education may take any of the actions described in subparagraphs
358 (A) to (C), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

359 (j) Not later than thirty days after receipt of notification, any initial
360 educator certificate holder who is not granted a provisional educator
361 certificate, or any provisional educator certificate holder who is not
362 granted a professional educator certificate, or any professional educator
363 certificate holder who is not granted a continuation, under the
364 provisions of sections 10-145a to 10-145d, inclusive, as amended by this
365 act, and 10-146b, may appeal to the State Board of Education for
366 reconsideration. Said board shall review the records of the appropriate
367 certification period, and, if a hearing is requested in writing, hold such
368 hearing not later than sixty days after such request and render a written
369 decision not later than thirty days after the conclusion of such hearing.
370 Any teacher aggrieved by the decision of said board may appeal from
371 such decision in accordance with the provisions of section 4-183 and
372 such appeal shall be privileged with respect to assignment of such
373 appeal.

374 (k) For the purposes of this section "supervisory agent" means the
375 superintendent of schools or the principal, administrator or supervisor
376 designated by such superintendent to provide direct supervision to a
377 provisional certificate holder.

378 (l) Upon application to the State Board of Education for the issuance

379 of any certificate in accordance with this section and section 10-145d, as
380 amended by this act, there shall be paid to the board by or on behalf of
381 the applicant a nonreturnable fee of two hundred dollars in the case of
382 an applicant for an initial educator certificate, two hundred fifty dollars
383 in the case of an applicant for a provisional educator certificate and three
384 hundred seventy-five dollars in the case of an applicant for a
385 professional educator certificate, except that applicants for certificates
386 for teaching adult education programs mandated under subparagraph
387 (A) of subsection (a) of section 10-69 shall pay a fee of one hundred
388 dollars; persons eligible for a certificate or endorsement for which the
389 fee is less than that applied for shall receive an appropriate refund;
390 persons not eligible for any certificate shall receive a refund of the
391 application fee minus fifty dollars; and persons holding standard or
392 permanent certificates on July 1, 1989, who apply for professional
393 certificates to replace the standard or permanent certificates, shall not be
394 required to pay such a fee. Upon application to the State Board of
395 Education for the issuance of a subject area endorsement there shall be
396 paid to the board by or on behalf of such applicant a nonreturnable fee
397 of one hundred dollars. With each request for a duplicate copy of any
398 such certificate or endorsement there shall be paid to the board a
399 nonreturnable fee of fifty dollars.

400 Sec. 2. Subsection (f) of section 10-145d of the 2024 supplement to the
401 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
402 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

403 (f) (1) (A) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (B) of this
404 subdivision, (i) an endorsement issued prior to July 1, 2013, to teach
405 elementary education grades one to six, inclusive, shall be valid for
406 grades kindergarten to six, inclusive, and (ii) for the period commencing
407 July 1, 2013, until June 30, 2025, for such an endorsement issued [on or
408 after] between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2025, the endorsement shall be
409 valid for grades one to six, inclusive, except such an endorsement issued
410 between July 1, 2013, and July 1, 2017, to any student who was admitted
411 to and successfully completes a teacher preparation program, as defined
412 in section 10-10a, in the certification endorsement area of elementary

413 education on or before June 30, 2017, shall be valid for grades
414 kindergarten to six, inclusive.

415 (B) The Commissioner of Education may permit, upon the request of
416 a superintendent, any person who holds such endorsement issued [on
417 or after] between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2025, to teach kindergarten
418 for one school year. The commissioner may, upon the request of such
419 superintendent, permit such person who so taught kindergarten under
420 such endorsement for one school year to teach kindergarten an
421 additional school year.

422 (C) An endorsement to teach elementary education grades one to six,
423 inclusive, issued prior to July 1, 2025, shall be valid for grades
424 prekindergarten to six, inclusive.

425 (D) An endorsement to teach elementary education issued on and
426 after July 1, 2025, shall be valid for grades prekindergarten to six,
427 inclusive.

428 (2) An endorsement to teach comprehensive special education grades
429 one to twelve, inclusive, shall be valid for grades prekindergarten to
430 twelve, inclusive. On and after September 1, 2013, any (A) certified
431 employee applying for a comprehensive special education
432 endorsement, or (B) applicant for an initial, provisional or professional
433 educator certificate and a comprehensive special education
434 endorsement shall achieve a satisfactory score on the reading instruction
435 examination approved by the State Board of Education on April 1, 2009,
436 or a comparable reading instruction examination with minimum
437 standards that are equivalent to the examination approved by the State
438 Board of Education on April 1, 2009.

439 (3) On and after July 1, 2024, the following endorsements issued prior
440 to or on or after July 1, 2024, and for grades seven to twelve, inclusive,
441 shall be valid for grades four to twelve, inclusive: Biology, business,
442 chemistry, earth science, English, French, German, general science,
443 history and social studies, Italian, Latin and classical humanities,
444 Mandarin Chinese, mathematics, Portuguese, physics, Russian, Spanish

445 and any other world language.

446 Sec. 3. Section 10-145a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
447 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
448 *1, 2024*):

449 (a) Any candidate in a program of teacher preparation leading to
450 professional certification shall be encouraged to successfully complete
451 an intergroup relations component of such a program which shall be
452 developed with the participation of both sexes, and persons of various
453 ethnic, cultural and economic backgrounds. Such intergroup relations
454 program shall have the following objectives: (1) The imparting of an
455 appreciation of the contributions to American civilization of the various
456 ethnic, cultural and economic groups composing American society and
457 an understanding of the life styles of such groups; (2) the counteracting
458 of biases, discrimination and prejudices; and (3) the assurance of respect
459 for human diversity and personal rights. The State Board of Education,
460 the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the Commission on Human
461 Rights and Opportunities and the Commission on Women, Children,
462 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity shall establish a joint committee
463 composed of members of the four agencies, which shall develop and
464 implement such programs in intergroup relations.

465 (b) Any candidate in a program of teacher preparation leading to
466 professional certification shall be encouraged to complete a (1) health
467 component of such a program, which includes, but need not be limited
468 to, human growth and development, nutrition, first aid, disease
469 prevention and community and consumer health, and (2) mental health
470 component of such a program, which includes, but need not be limited
471 to, youth suicide, child abuse and alcohol and drug abuse.

472 (c) Any candidate in a program of teacher preparation leading to
473 professional certification shall complete a school violence, bullying, as
474 defined in section 10-222d, as amended by this act, and suicide
475 prevention and conflict resolution component of such a program.

476 (d) On and after July 1, 2020, any program of teacher preparation

477 leading to professional certification shall include, as part of the
478 curriculum, instruction in computer science, and instruction in
479 information technology skills as applied to student learning and
480 classroom instruction that are grade-level and subject area appropriate.

481 (e) On and after July 1, 2006, any program of teacher preparation
482 leading to professional certification shall include, as part of the
483 curriculum, instruction in literacy skills and processes that reflects
484 current research and best practices in the field of literacy training. Such
485 instruction shall (1) be incorporated into requirements of student major
486 and concentration, and (2) on and after July 1, 2015, include not fewer
487 than twelve clock hours of instruction in the detection and recognition
488 of, and evidence-based structured literacy interventions for, students
489 with dyslexia, as defined in section 10-3d.

490 (f) On and after July 1, 2006, any program of teacher preparation
491 leading to professional certification shall include, as part of the
492 curriculum, instruction in the concepts of second language learning and
493 second language acquisition and processes that reflects current research
494 and best practices in the field of second language learning and second
495 language acquisition. Such instruction shall be incorporated into
496 requirements of student major and concentration.

497 (g) On and after July 1, 2011, any program of teacher preparation
498 leading to professional certification may permit teaching experience in
499 a nonpublic school, approved by the State Board of Education, and
500 offered through a public or private institution of higher education to
501 count towards the preparation and eligibility requirements for an initial
502 educator certificate, provided such teaching experience is completed as
503 part of a cooperating teacher program, in accordance with the
504 provisions of subsection (d) of section 10-220a.

505 (h) On and after July 1, 2019, any candidate entering a program of
506 teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall be
507 required to complete training in competency areas contained in the
508 professional teaching standards established by the State Board of

509 Education, including, but not limited to, development and
510 characteristics of learners, evidence-based and standards-based
511 instruction, evidence-based classroom and behavior management,
512 assessment and professional behaviors and responsibilities and the
513 awareness and identification of the unique learning style of gifted and
514 talented children, social and emotional development and learning of
515 children, and culturally responsive pedagogy and practice. The training
516 in social and emotional development and learning of children shall
517 include instruction concerning a comprehensive, coordinated social and
518 emotional assessment and early intervention for children displaying
519 behaviors associated with social or emotional problems, the availability
520 of treatment services for such children and referring such children for
521 assessment, intervention or treatment services. The training in culturally
522 responsive pedagogy and practice shall include instruction concerning
523 the awareness of students' background and experience that lead to the
524 development of skills, knowledge and behaviors that enable educators
525 and students to build positive relationships and work effectively in
526 cross-cultural situations.

527 (i) On and after July 1, 2023, any program of teacher preparation
528 leading to professional certification shall require, as part of the
529 curriculum, clinical experience, field experience or student teaching
530 experience in a classroom during four semesters of such program of
531 teacher preparation. Such clinical experience, field experience or student
532 teaching experience may include a cooperating teacher serving as a
533 mentor to student teachers.

534 (j) On and after July 1, 2012, any program of teacher preparation
535 leading to professional certification shall include, as part of the
536 curriculum, instruction in the implementation of student individualized
537 education programs as it relates to the provision of special education
538 and related services, including, but not limited to, the provision of
539 services to gifted and talented children.

540 (k) On and after July 1, 2025, any program of teacher preparation
541 leading to professional certification in the endorsement area of

542 elementary education shall also be aligned with any professional
543 standards and competencies for early childhood educators developed
544 by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

545 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) On and after July 1, 2024, any
546 person who holds an initial educator certificate, a provisional educator
547 certificate or a professional educator certificate, and whose endorsement
548 has been revised pursuant to section 10-145d of the general statutes, as
549 amended by this act, shall not be required to submit an application for
550 the issuance of any such revised endorsement and shall be allowed to
551 provide instruction in any course in which the subject matter content of
552 such course corresponds with such revised endorsement. On and after
553 July 1, 2026, the State Board of Education shall assign such revised
554 endorsement upon the issuance or reissuance of any professional
555 educator certificate.

556 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 10-145f of the general statutes is
557 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
558 *2024*):

559 (b) (1) Any person who does not hold a valid certificate pursuant to
560 section 10-145b, as amended by this act, shall achieve a satisfactory
561 evaluation on the appropriate State Board of Education approved
562 subject area assessment in order to be eligible for a certificate pursuant
563 to said section unless such assessment has not been approved by the
564 State Board of Education at the time of application, in which case the
565 applicant shall not be denied a certificate solely because of the lack of an
566 evaluation on such assessment.

567 (2) Any person applying for an additional certification endorsement
568 shall achieve a satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate State Board of
569 Education approved subject area assessment in order to be eligible for
570 such additional endorsement, unless such assessment has not been
571 approved by the State Board of Education at the time of application, in
572 which case the applicant shall not be denied the additional endorsement
573 solely because of the lack of an evaluation on such assessment.

574 (3) On and after July 1, 1992, any teacher who held a valid teaching
575 certificate but whose certificate lapsed and who had completed all
576 requirements for the issuance of a new certificate pursuant to section 10-
577 145b, as amended by this act, except for filing an application for such
578 certificate, prior to the date on which the lapse occurred, may file, within
579 one year of the date on which the lapse occurred, an application with
580 the Commissioner of Education for the issuance of such certificate.
581 Upon the filing of such an application, the commissioner may grant such
582 certificate and such certificate shall be retroactive to the date on which
583 the lapse occurred, provided the commissioner finds that the lapse of
584 the certificate occurred as a result of a hardship or extenuating
585 circumstances beyond the control of the applicant. If such teacher has
586 attained tenure and is reemployed by the same board of education in
587 any equivalent unfilled position for which the person is qualified as a
588 result of the issuance of a certificate pursuant to this subdivision, the
589 lapse period shall not constitute a break in employment for such person
590 reemployed and shall be used for the purpose of calculating continuous
591 employment pursuant to section 10-151. If such teacher has not attained
592 tenure, the time unemployed due to the lapse of a certificate shall not be
593 counted toward tenure, except that if such teacher is reemployed by the
594 same board of education as a result of the issuance of a certificate
595 pursuant to this subdivision, such teacher may count the previous
596 continuous employment immediately prior to the lapse towards tenure.
597 Using information provided by the Teachers' Retirement Board, the
598 Department of Education shall annually notify each local or regional
599 board of education of the name of each teacher employed by such board
600 of education whose provisional certificate will expire during the period
601 of twelve months following such notice. Upon receipt of such notice the
602 superintendent of each local and regional board of education shall
603 notify each such teacher in writing, at such teacher's last-known
604 address, that the teacher's provisional certificate will expire.

605 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection to the contrary,
606 to be eligible for a certificate to teach subjects for which a bachelor's
607 degree is not required, any applicant who is otherwise eligible for

608 certification in such endorsement areas shall be entitled to a certificate
609 without having met the requirements of the competency examination
610 and subject area assessment pursuant to this subsection for a period not
611 to exceed two years, except that for a certificate to teach skilled trades
612 or trade-related or occupational subjects, the commissioner may waive
613 the requirement that the applicant take the competency examination.
614 The commissioner may, upon the showing of good cause, extend the
615 certificate.

616 (5) On and after July 1, 2011, any person applying for a certification
617 in the endorsement area of elementary education shall achieve a
618 satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate State Board of Education
619 approved mathematics assessment in order to be eligible for such
620 elementary education endorsement.

621 (6) On and after July 1, 2018, any person who holds an initial,
622 provisional or professional educator certificate and achieves a
623 satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate State Board of Education
624 approved subject area assessment shall be issued a cross endorsement
625 in the relevant certification endorsement area corresponding to a
626 teacher shortage area, as determined by the Commissioner of Education
627 pursuant to section 10-8b.

628 (7) On and after July 1, 2024, any person who holds an initial educator
629 certificate, a provisional educator certificate or a professional educator
630 certificate and achieves a satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate
631 State Board of Education approved subject area assessment shall be
632 issued a cross endorsement in the relevant certification endorsement
633 area. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to the
634 endorsement areas of special education, teaching English to speakers of
635 other languages, bilingual, remedial reading and remedial language arts
636 or school library media specialist.

637 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The State Board of Education
638 shall issue, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-145b of the
639 general statutes, as amended by this act, an initial educator certificate to

640 any person who successfully satisfies one of the following pathways to
641 professional certification:

642 (1) Successful completion of an educator preparation program
643 approved by the State Board of Education.

644 (2) Successful completion of an alternate route to certification
645 program pursuant to section 10-145p, 10-145t, as amended by this act,
646 10-145w, as amended by this act, or 10-155d of the general statutes.

647 (3) Is an educator from another state and meets the requirements set
648 forth in subsections (c) and (f) of section 10-145f, section 10-146c or
649 section 10-146i of the general statutes.

650 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
651 the State Board of Education may waive any of the requirements of this
652 section and issue an initial educator certificate to any person who
653 presents a combination of education and experience that the state board
654 determines is the equivalent of the education and experience required
655 under this section.

656 Sec. 7. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-145t of the general statutes
657 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
658 *1, 2024*):

659 (a) For purposes of this section, "school support staff" means any
660 person employed by a local or regional board of education as a behavior
661 analyst or an assistant behavior analyst, as such terms are defined in
662 section 20-185i, an athletic coach, as defined in section 10-149d, or a
663 [school paraprofessional] paraeducator.

664 (b) (1) The Department of Education shall review and approve
665 proposals for alternate route to certification programs for persons
666 employed as school support staff. In order to be approved, a proposal
667 shall provide that the alternate route to certification program [(1)] (A)
668 be provided by a public or independent institution of higher education,
669 a local or regional board of education, a regional educational service

670 center or a private, nonprofit teacher or administrator training
671 organization approved by the State Board of Education; [(2)] (B) accept
672 only those participants who [(A)] hold a bachelor's degree from an
673 institution of higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for
674 Higher Education or the Office of Higher Education or regionally
675 accredited, (B)] (i) have been employed as school support staff by a local
676 or regional board of education for at least forty school months, and [(C)]
677 (ii) are recommended by the immediate supervisor or district
678 administrator of such person on the basis of such person's performance;
679 [(3)] (C) require each participant to complete a one-year residency that
680 requires such person to serve [(A)] (i) in a position requiring
681 professional certification, and [(B)] (ii) in a full-time position for ten
682 school months at a local or regional board of education in the state under
683 the supervision of [(i)] (I) a certified administrator or teacher, and [(ii)]
684 (II) a supervisor from an institution or organization described in
685 [subdivision (1) of this subsection] subparagraph (A) of this subdivision;
686 and [(4)] (D) meet such other criteria as the department requires.

687 (2) The department may approve any program that (A) accepts
688 participants who hold a bachelor's degree from an institution of higher
689 education accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or
690 the Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited, or (B) partners
691 with an institution of higher education that is regionally accredited, or
692 has received an equivalent accreditation, to provide a dual degree-plus-
693 certification program for participants who hold an associate degree. The
694 department shall give priority to those programs that provide
695 participants flexibility in remaining in their positions as a school
696 support staff while pursuing an initial educator certificate, other than
697 the period when such participants are completing the one-year
698 residency requirement described in subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1)
699 of this subsection.

700 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 10-145w of the general statutes is
701 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
702 *2024*):

703 (a) As used in this section, "person from an alternate profession"
704 means a person who (1) holds at least a bachelor's degree from an
705 institution of higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for
706 Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or that is regionally
707 accredited, and (A) is a paraeducator, (B) is a veteran, as defined in
708 section 27-103, (C) holds a charter school educator permit, issued by the
709 State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-145q, [or] (D) is
710 employed or was previously employed as a professor at an accredited
711 institution of higher education, as defined in section 10a-34, or (E) has
712 completed at least five years of work experience requiring consistent
713 exercise of discretion and independent judgment in the field related to
714 the relevant endorsement area, or (2) holds a master's degree from a
715 social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work
716 Education or, for any person educated outside the United States or its
717 territories, an educational program deemed equivalent by the council.

718 Sec. 9. Subsection (e) of section 10-144d of the 2024 supplement to the
719 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
720 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

721 (e) The council shall (1) advise the [State Board of Education, the
722 Governor] Commissioner of Education and the joint standing
723 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
724 relating to education concerning [teacher preparation,] teacher
725 recruitment, teacher retention, [teacher certification,] teacher
726 professional development, teacher assessment and evaluation, [and]
727 teacher professional discipline, [; (2) review and comment upon all
728 regulations and other standards concerning the approval of teacher
729 preparation programs and teacher certification] the equitable
730 distribution of teachers, diversity of the teaching workforce, special
731 education, testing and assessment of students, school safety and social-
732 emotional learning; (2) share perspectives on the impact of proposed
733 policies and initiatives on classroom practice with the commissioner and
734 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
735 cognizance of matters relating to education; (3) provide suggestions and
736 feedback on guidance to be sent to school districts related to the

737 implementation of such policies and initiatives with the commissioner;
738 and [(3)] (4) report to the [State Board of Education, the Governor]
739 commissioner and the joint standing committee of the General
740 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education not later
741 than January 15, 1991, and annually thereafter, on its activities and
742 recommendations, if any, concerning the condition of the teaching
743 profession.

744 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) There is established the
745 Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board. The board
746 shall be responsible for modernizing and aligning educator preparation
747 and certification to ensure that policies are optimized to attract and
748 retain effective and diverse professionals for employment in the state's
749 public schools.

750 (b) The board shall develop standards and proposals for regulations
751 or legislation relating to educator preparation and certification. Such
752 standards and proposals shall reflect the teaching profession and
753 respond to emerging understandings of effective, evidence-based
754 practices and address the following objectives: (1) Building streamlined,
755 flexible pathways in the educator profession that are grounded in a
756 commitment to educator effectiveness, (2) enabling educators to
757 broaden their scope of practice to meet more students' needs, (3)
758 ensuring educator preparation programs are accountable for both the
759 quality training experiences and outcomes for candidates, (4) creating a
760 system to help educators continuously improve their practice that
761 supports and rewards educators who demonstrate mastery, (5)
762 supporting improved data transparency regarding the state's
763 distribution of educators and educator vacancies and accountability for
764 remedying observed inequities, and (6) treating educators as
765 professionals and lifelong learners who need access to high-quality
766 professional learning and mentorships throughout their careers.

767 (c) The board shall consist of the following members:

768 (1) Four public school classroom teachers who are classroom teachers

769 at the time of their appointment and throughout their term on the board,
770 as follows:

771 (A) Two appointed by the Connecticut Education Association, one of
772 whom is an elementary classroom teacher, one of whom is a teacher for
773 students in grades kindergarten to grade six, inclusive, and one of
774 whom is a high school teacher;

775 (B) One appointed by the American Federation of Teachers-
776 Connecticut, one of whom is a special education teacher; and

777 (C) One appointed by the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council.

778 (2) Three representatives from an educator preparation program
779 approved by the State Board of Education, as follows:

780 (A) One appointed by the American Association of Colleges for
781 Teacher Education Connecticut Chapter who is a representative from an
782 educator preparation program offered by a public institution of higher
783 education;

784 (B) One appointed by the Connecticut Conference of Independent
785 Colleges; and

786 (C) One appointed by the Commissioner of Education, who is a
787 representative of an alternate route to certification program.

788 (3) Three administrators who are employed by a local or regional
789 board of education, as follows:

790 (A) One appointed by the Connecticut Association of Public School
791 Superintendents who is a superintendent of schools for an urban school
792 district;

793 (B) One appointed by the Connecticut Association of Schools who
794 represents a rural school district; and

795 (C) One appointed by the Connecticut Federation of School
796 Administrators who represents a suburban school district.

797 (4) One appointed by the Connecticut Association of Boards of
798 Education.

799 (5) One appointed by the Connecticut Business and Industry
800 Association who is a representative from the education and workforce
801 affiliate of the association.

802 (6) A representative from the Increasing Educator Diversity Policy
803 Oversight Council, established pursuant to section 10-156bb of the
804 general statutes, designated by the council.

805 (7) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

806 (8) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's
807 designee.

808 (9) The superintendent of the Technical Education and Career
809 System, or the superintendent's designee.

810 (d) All initial appointments to the board shall be made not later than
811 August 1, 2024. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority
812 not later than ten days following such vacancy. Members shall serve
813 three-year terms.

814 (e) The chairperson and vice chairperson of the board shall be elected
815 from among the voting members of the board. The board shall establish
816 bylaws for the operation and management of the board. An employee
817 of the Department of Education shall be designated by the
818 Commissioner of Education to serve as the administrator of the board.

819 (f) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the board
820 shall develop an annual report that includes a detailed summary of the
821 substance and disposition of any standards and proposals for
822 regulations or legislation developed by the board or the State Board of
823 Education pursuant to section 11 of this act. The board shall submit such
824 annual report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
825 having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with
826 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

827 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The Connecticut Educator
828 Preparation and Certification Board and the State Board of Education
829 shall each have the authority to develop standards and proposals for
830 regulations and legislation relating to educator preparation and
831 certification.

832 (b) (1) Any such standard or proposal developed by the Connecticut
833 Educator Preparation and Certification Board shall be submitted to the
834 State Board of Education for review. The State Board of Education shall
835 approve or reject any such standard or proposal not later than sixty days
836 after receipt of such standard or proposal. If such standard or proposal
837 is approved, such standard or proposal shall be implemented.

838 (2) Any such standard or proposal developed by the State Board of
839 Education shall be submitted to the Connecticut Educator Preparation
840 and Certification Board for review. The Connecticut Educator
841 Preparation and Certification Board shall approve or reject any such
842 standard or proposal not later than sixty days after receipt of such
843 standard or proposal. If such standard or proposal is approved, such
844 standard or proposal shall be implemented.

845 (3) If such approved proposal is for regulations, the State Board of
846 Education shall adopt regulations consistent with such approved
847 proposal in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general
848 statutes.

849 (4) If such approved proposal is for legislation, such approved
850 proposal shall be submitted to the joint standing committee of the
851 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
852 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

853 Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2025,
854 the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board,
855 established pursuant to section 10 of this act, shall develop standards
856 and proposals for regulations and legislation regarding (1) the
857 evaluation criteria that will be used to assess proposals from local or
858 regional boards of education, regional educational service centers and

859 educator preparation programs for alternative pathways for educators
860 to progress from an initial educator certificate to a professional educator
861 certificate or to be issued a cross endorsement that will enable such
862 educators to teach in content areas or grades beyond their initial
863 certification areas, (2) the manner in which degrees from educator
864 preparation programs approved by the State Board of Education will
865 align with the revised endorsement codes under section 10-145d of the
866 general statutes, as amended by this act, (3) the adequacy and relevance
867 of existing certification endorsement areas, (4) the implementation of the
868 standards for educator preparation programs developed by the Council
869 for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, (5) the necessity of the
870 temporary ninety-day certificate issued under section 10-145b of the
871 general statutes, as amended by this act, and (6) the design and
872 development of a state-wide data dashboard that enables longitudinal
873 monitoring of educator workforce data.

874 (b) Not later than July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the board shall
875 (1) collect and review (A) state-specific data, including, but not limited
876 to, qualitative data on stakeholders' experiences and quantitative data
877 from the Department of Education on educator vacancies, shortage
878 areas and the educator preparation program dashboard, and (B) data on
879 applicable national policy developments relating to educator
880 preparation, certification and employment, (2) evaluate whether any
881 changes are needed to the current educator preparation and certification
882 frameworks, and (3) develop, as necessary, evidence-based standards
883 and proposals for regulations and legislation to strengthen existing
884 systems.

885 Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The Connecticut Educator
886 Preparation and Certification Board, established pursuant to section 10
887 of this act, shall (1) conduct a review of the existing regulations and
888 statutes relating to educator preparation and certification to identify
889 obsolete or conflicting provisions of such regulations and statutes, (2)
890 review the state's approach to assessing whether candidates for
891 certification have demonstrated minimum content knowledge within
892 their endorsement areas for purposes of section 10-145f of the general

893 statutes, as amended by this act, and (3) develop recommendations as
894 to whether alternative approaches should be offered to allow candidates
895 to demonstrate such minimum content knowledge. Not later than
896 January 31, 2025, the board shall submit a report on its findings, as well
897 as any recommendations for legislation, to the State Board of Education
898 and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
899 cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the
900 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

901 (b) The Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board,
902 established pursuant to section 10 of this act, shall (1) undertake a
903 comprehensive review of the certification endorsement areas for the
904 purpose of (A) developing standards regarding the adequacy and
905 relevance of such endorsement areas, and (B) considering whether the
906 grade ranges for the endorsement areas should be expanded, (2) explore
907 alternative pathways for educators to receive cross endorsements, and
908 (3) consider whether to transfer authority over candidate admission
909 criteria for alternate route to certification programs to the program
910 providers. Not later than July 1, 2025, the board shall submit a report on
911 its findings, as well as any recommendations for legislation, to the State
912 Board of Education and the joint standing committee of the General
913 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in
914 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

915 Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Not later than July 1, 2026, the
916 Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board, established
917 pursuant to section 10 of this act, shall develop standards regarding the
918 criteria to be used when reviewing educator preparation programs and
919 alternate route to certification programs for new or continuing program
920 approval. Such standards shall include a requirement that (1) any
921 educator preparation program or alternate route to certification
922 program shall obtain continuing program approval every seven years,
923 and (2) the methodology for determinations regarding continuing
924 program approval shall be based on final accreditation decisions of the
925 Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and be classified
926 in the following categories: Approval, provisional, probationary or

927 denial of approval.

928 Sec. 15. Section 10-145aa of the 2024 supplement to the general
929 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
930 (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

931 [On and after July 1, 2022, the preservice performance assessment,
932 edTPA, as adopted by the State Board of Education on December 7,
933 2016, shall be used exclusively as an accountability tool for teacher
934 preparation programs, as defined in section 10-10a, offered at
935 institutions of higher education in the state. The results of such
936 preservice performance assessment shall not be used by the State Board
937 of Education to deny an application for the issuance of an initial
938 educator certificate under section 10-145b.]

939 (a) On and after July 1, 2024, the State Board of Education shall not
940 (1) use the results of the preservice performance assessment, edTPA, as
941 adopted by the State Board of Education on December 7, 2016, to deny
942 an application for the issuance of an initial educator certificate under
943 section 10-145b, as amended by this act, and (2) require a teacher
944 preparation program, as defined in section 10-10a, offered at an
945 institution of higher education in the state to use edTPA as a (A)
946 preservice performance assessment for such teacher preparation
947 program, and (B) program completion requirement.

948 (b) On and after July 1, 2024, no institution of higher education in the
949 state that offers a teacher preparation program shall use the results of
950 edTPA to deny a candidate successful completion of such teacher
951 preparation program. Nothing in this subsection shall prevent an
952 institution of higher education from using such results as a diagnostic
953 tool for the purpose of providing any necessary remedial instruction to
954 a candidate while such candidate is enrolled in such teacher preparation
955 program.

956 Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section,
957 "occupational subject" includes, but is not limited to, automobile
958 servicing, carpentry, plumbing, culinary arts, electronics, cosmetology

959 and public safety.

960 (b) The State Board of Education may issue an initial educator
961 certificate for occupational subjects in technical education and career
962 schools to an applicant who has (1) obtained a high school diploma or
963 its equivalent, (2) completed five years of experience in the field for
964 which the certificate is sought, which may include not more than two
965 years of apprenticeship or specialized schooling, (3) completed a
966 minimum of six semester hours of credit teaching vocational and
967 industrial education, and (4) completed a course of study in special
968 education comprised of not fewer than three semester hours, which
969 shall include study in understanding the growth and development of
970 exceptional children, including children with a disability, gifted and
971 talented children and children who may require special education, and
972 methods for identifying, planning for and working effectively with
973 special needs children in the regular classroom. An initial educator
974 certificate for occupational subjects in technical education and career
975 schools shall authorize the holder to teach an occupational subject in the
976 Technical Education and Career System.

977 (c) An applicant who is otherwise eligible for an initial educator
978 certificate for occupational subjects in technical education and career
979 schools, but is deficient in meeting the course requirements to the extent
980 of not more than six semester hours of credit, as described in subdivision
981 (3) of subsection (b) of this section, and a course of study in special
982 education, as described in subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of this
983 section, may be issued an interim educator certificate, valid for one year,
984 which may be reissued for a second year by the Commissioner of
985 Education. If the holder of such interim educator certificate fails to meet
986 such course requirements at the expiration of such interim educator
987 certificate, the commissioner shall prevent the holder from serving in
988 the employ of a board of education in a position covered by the initial
989 educator certificate for occupational subjects in technical education and
990 career schools, except that the course work in which the applicant is
991 deficient may be deferred for one additional year for good cause shown.

992 Sec. 17. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section, "trade
993 and industrial occupations" includes, but is not limited to, food service,
994 automotive servicing, machine tool and operation, building
995 maintenance and repairs, welding, appliance repair and public safety.

996 (b) The State Board of Education may issue an initial educator
997 certificate for trade and industrial occupations in comprehensive high
998 schools to an applicant who has (1) provided a written request from a
999 local or regional board of education, (2) obtained a high school diploma
1000 or its equivalent, (3) completed a minimum of three years of approved
1001 successful work experience appropriate to the field for which such
1002 certificate is sought, which may include not more than two years of
1003 specialized appropriate schooling, (4) completed a minimum of six
1004 semester hours of credit in professional education in areas such as (A)
1005 teaching vocational and industrial education, or (B) foundations of
1006 education, educational psychology, adolescent psychology, psychology
1007 of learning, curriculum and methods of teaching, classroom instruction
1008 and management, multicultural diversity or equity issues in education,
1009 and (5) completed a course of study in special education comprised of
1010 not fewer than three semester hours, which shall include study in
1011 understanding the growth and development of exceptional children,
1012 including children with a disability, gifted and talented children and
1013 children who may require special education, and methods for
1014 identifying, planning for and working effectively with special needs
1015 children in the regular classroom. An initial educator certificate for trade
1016 and industrial occupations in comprehensive high schools shall
1017 authorize the holder to teach in a comprehensive high school trade and
1018 industrial program in grades six to twelve, inclusive, except such initial
1019 educator certificate for trade and industrial occupations in
1020 comprehensive high schools shall not be valid to teach in the Technical
1021 Education and Career System.

1022 (c) An applicant who is otherwise eligible for an initial educator
1023 certificate for trade and industrial occupations in comprehensive high
1024 schools, but is deficient in meeting the course requirements to the extent
1025 of not more than six semester hours of credit, as described in subdivision

1026 (4) of subsection (b) of this section, and a course of study in special
1027 education, as described in subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of this
1028 section, may be issued an interim educator certificate, valid for one year,
1029 which may be reissued for a second year by the Commissioner of
1030 Education. If the holder of such interim educator certificate fails to meet
1031 such course requirements at the expiration of such interim educator
1032 certificate, the commissioner shall prevent the holder from serving in
1033 the employ of a board of education in a position covered by the initial
1034 educator certificate for trade and industrial occupations in
1035 comprehensive high schools, except that the course work in which the
1036 applicant is deficient may be deferred for one additional year for good
1037 cause shown.

1038 Sec. 18. Section 31-51rr of the general statutes is repealed and the
1039 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1040 (a) Each political subdivision of the state shall ~~[grant]~~ provide the
1041 same family and medical leave benefits under the federal Family and
1042 Medical Leave Act, P.L. 103-3, and 29 CFR 825.112 to (1) any employee
1043 of such political subdivision who is [(1)] a party to a marriage in which
1044 the other party is of the same sex as the employee, and who has been
1045 employed for at least twelve months by such employer and for at least
1046 one thousand two hundred fifty hours of service with such employer
1047 during the previous twelve-month period, [the same family and medical
1048 leave benefits under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, P.L. 103-
1049 3, and 29 CFR 825.112.] which benefits shall be the same as are provided
1050 to an employee who is a party to a marriage in which the other party is
1051 of the opposite sex of such employee, [or] (2) on or after the effective
1052 date of regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, a
1053 [school paraprofessional in an educational setting] paraeducator who
1054 has been employed in an educational setting for at least twelve months
1055 by such employer and for at least nine hundred fifty hours of service
1056 with such employer during the previous twelve-month period, [the
1057 same family and medical leave benefits provided under subdivision (1)
1058 of this subsection to an employee who has been employed for at least
1059 twelve months by such employer and for at least one thousand two

1060 hundred fifty hours of service with such employer during the previous
1061 twelve-month period] or (3) on or after October 1, 2024, any person
1062 employed by a local or regional board of education who does not hold
1063 a professional certification under chapter 166 and has been employed
1064 for at least twelve months by such employer and for at least nine
1065 hundred fifty hours of service with such employer during the previous
1066 twelve-month period.

1067 (b) (1) Any employee of a political subdivision of the state who has
1068 worked at least twelve months and one thousand two hundred fifty
1069 hours for such employer during the previous twelve-month period, [or]
1070 (2) on or after the effective date of regulations adopted pursuant to
1071 subsection (f) of this section, a [school paraprofessional in an
1072 educational setting] paraeducator who has been employed in an
1073 educational setting for at least twelve months by such employer and for
1074 at least nine hundred fifty hours of service with such employer during
1075 the previous twelve-month period, or (3) on or after October 1, 2024, any
1076 person employed by a local or regional board of education who does not
1077 hold a professional certification under chapter 166 and has been
1078 employed for at least twelve months by such employer and for at least
1079 nine hundred fifty hours of service with such employer during the
1080 previous twelve-month period may request leave in order to serve as an
1081 organ or bone marrow donor, provided such employee may be
1082 required, prior to the inception of such leave, to provide sufficient
1083 written certification from the physician of such employee, a physician
1084 assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse of the proposed organ
1085 or bone marrow donation and the probable duration of the employee's
1086 recovery from such donation.

1087 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing leave in
1088 addition to the total of twelve workweeks of leave during any twelve-
1089 month period provided under the federal Family and Medical Leave
1090 Act, P.L. 103-3.

1091 (d) The Labor Department shall enforce compliance with the
1092 provisions of this section.

1093 (e) For the purposes of subdivision (2) of subsections (a) and (b) of
1094 this section, no hours of service worked by a [paraprofessional]
1095 paraeducator prior to the effective date of regulations adopted pursuant
1096 to subsection (f) of this section shall be included in the requisite nine
1097 hundred fifty hours of service.

1098 (f) The Labor Commissioner shall adopt regulations for the provision
1099 of family and medical leave benefits to [school paraprofessionals]
1100 paraeducators employed in an educational setting pursuant to this
1101 section.

1102 Sec. 19. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025,
1103 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in consultation
1104 with the Commissioner of Education, shall reclassify one authorized
1105 position at the Department of Education that remains unfilled for the
1106 purpose of hiring an individual to serve as the administrator of the
1107 Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board, established
1108 pursuant to section 10 of this act. The department shall use funds
1109 appropriated to the department's personal services account for the
1110 purpose of filling such position reclassified pursuant to this section.

1111 Sec. 20. Subsection (a) of section 10-66r of the general statutes is
1112 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1113 *2024*):

1114 (a) Each regional educational service center shall develop, in
1115 consultation with the Department of Education, a regional model for the
1116 provision of special education services related to transportation,
1117 training and therapeutic services to be used for the provision of such
1118 special education services to all school districts served by such regional
1119 educational service center. Each regional model shall take into account
1120 the least restrictive environment for students receiving special
1121 education and related services and include (1) a regional transportation
1122 plan, developed in consultation with public transit districts, that
1123 provides transportation to children requiring special education and
1124 related services, (2) a regional educator training plan that provides

1125 special education training to teachers, [school paraprofessionals]
1126 paraeducators and administrators that includes, but need not be limited
1127 to, instruction regarding classroom techniques to improve the provision
1128 of special education and related services to children and the
1129 implementation of scientific research-based interventions, (3) a regional
1130 plan for the provision of therapeutic services, including, but not limited
1131 to, speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy, and (4)
1132 a plan for the provision of transportation, training and therapeutic
1133 services in a manner that makes such services readily available to each
1134 school district served by the regional educational service center rather
1135 than by request of a school district.

1136 Sec. 21. Section 10-74q of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
1137 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1138 *1, 2024*):

1139 (a) Not later than July 1, 2024, the Department of Education, in
1140 consultation with the Departments of Developmental Services and
1141 Aging and Disability Services and the regional educational service
1142 centers, shall develop a training program for transition coordinators,
1143 educators and [school paraprofessionals] paraeducators. Such training
1144 program shall comply with the minimum standards established by the
1145 State-wide Transition Services Coordinator pursuant to section 10-74o.

1146 (b) Each regional educational service center shall provide the training
1147 program developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section at no cost
1148 to transition coordinators, educators and [school paraprofessionals]
1149 paraeducators who provide transition services and any other educators
1150 or school staff interested in becoming a transition coordinator or
1151 providing transition services.

1152 Sec. 22. Subsection (b) of section 10-74r of the 2024 supplement to the
1153 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1154 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1155 (b) Each educator and [school paraprofessional] paraeducator who
1156 provides special education for students fourteen years of age or older

1157 shall complete the training program developed by the Department of
1158 Education pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-74q, as amended by
1159 this act, provided (1) each such educator and [school paraprofessional]
1160 paraeducator hired prior to the date upon which the training program
1161 commences shall complete such training program during the five-year
1162 period immediately following such date, and (2) each such educator and
1163 [school paraprofessional] paraeducator hired after such date shall
1164 complete such training program not later than one year from the date
1165 such educator or [school paraprofessional] paraeducator is hired to
1166 provide such services.

1167 Sec. 23. Subdivision (10) of subsection (a) of section 10-76d of the 2024
1168 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
1169 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1170 (10) (A) Each local and regional board of education responsible for
1171 providing special education and related services to a child or pupil shall
1172 notify the parent or guardian of a child who requires or who may
1173 require special education, a pupil if such pupil is an emancipated minor
1174 or eighteen years of age or older who requires or who may require
1175 special education or a surrogate parent appointed pursuant to section
1176 10-94g, in writing, at least five school days before such board proposes
1177 to, or refuses to, initiate or change the child's or pupil's identification,
1178 evaluation or educational placement or the provision of a free
1179 appropriate public education to the child or pupil.

1180 (B) Upon request by a parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent,
1181 the responsible local or regional board of education shall provide such
1182 parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent an opportunity to meet with
1183 a member of the planning and placement team designated by such
1184 board prior to the referral planning and placement team meeting at
1185 which the assessments and evaluations of the child or pupil who
1186 requires or may require special education is presented to such parent,
1187 guardian, pupil or surrogate parent for the first time. Such meeting shall
1188 be for the sole purpose of discussing the planning and placement team
1189 process and any concerns such parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate

1190 parent has regarding the child or pupil who requires or may require
1191 special education.

1192 (C) Such parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent shall (i) be given
1193 at least five school days' prior notice of any planning and placement
1194 team meeting conducted for such child or pupil, (ii) have the right to be
1195 present at and participate in all portions of such meeting at which an
1196 educational program for such child or pupil is developed, reviewed or
1197 revised, (iii) have the right to have (I) advisors of such person's own
1198 choosing and at such person's own expense, (II) the [school
1199 paraprofessional] paraeducator assigned to such child or pupil, if any,
1200 (III) such child or pupil's birth-to-three service coordinator, if any, and
1201 (IV) a language interpreter, including a registered interpreter for
1202 persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind, who is present in
1203 person or available by telephone or through an online technology
1204 platform, or through an Internet web site or other electronic application
1205 approved by the State Board of Education, provided by the responsible
1206 local or regional board of education if there is an apparent need or upon
1207 the request of such parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent, who
1208 shall attend and participate or be available in all portions of such
1209 meeting at which an educational program for such child or pupil is
1210 developed, reviewed or revised, and (iv) have the right to have each
1211 recommendation made in such child or pupil's birth-to-three
1212 individualized transition plan, as required by section 17a-248e, if any,
1213 addressed by the planning and placement team during such meeting at
1214 which an educational program for such child or pupil is developed. The
1215 notice given pursuant to clause (i) of this subparagraph shall include,
1216 but need not be limited to, specification of the rights enumerated in this
1217 subparagraph.

1218 (D) Immediately upon the formal identification of any child as a child
1219 requiring special education and at each planning and placement team
1220 meeting for such child, the responsible local or regional board of
1221 education shall inform the parent or guardian of such child or surrogate
1222 parent or, in the case of a pupil who is an emancipated minor or eighteen
1223 years of age or older, the pupil of (i) the laws relating to special

1224 education, (ii) the rights of such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or
1225 pupil under such laws and the regulations adopted by the State Board
1226 of Education relating to special education, including the right of a
1227 parent, guardian or surrogate parent to (I) withhold from enrolling such
1228 child in kindergarten, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-
1229 184, (II) have advisors and the [school paraprofessional] paraeducator
1230 assigned to such child or pupil attend and participate in all portions of
1231 such meeting at which an educational program for such child or pupil
1232 is developed, reviewed or revised, in accordance with the provisions of
1233 subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, (III) obtain the plain language
1234 resources available on the Department of Education's Internet web site
1235 pursuant to subsection (g) of section 10-76h explaining the hearing and
1236 appeals process, as provided in section 10-76h, available to such child or
1237 pupil if there is a disagreement about the individualized education
1238 program, identification, evaluation or educational placement of or the
1239 provision of a free appropriate public education to such child or pupil,
1240 and (IV) receive information regarding free and low-cost legal
1241 assistance, and (iii) any relevant information and resources relating to
1242 individualized education programs created by the Department of
1243 Education, including, but not limited to, information relating to
1244 transition resources and services for high school students and the
1245 Parent's Guide to Special Education in Connecticut developed by the
1246 department. If such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil does not
1247 attend a planning and placement team meeting, the responsible local or
1248 regional board of education shall mail such information to such person.
1249 Each responsible local or regional board of education shall provide a
1250 child or pupil's individualized education program, any documents
1251 relating to such program and all the information required pursuant to
1252 this subparagraph translated into the primary language spoken by such
1253 parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil if there is an apparent need
1254 or upon the request of the parent guardian, surrogate parent or pupil.

1255 (E) Each local and regional board of education shall have in effect at
1256 the beginning of each school year an educational program for each child
1257 or pupil who has been identified as eligible for special education, and

1258 shall provide (i) the informational handout described in section 10-74v
1259 to each child with an individualized education program or plan
1260 pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and (ii) the
1261 Parent's Guide to Special Education in Connecticut developed by the
1262 Department of Education and the rights and resources available to such
1263 child in the provision of special education and related services.

1264 (F) (i) At each initial planning and placement team meeting for a child
1265 or pupil, the responsible local or regional board of education shall
1266 inform the parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil of the laws
1267 relating to physical restraint and seclusion pursuant to section 10-236b₂
1268 as amended by this act, and the rights of such parent, guardian,
1269 surrogate parent or pupil under such laws and the regulations adopted
1270 by the State Board of Education relating to physical restraint and
1271 seclusion and the right of such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or
1272 pupil, during such meeting at which an educational program for such
1273 child or pupil is developed, to have (I) such child or pupil's birth-to-
1274 three service coordinator attend and participate in all portions of such
1275 meeting, and (II) each recommendation made in the transition plan, as
1276 required by section 17a-248e, by such child or pupil's birth-to-three
1277 service coordinator addressed by the planning and placement team.

1278 (ii) At the first planning and placement team meeting after a child
1279 who requires special education and related services reaches the age of
1280 fourteen, each responsible local or regional board of education shall
1281 provide information to the child and the parent, guardian or surrogate
1282 parent about the full range of decision-making supports, including
1283 alternatives to guardianship and conservatorship, and the online
1284 resource developed by the Department of Education pursuant to section
1285 10-74s. The responsible local or regional board of education shall
1286 continue to provide such information to the child and the parent,
1287 guardian or surrogate parent at least annually thereafter.

1288 (iii) Each responsible local or regional board of education shall
1289 provide the notice created by the Mediation Services Coordinator
1290 pursuant to subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section 10-76z to each

1291 parent, guardian or surrogate parent of any child who requires special
1292 education by (I) distributing such notice to such parents, guardians or
1293 surrogate parents at the beginning of each school year, and (II) reading
1294 such notice out loud at the conclusion of the first planning and
1295 placement team meeting at the beginning of each school year.

1296 (G) Upon request by a parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent,
1297 the responsible local or regional board of education shall provide the
1298 results of the assessments and evaluations used in the determination of
1299 eligibility for special education for a child or pupil to such parent,
1300 guardian, surrogate parent or pupil at least three school days before the
1301 referral planning and placement team meeting at which such results of
1302 the assessments and evaluations will be discussed for the first time.

1303 (H) Each local or regional board of education shall monitor the
1304 development of each child who, pursuant to subsection (a) of section
1305 17a-248e, has been (i) referred for a registration on a mobile application
1306 designated by the Commissioner of Early Childhood, in partnership
1307 with such child's parent, guardian or surrogate parent, or (ii) provided
1308 a form for such child's parent, guardian or surrogate parent to complete
1309 and submit to such local or regional board of education that screens for
1310 developmental and social-emotional delays using a validated screening
1311 tool, such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire and the Ages and Stages
1312 Social-Emotional Questionnaire, or its equivalent. If such monitoring
1313 results in suspecting a child of having a developmental delay, the board
1314 shall schedule a planning and placement team meeting with such child's
1315 parent, guardian or surrogate parent for the purposes of identifying
1316 services for which such child may be eligible, including, but not limited
1317 to, a preschool program under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities
1318 Act, 20 USC 1471 et seq. If a parent, guardian or surrogate parent of any
1319 child referred for a registration on the mobile application or provided a
1320 form to complete and submit, pursuant to subsection (a) of section 17a-
1321 248e, fails to complete such registration or complete and submit such
1322 form after a period of six months from the date of such referral or
1323 provision of such form, the board shall send a reminder, in the form and
1324 manner determined by the board, to such parent, guardian or surrogate

1325 parent to complete such registration or complete and submit such form.
1326 The board shall send another reminder after a period of one year from
1327 such referral or provision of such form if such registration remains
1328 incomplete or such form is not submitted.

1329 (I) Prior to any planning and placement team meeting for a child or
1330 pupil in which an educational program for such child or pupil is
1331 developed, reviewed or revised, if the parent, guardian, pupil or
1332 surrogate parent has requested that the [school paraprofessional]
1333 paraeducator assigned to such child or pupil attend such meeting, then
1334 the responsible local or regional board of education shall provide (i)
1335 adequate notice of such meeting to such [school paraprofessional]
1336 paraeducator so that such [school paraprofessional] paraeducator may
1337 adequately prepare for such meeting, and (ii) training, upon request of
1338 such [school paraprofessional] paraeducator, on the role of such [school
1339 paraprofessional] paraeducator at such meeting. Following such
1340 meeting, such [school paraprofessional] paraeducator, or any other
1341 paraprofessional who is providing special education or related services
1342 to such child, shall review such educational program with a supervisor,
1343 as needed, and be permitted to view such educational program in order
1344 to be able to provide special education or related services to such child
1345 or pupil in accordance with such educational program.

1346 Sec. 24. Section 10-155j of the general statutes is repealed and the
1347 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1348 The Department of Education shall, within available appropriations,
1349 promote and encourage professional development activities for [school
1350 paraprofessionals] paraeducators with instructional responsibilities.
1351 Such activities may include, but shall not be limited to, providing local
1352 and regional boards of education with training modules and curricula
1353 for professional development for [paraprofessionals] paraeducators and
1354 assisting boards of education in the effective use of [paraprofessionals]
1355 paraeducators and the development of strategies to improve
1356 communications between teachers and [paraprofessionals]
1357 paraeducators in the provision of effective student instruction.

1358 Sec. 25. Section 10-155k of the general statutes is repealed and the
1359 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1360 On and after July 1, 2013, the Commissioner of Education shall
1361 establish a School Paraprofessional Advisory Council, which on and
1362 after July 1, 2021, shall be known as the School Paraeducator Advisory
1363 Council, consisting of (1) one [school paraprofessional] paraeducator
1364 from each state-wide bargaining representative organization that
1365 represents [school paraprofessionals] paraeducators with instructional
1366 responsibilities, (2) one representative from each of the exclusive
1367 bargaining units for certified employees, chosen pursuant to section 10-
1368 153b, (3) the most recent recipient of the Connecticut [Paraprofessional]
1369 Paraeducator of the Year Award, (4) two representatives from the
1370 regional educational service centers, appointed by the Commissioner of
1371 Education, and (5) a school administrator, appointed by the Connecticut
1372 Federation of School Administrators. The council shall hold quarterly
1373 meetings and advise, at least quarterly, the Commissioner of Education,
1374 or the commissioner's designee, of the needs for (A) professional
1375 development and the training of [paraprofessionals] paraeducators and
1376 the effectiveness of the content and the delivery of existing training for
1377 such [paraprofessionals] paraeducators, (B) appropriate staffing
1378 strategies for [paraprofessionals, and (C)] paraeducators, and (C)
1379 consideration of other relevant issues relating to [paraprofessionals]
1380 paraeducators. The council shall report, annually, in accordance with
1381 the provisions of section 11-4a, on the recommendations given to the
1382 commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, pursuant to the
1383 provisions of this section, to the joint standing committee of the General
1384 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education.

1385 Sec. 26. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-156gg of the
1386 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
1387 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1388 (2) "Minority candidate" means an individual who is a minority and
1389 employed by a local or regional board of education as a [school
1390 paraprofessional] paraeducator or an associate instructor;

1391 Sec. 27. Section 10-212a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1392 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1393 (a) (1) A school nurse or, in the absence of such nurse, any other nurse
1394 licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 378, including a nurse
1395 employed by, or providing services under the direction of a local or
1396 regional board of education at, a school-based health clinic, who shall
1397 administer medical preparations only to students enrolled in such
1398 school-based health clinic in the absence of a school nurse, the principal,
1399 any teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational
1400 therapist employed by a school district, or coach of intramural and
1401 interscholastic athletics of a school may administer, subject to the
1402 provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection, medicinal preparations,
1403 including such controlled drugs as the Commissioner of Consumer
1404 Protection may, by regulation, designate, to any student at such school
1405 pursuant to the written order of a physician licensed to practice
1406 medicine, or a dentist licensed to practice dental medicine in this or
1407 another state, or an optometrist licensed to practice optometry in this
1408 state under chapter 380, or an advanced practice registered nurse
1409 licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a, or a physician
1410 assistant licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-12d, and the
1411 written authorization of a parent or guardian of such child. The
1412 administration of medicinal preparations by a nurse licensed pursuant
1413 to the provisions of chapter 378, a principal, teacher, licensed athletic
1414 trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a
1415 school district, or coach shall be under the general supervision of a
1416 school nurse. No such school nurse or other nurse, principal, teacher,
1417 licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist
1418 employed by a school district, coach or [school paraprofessional]
1419 paraeducator administering medication pursuant to this section shall be
1420 liable to such student or a parent or guardian of such student for civil
1421 damages for any personal injuries that result from acts or omissions of
1422 such school nurse or other nurse, principal, teacher, licensed athletic
1423 trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a
1424 school district, coach or [school paraprofessional] paraeducator

1425 administering medication pursuant to this section in administering such
1426 preparations that may constitute ordinary negligence. This immunity
1427 does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton
1428 negligence.

1429 (2) Each local and regional board of education that allows a school
1430 nurse or, in the absence of such nurse, any other nurse licensed pursuant
1431 to the provisions of chapter 378, including a nurse employed by, or
1432 providing services under the direction of a local or regional board of
1433 education at, a school-based health clinic, who shall administer medical
1434 preparations only to students enrolled in such school-based health clinic
1435 in the absence of a school nurse, the principal, any teacher, licensed
1436 athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by
1437 a school district, coach of intramural and interscholastic athletics or
1438 [school paraprofessional] paraeducator of a school to administer
1439 medicine or that allows a student to possess, self-administer or possess
1440 and self-administer medicine, including medicine administered
1441 through the use of an asthmatic inhaler or an automatic prefilled
1442 cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment, shall adopt
1443 written policies and procedures, in accordance with this section and the
1444 regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, that shall
1445 be approved by the school medical advisor, if any, or other qualified
1446 licensed physician. Once so approved, such administration of
1447 medication shall be in accordance with such policies and procedures.

1448 (3) A director of a school readiness program as defined in section 10-
1449 16p or a before or after school program exempt from licensure by the
1450 Department of Public Health pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection
1451 (b) of section 19a-77, or the director's designee, may administer
1452 medications to a child enrolled in such a program in accordance with
1453 regulations adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with
1454 the provisions of chapter 54. No individual administering medications
1455 pursuant to this subdivision shall be liable to such child or a parent or
1456 guardian of such child for civil damages for any personal injuries that
1457 result from acts or omissions of such individual in administering such
1458 medications which may constitute ordinary negligence. This immunity

1459 shall not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton
1460 negligence.

1461 (b) Each school wherein any controlled drug is administered under
1462 the provisions of this section shall keep such records thereof as are
1463 required of hospitals under the provisions of subsections (f) and (h) of
1464 section 21a-254 and shall store such drug in such manner as the
1465 Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall, by regulation, require.

1466 (c) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
1467 Commissioner of Public Health, shall adopt regulations, in accordance
1468 with the provisions of chapter 54, determined to be necessary by the
1469 board to carry out the provisions of this section, including, but not
1470 limited to, regulations that (1) specify conditions under which a coach
1471 of intramural and interscholastic athletics may administer medicinal
1472 preparations, including controlled drugs specified in the regulations
1473 adopted by the commissioner, to a child participating in such intramural
1474 and interscholastic athletics, (2) specify conditions and procedures for
1475 the administration of medication by school personnel to students,
1476 including, but not limited to, (A) the conditions and procedures for the
1477 storage and administration of epinephrine by school personnel to
1478 students for the purpose of emergency first aid to students who
1479 experience allergic reactions and who do not have a prior written
1480 authorization for the administration of epinephrine, in accordance with
1481 the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section, and (B)
1482 the conditions and procedures for the storage and administration of
1483 opioid antagonists by school personnel to students who experience an
1484 opioid-related drug overdose and who do not have a prior written
1485 authorization for the administration of an opioid antagonist, in
1486 accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of
1487 this section, and (3) specify conditions for the possession, self-
1488 administration or possession and self-administration of medication by
1489 students, including permitting a child diagnosed with: (A) Asthma to
1490 retain possession of an asthmatic inhaler at all times while attending
1491 school for prompt treatment of the child's asthma and to protect the
1492 child against serious harm or death provided a written authorization for

1493 self-administration of medication signed by the child's parent or
1494 guardian and an authorized prescriber is submitted to the school nurse;
1495 and (B) an allergic condition to retain possession of an automatic
1496 prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment at
1497 all times, including while attending school or receiving school
1498 transportation services, for prompt treatment of the child's allergic
1499 condition and to protect the child against serious harm or death
1500 provided a written authorization for self-administration of medication
1501 signed by the child's parent or guardian and an authorized prescriber is
1502 submitted to the school nurse. The regulations shall require
1503 authorization pursuant to: (i) The written order of a physician licensed
1504 to practice medicine in this or another state, a dentist licensed to practice
1505 dental medicine in this or another state, an advanced practice registered
1506 nurse licensed under chapter 378, a physician assistant licensed under
1507 chapter 370, a podiatrist licensed under chapter 375, or an optometrist
1508 licensed under chapter 380; and (ii) the written authorization of a parent
1509 or guardian of such child.

1510 (d) (1) (A) With the written authorization of a student's parent or
1511 guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order of a qualified medical
1512 professional, a school nurse and a school medical advisor, if any, may
1513 jointly approve and provide general supervision to an identified [school
1514 paraprofessional] paraeducator to administer medication, including,
1515 but not limited to, medication administered with a cartridge injector, to
1516 a specific student with a medically diagnosed allergic condition that
1517 may require prompt treatment in order to protect the student against
1518 serious harm or death.

1519 (2) A school nurse or, in the absence of a school nurse, a qualified
1520 school employee shall maintain epinephrine in cartridge injectors for the
1521 purpose of emergency first aid to students who experience allergic
1522 reactions and do not have a prior written authorization of a parent or
1523 guardian or a prior written order of a qualified medical professional for
1524 the administration of epinephrine. A school nurse or a school principal
1525 shall select qualified school employees to administer such epinephrine
1526 under this subdivision, and there shall be at least one such qualified

1527 school employee on the grounds of the school during regular school
1528 hours in the absence of a school nurse. A school nurse or, in the absence
1529 of such school nurse, such qualified school employee may administer
1530 such epinephrine under this subdivision, provided such administration
1531 of epinephrine is in accordance with policies and procedures adopted
1532 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such administration of
1533 epinephrine by a qualified school employee shall be limited to situations
1534 when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. No qualified school
1535 employee shall administer such epinephrine under this subdivision
1536 unless such qualified school employee annually completes the training
1537 program described in section 10-212g. The parent or guardian of a
1538 student may submit, in writing, to the school nurse and school medical
1539 advisor, if any, that epinephrine shall not be administered to such
1540 student under this subdivision.

1541 (3) In the case of a student with a medically diagnosed life-
1542 threatening allergic condition, (A) with the written authorization of
1543 such student's parent or guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order
1544 of a qualified medical professional, such student may possess, self-
1545 administer or possess and self-administer medication, including, but
1546 not limited to, medication administered with a cartridge injector, to
1547 protect such student against serious harm or death.

1548 (4) For purposes of this subsection, (A) "cartridge injector" means an
1549 automatic prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable
1550 equipment used to deliver epinephrine in a standard dose for
1551 emergency first aid response to allergic reactions, (B) "qualified school
1552 employee" means a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed
1553 physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach
1554 or [school paraprofessional] paraeducator, and (C) "qualified medical
1555 professional" means (i) a physician licensed under chapter 370, (ii) an
1556 optometrist licensed to practice optometry under chapter 380, (iii) an
1557 advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance
1558 with section 20-94a, or (iv) a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in
1559 accordance with section 20-12d.

1560 (e) (1) With the written authorization of a student's parent or
1561 guardian, and (2) pursuant to a written order of the student's physician
1562 licensed under chapter 370 or the student's advanced practice registered
1563 nurse licensed under chapter 378, a school nurse or a school principal
1564 shall select, and a school nurse shall provide general supervision to, a
1565 qualified school employee to administer medication with injectable
1566 equipment used to administer glucagon to a student with diabetes that
1567 may require prompt treatment in order to protect the student against
1568 serious harm or death. Such authorization shall be limited to situations
1569 when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. No qualified school
1570 employee shall administer medication under this subsection unless (A)
1571 such qualified school employee annually completes any training
1572 required by the school nurse and school medical advisor, if any, in the
1573 administration of medication with injectable equipment used to
1574 administer glucagon, (B) the school nurse and school medical advisor,
1575 if any, have attested, in writing, that such qualified school employee has
1576 completed such training, and (C) such qualified school employee
1577 voluntarily agrees to serve as a qualified school employee. For purposes
1578 of this subsection, "injectable equipment used to administer glucagon"
1579 means an injector or injectable equipment used to deliver glucagon in
1580 an appropriate dose for emergency first aid response to diabetes. For
1581 purposes of this subsection, "qualified school employee" means a
1582 principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or
1583 occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or [school
1584 paraprofessional] paraeducator.

1585 (f) (1) (A) With the written authorization of a student's parent or
1586 guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order of a physician licensed
1587 under chapter 370 or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed
1588 under chapter 378, a school nurse and a school medical advisor, if any,
1589 shall select, and a school nurse shall provide general supervision to, a
1590 qualified school employee to administer antiepileptic medication,
1591 including by rectal syringe, to a specific student with a medically
1592 diagnosed epileptic condition that requires prompt treatment in
1593 accordance with the student's individual seizure action plan. Such

1594 authorization shall be limited to situations when the school nurse is
1595 absent or unavailable. No qualified school employee shall administer
1596 medication under this subsection unless (i) such qualified school
1597 employee annually completes the training program described in
1598 subdivision (2) of this subsection, (ii) the school nurse and school
1599 medical advisor, if any, have attested, in writing, that such qualified
1600 school employee has completed such training, (iii) such qualified school
1601 employee receives monthly reviews by the school nurse to confirm such
1602 qualified school employee's competency to administer antiepileptic
1603 medication under this subsection, and (iv) such qualified school
1604 employee voluntarily agrees to serve as a qualified school employee. For
1605 purposes of this subsection, "qualified school employee" means a
1606 principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or
1607 occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or [school
1608 paraprofessional] paraeducator.

1609 (2) The Department of Education, in consultation with the School
1610 Nurse Advisory Council, established pursuant to section 10-212f, and
1611 the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut, shall develop an
1612 antiepileptic medication administrating training program. Such training
1613 program shall include instruction in (A) an overview of childhood
1614 epilepsy and types of seizure disorders, (B) interpretation of individual
1615 student's emergency seizure action plan and recognition of individual
1616 student's seizure activity, (C) emergency management procedures for
1617 seizure activity, including administration techniques for emergency
1618 seizure medication, (D) when to activate emergency medical services
1619 and postseizure procedures and follow-up, (E) reporting procedures
1620 after a student has required such delegated emergency seizure
1621 medication, and (F) any other relevant issues or topics related to
1622 emergency interventions for students who experience seizures.

1623 (g) (1) A school nurse or, in the absence of a school nurse, a qualified
1624 school employee may maintain opioid antagonists for the purpose of
1625 emergency first aid to students who experience an opioid-related drug
1626 overdose and do not have a prior written authorization of a parent or
1627 guardian or a prior written order of a qualified medical professional for

1628 the administration of such opioid antagonist. A school nurse or a school
1629 principal shall select qualified school employees to administer such
1630 opioid antagonist under this subdivision, and there shall be at least one
1631 such qualified school employee on the grounds of the school during
1632 regular school hours in the absence of a school nurse. A school nurse or,
1633 in the absence of such school nurse, such qualified school employee may
1634 administer such opioid antagonist under this subdivision, provided
1635 such administration of the opioid antagonist is in accordance with
1636 policies and procedures adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of this
1637 section. Such administration of an opioid antagonist by a qualified
1638 school employee shall be limited to situations when the school nurse is
1639 absent or unavailable. No school nurse or qualified school employee
1640 shall administer such opioid antagonist under this subdivision unless
1641 such school nurse or qualified school employee completes a training
1642 program in the distribution and administration of an opioid antagonist
1643 developed by the Department of Education, Department of Public
1644 Health and the Department of Consumer Protection, or under an
1645 agreement entered into pursuant to section 21a-286. The parent or
1646 guardian of a student may submit a request, in writing, to the school
1647 nurse and school medical advisor, if any, that an opioid antagonist shall
1648 not be administered to such student under this subdivision.

1649 (2) Not later than October 1, 2022, the Department of Education, in
1650 consultation with the Departments of Consumer Protection and Public
1651 Health, shall develop guidelines for use by local and regional boards of
1652 education on the storage and administration of opioid antagonists in
1653 schools in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

1654 (3) For purposes of this subsection, (A) "opioid antagonist" means
1655 naloxone hydrochloride or any other similarly acting and equally safe
1656 drug approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for the
1657 treatment of a drug overdose, (B) "qualified school employee" means a
1658 principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or
1659 occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or [school
1660 paraprofessional] paraeducator, and (C) "qualified medical
1661 professional" means (i) a physician licensed under chapter 370, (ii) an

1662 optometrist licensed to practice optometry under chapter 380, (iii) an
1663 advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance
1664 with section 20-94a, or (iv) a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in
1665 accordance with section 20-12d.

1666 Sec. 28. Subsection (b) of section 10-221o of the general statutes is
1667 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1668 *2024*):

1669 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year
1670 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall adopt a
1671 policy, as the board deems appropriate, concerning the circumstances
1672 when a school employee may prevent or otherwise restrict a student
1673 from participating in the entire time devoted to physical exercise in the
1674 regular school day, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, as a form
1675 of discipline. Such policy shall (1) permit such prevention or restriction
1676 (A) when a student poses a danger to the health or safety of other
1677 students or school personnel, or (B) when such prevention or restriction
1678 is limited to the period devoted to physical exercise that is the shortest
1679 in duration if there are two or more periods devoted to physical exercise
1680 in a school day, provided the period of time devoted to physical exercise
1681 that such student may participate in during such school day is at least
1682 twenty minutes in duration, (2) only permit such prevention or
1683 restriction once during a school week, unless such student is a danger
1684 to the health or safety of other students or school personnel, (3) not
1685 include any provisions that such board determines are unreasonably
1686 restrictive or punitive, (4) distinguish between (A) discipline imposed
1687 prior to the start of such time devoted to physical exercise and discipline
1688 imposed during such time devoted to physical exercise, and (B)
1689 discipline that (i) prevents or otherwise restricts a student from
1690 participating in such time devoted to physical exercise prior to such time
1691 devoted to physical exercise, and (ii) methods used to redirect a
1692 student's behavior during such time devoted to physical exercise, and
1693 (5) not permit such prevention or restriction if a student does not
1694 complete such student's work on time or for such student's academic
1695 performance. For purposes of this section, "school employee" means (A)

1696 a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school
1697 superintendent, guidance counselor, school counselor, psychologist,
1698 social worker, nurse, physician, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator
1699 or coach employed by a local or regional board of education or working
1700 in a public elementary, middle or high school; or (B) any other
1701 individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular
1702 contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of
1703 students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high school,
1704 pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of education.

1705 Sec. 29. Section 10-221u of the general statutes is repealed and the
1706 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1707 Not later than October 1, 2013, each local and regional board of
1708 education shall adopt a policy, as the board deems appropriate,
1709 concerning the issue regarding any school employee being involved in
1710 requiring any student enrolled in grades kindergarten to twelve,
1711 inclusive, to engage in physical activity as a form of discipline during
1712 the regular school day. For purposes of this section, "school employee"
1713 means (1) a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school
1714 superintendent, guidance counselor, school counselor, psychologist,
1715 social worker, nurse, physician, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator
1716 or coach employed by a local or regional board of education or working
1717 in a public elementary, middle or high school; or (2) any other
1718 individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular
1719 contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of
1720 students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high school,
1721 pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of education.

1722 Sec. 30. Subdivision (8) of subsection (a) of section 10-222d of the
1723 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1724 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1725 (8) "School employee" means (A) a teacher, substitute teacher, school
1726 administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, school
1727 counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, [school

1728 paraprofessional] paraeducator or coach employed by a local or regional
1729 board of education or working in a public elementary, middle or high
1730 school; or (B) any other individual who, in the performance of his or her
1731 duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to
1732 or on behalf of students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high
1733 school, pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of
1734 education;

1735 Sec. 31. Subsections (d) to (g), inclusive, of section 10-223e of the
1736 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1737 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1738 (d) (1) For those schools classified as category three schools, the
1739 department may require such schools to (A) develop and implement
1740 plans consistent with this section and federal law to elevate the school
1741 from low achieving status, and (B) be the subject of actions as described
1742 in the state-wide performance management and support plan, prepared
1743 in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of
1744 this section.

1745 (2) For those schools classified as category three schools, the
1746 department may require the local or regional board of education for
1747 such schools to collaborate with the regional educational service center
1748 that serves the area in which such schools are located to develop plans
1749 to ensure such schools provide (A) early education opportunities, (B)
1750 summer school, (C) extended school day or year programming, (D)
1751 weekend classes, (E) tutorial assistance to their students, or (F)
1752 professional development to their administrators, principals, teachers
1753 and [paraprofessionals] paraeducators. In requiring any educational
1754 program authorized by this subdivision, the Commissioner of
1755 Education may limit the offering of such program to the subgroup of
1756 students that have failed to reach performance benchmarks or those in
1757 transitional or milestone grades or those who are otherwise at
1758 substantial risk of educational failure as described in the state-wide
1759 performance management and support plan, prepared in accordance
1760 with the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section.

1761 (e) (1) (A) Any school or school district identified as in need of
1762 improvement pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this
1763 section and requiring corrective action pursuant to the requirements of
1764 the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, shall be designated and
1765 listed as a low achieving school or school district and shall be subject to
1766 intensified supervision and direction by the State Board of Education.

1767 (B) Any school classified as a category four school or category five
1768 school or a school designated as a focus school shall be designated as
1769 low achieving and shall be subject to intensified supervision and
1770 direction by the State Board of Education.

1771 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of this title or any regulation
1772 adopted pursuant to said title, except as provided in subdivision (3) of
1773 this subsection, in carrying out the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
1774 subsection and this subdivision, the State Board of Education shall take
1775 any of the following actions to improve student performance of the
1776 school district, a particular school in the district or among student
1777 subgroups, and remove the school or district from the list of schools or
1778 districts designated and listed as a low achieving school or district
1779 pursuant to said subdivision (1), and to address other needs of the
1780 school or district: (A) Require an operations audit to identify possible
1781 programmatic savings and an instructional audit to identify any deficits
1782 in curriculum and instruction or in the learning environment of the
1783 school or district; (B) require the local or regional board of education for
1784 such school or district to use state and federal funds for critical needs,
1785 as directed by the State Board of Education; (C) provide incentives to
1786 attract highly qualified teachers and principals; (D) direct the transfer
1787 and assignment of teachers and principals; (E) require additional
1788 training and technical assistance for parents and guardians of children
1789 attending the school or a school in the district and for teachers,
1790 principals, and central office staff members hired by the district; (F)
1791 require the local or regional board of education for the school or district
1792 to implement model curriculum, including, but not limited to,
1793 recommended textbooks, materials and supplies approved by the
1794 Department of Education; (G) identify schools for reconstitution, as may

1795 be phased in by the commissioner, as state or local charter schools,
1796 schools established pursuant to section 10-74g, innovation schools
1797 established pursuant to section 10-74h, or schools based on other models
1798 for school improvement, or for management by an entity other than the
1799 local or regional board of education for the district in which the school
1800 is located; (H) direct the local or regional board of education for the
1801 school or district to develop and implement a plan addressing deficits
1802 in achievement and in the learning environment as recommended in the
1803 instructional audit; (I) assign a technical assistance team to the school or
1804 district to guide school or district initiatives and report progress to the
1805 Commissioner of Education; (J) establish instructional and learning
1806 environment benchmarks for the school or district to meet as it
1807 progresses toward removal from the list of low achieving schools or
1808 districts; (K) provide funding to any proximate district to a district
1809 designated as a low achieving school district so that students in a low
1810 achieving district may attend public school in a neighboring district; (L)
1811 direct the establishment of learning academies within schools that
1812 require continuous monitoring of student performance by teacher
1813 groups; (M) require a local or regional board of education to (i) undergo
1814 training designed to improve the operational efficiency and
1815 effectiveness of the board of education as leaders of its district
1816 improvement plans by distinguishing and making clear the proper roles
1817 and different functions of the board of education, including the
1818 responsibility of developing the improvement plans and education
1819 policy for the district, and the school and district-level administrators,
1820 including the responsibility of implementing such improvement plans
1821 and policies, and (ii) submit an annual action plan to the Commissioner
1822 of Education outlining how, when and in what manner their
1823 effectiveness shall be monitored; (N) require the appointment of (i) a
1824 superintendent, approved by the Commissioner of Education, or (ii) a
1825 district improvement officer, selected by the commissioner, whose
1826 authority is consistent with the provisions of section 138 of public act
1827 11-61, and whose term shall be for one school year, except that the State
1828 Board of Education may extend such period; or (O) any combination of
1829 the actions described in this subdivision or similar, closely related

1830 actions.

1831 (3) If a directive of the State Board of Education pursuant to
1832 subparagraph (C), (D), (E), (G) or (L) of subdivision (2) of this subsection
1833 or a directive to implement a plan pursuant to subparagraph (H) of said
1834 subdivision (2) affects working conditions, such directive shall be
1835 carried out in accordance with the provisions of sections 10-153a to 10-
1836 153n, inclusive.

1837 (f) The State Board of Education shall monitor the progress of each
1838 school or district designated as a low achieving school or district
1839 pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of this section and provide
1840 notice to the local or regional board of education for each such school or
1841 district of the school or district's progress toward meeting the
1842 benchmarks established by the State Board of Education pursuant to
1843 subsection (e) of this section. If a school or district fails to make
1844 acceptable progress toward meeting such benchmarks established by
1845 the State Board of Education or fails to make adequate yearly progress
1846 pursuant to the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-
1847 110, for two consecutive years while designated as a low achieving
1848 school district, the State Board of Education, after consultation with the
1849 Governor and chief elected official or officials of the district, may (1)
1850 request that the General Assembly enact legislation authorizing that
1851 control of the district be reassigned to the State Board of Education or
1852 other authorized entity, or (2) notwithstanding the provisions of chapter
1853 146, any special act, charter or ordinance, grant the Commissioner of
1854 Education the authority to reconstitute the local or regional board of
1855 education for such school district in accordance with the provisions of
1856 subsection (i) of this section.

1857 (g) Any school district or elementary school after two successive
1858 years of failing to make adequate yearly progress shall be designated as
1859 a low achieving school district or school and shall be evaluated by the
1860 Commissioner of Education. After such evaluation, the commissioner
1861 may require that such school district or school provide full-day
1862 kindergarten classes, summer school, extended school day, weekend

1863 classes, tutorial assistance to its students or professional development
1864 to its administrators, principals, teachers and [paraprofessional teacher
1865 aides] paraeducators if (1) on any subpart of the mastery examination
1866 administered to students in grade three, pursuant to section 10-14n,
1867 thirty per cent or more of the students in any subgroup, as defined by
1868 the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, do not achieve the level of
1869 proficiency or higher, or (2) the commissioner determines that it would
1870 be in the best educational interests of the school or the school district to
1871 have any of these programs. In ordering any educational program
1872 authorized by this subsection, the commissioner may limit the offering
1873 of the program to the subgroup of students that have failed to achieve
1874 proficiency as determined by this subsection, those in particular grades
1875 or those who are otherwise at substantial risk of educational failure. The
1876 costs of instituting the ordered educational programs shall be borne by
1877 the identified low achieving school district or the school district in
1878 which an identified low achieving school is located. The commissioner
1879 shall not order an educational program that costs more to implement
1880 than the total increase in the amount of the grant that a town receives
1881 pursuant to section 10-262i in any fiscal year above the prior fiscal year.

1882 Sec. 32. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 10-223j of the
1883 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1884 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1885 (4) The provisions of subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of this
1886 subsection shall not apply to a school described in said subdivisions if
1887 (A) such school consists of a single grade level, or (B) such school is
1888 under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education that has
1889 adopted a similar school governance council model on or before July 1,
1890 2011, that consists of parents, teachers from each grade level or subject
1891 area, administrators and [paraprofessionals] paraeducators and such
1892 school governance council model is being administered at such school
1893 at the time such school is so identified as in need of improvement or so
1894 designated as a low achieving school.

1895 Sec. 33. Subsection (o) of section 10-236b of the 2024 supplement to

1896 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1897 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1898 (o) (1) Each local or regional board of education shall provide training
1899 regarding the physical restraint and seclusion of students to the
1900 members of the crisis intervention team for each school in the district,
1901 identified pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. A local or
1902 regional board of education may provide such training to any teacher,
1903 as defined in section 10-144d, as amended by this act, administrator, as
1904 defined in section 10-144e, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator or
1905 other school employee, as defined in section 10-222d, as amended by
1906 this act, designated by the school principal and who has direct contact
1907 with students. Such training shall be provided during the school year
1908 commencing July 1, 2017, and each school year thereafter, and shall
1909 include, but not be limited to:

1910 (A) An overview of the relevant laws and regulations regarding the
1911 use of physical restraint and seclusion on students and the proper uses
1912 of physical restraint and seclusion. For the school year commencing July
1913 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, such overview shall be provided by the
1914 Department of Education, in a manner and form as prescribed by the
1915 Commissioner of Education;

1916 (B) The creation of a plan by which each local and regional board of
1917 education shall provide training regarding the prevention of incidents
1918 requiring physical restraint or seclusion of students. Such plan shall be
1919 implemented not later than July 1, 2018. The Department of Education
1920 may, within available appropriations, provide ongoing monitoring and
1921 support to local or regional boards of education regarding the
1922 formulation and implementation of the plan; and

1923 (C) The creation of a plan by which each local or regional board of
1924 education shall provide training regarding the proper means of physical
1925 restraint or seclusion of a student, including, but not limited to, (i)
1926 various types of physical restraint and seclusion; (ii) the differences
1927 between life-threatening physical restraint and other varying levels of

1928 physical restraint; (iii) the differences between permissible physical
1929 restraint and pain compliance techniques; and (iv) monitoring methods
1930 to prevent harm to a student who is physically restrained or in seclusion.
1931 Such plan shall be implemented not later than July 1, 2018;

1932 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2017, and each school year
1933 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall require each
1934 school in the district to identify a crisis intervention team consisting of
1935 any teacher, as defined in section 10-144d, as amended by this act,
1936 administrator, as defined in section 10-144e, [school paraprofessional]
1937 paraeducator or other school employee, as defined in section 10-222d,
1938 as amended by this act, designated by the school principal and who has
1939 direct contact with students. Such teams shall respond to any incident
1940 in which the use of physical restraint or seclusion may be necessary as
1941 an emergency intervention to prevent immediate or imminent injury to
1942 a student or to others. Each member of the crisis intervention team shall
1943 be recertified in the use of physical restraint and seclusion pursuant to
1944 subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection or chapter 814e
1945 on an annual basis. Each local and regional board of education shall
1946 maintain a list of the members of the crisis intervention team for each
1947 school.

1948 Sec. 34. Subsection (o) of section 10-236b of the 2024 supplement to
1949 the general statutes, as amended by section 67 of public act 23-167, is
1950 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1951 *2025*):

1952 (o) (1) Each local or regional board of education shall provide training
1953 regarding the physical restraint and seclusion of students to the
1954 members of the crisis intervention team for each school in the district,
1955 identified pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. A local or
1956 regional board of education may provide such training to any teacher,
1957 as defined in section 10-144d, as amended by this act, administrator, as
1958 defined in section 10-144e, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator or
1959 other school employee, as defined in section 10-222aa, designated by the
1960 school principal and who has direct contact with students. Such training

1961 shall be provided during the school year commencing July 1, 2017, and
1962 each school year thereafter, and shall include, but not be limited to:

1963 (A) An overview of the relevant laws and regulations regarding the
1964 use of physical restraint and seclusion on students and the proper uses
1965 of physical restraint and seclusion. For the school year commencing July
1966 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, such overview shall be provided by the
1967 Department of Education, in a manner and form as prescribed by the
1968 Commissioner of Education;

1969 (B) The creation of a plan by which each local and regional board of
1970 education shall provide training regarding the prevention of incidents
1971 requiring physical restraint or seclusion of students. Such plan shall be
1972 implemented not later than July 1, 2018. The Department of Education
1973 may, within available appropriations, provide ongoing monitoring and
1974 support to local or regional boards of education regarding the
1975 formulation and implementation of the plan; and

1976 (C) The creation of a plan by which each local or regional board of
1977 education shall provide training regarding the proper means of physical
1978 restraint or seclusion of a student, including, but not limited to, (i)
1979 various types of physical restraint and seclusion; (ii) the differences
1980 between life-threatening physical restraint and other varying levels of
1981 physical restraint; (iii) the differences between permissible physical
1982 restraint and pain compliance techniques; and (iv) monitoring methods
1983 to prevent harm to a student who is physically restrained or in seclusion.
1984 Such plan shall be implemented not later than July 1, 2018;

1985 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2017, and each school year
1986 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall require each
1987 school in the district to identify a crisis intervention team consisting of
1988 any teacher, as defined in section 10-144d, as amended by this act,
1989 administrator, as defined in section 10-144e, [school paraprofessional]
1990 paraeducator or other school employee, as defined in section 10-222aa,
1991 designated by the school principal and who has direct contact with
1992 students. Such teams shall respond to any incident in which the use of

1993 physical restraint or seclusion may be necessary as an emergency
1994 intervention to prevent immediate or imminent injury to a student or to
1995 others. Each member of the crisis intervention team shall be recertified
1996 in the use of physical restraint and seclusion pursuant to subparagraph
1997 (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection or chapter 814e on an annual
1998 basis. Each local and regional board of education shall maintain a list of
1999 the members of the crisis intervention team for each school.

2000 Sec. 35. Subsection (a) of section 10-239e of the general statutes is
2001 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
2002 *2024*):

2003 (a) The demonstration board shall authorize the parents or legal
2004 guardian of scholarship recipients to use the demonstration
2005 scholarships at any public or private school in which the scholarship
2006 recipient is enrolled provided such public or private school: (1) Meets
2007 all educational, fiscal, health and safety standards required by law, (2)
2008 does not discriminate against the admission of students and the hiring
2009 of teachers on the basis of race, color or economic status and has filed a
2010 certificate with the State Board of Education that the school is in
2011 compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (3) in no case
2012 levies or requires any tuition, fee or charge above the value of the
2013 education scholarship, (4) is free from sectarian control or influence
2014 except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, (5) provides public
2015 access to all financial and administrative records and provides to the
2016 parent or guardian of each eligible child in the demonstration area
2017 comprehensive information, in written form, on the courses of study
2018 offered, curriculum, materials and textbooks, the qualifications of
2019 teachers, administrators and ~~[paraprofessionals]~~ paraeducators, the
2020 minimum school day, the salary schedules, financial reports of money
2021 spent per pupil and such other information as may be required by the
2022 demonstration board, (6) provides periodic reports to the parents on the
2023 average progress of the pupils enrolled, and (7) meets any additional
2024 requirements established for all participating schools by the
2025 demonstration board.

2026 Sec. 36. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 17a-812 of the
2027 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
2028 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

2029 (1) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall provide,
2030 upon written request from any interested school district, the services of
2031 teachers who instruct students who are visually impaired, based on the
2032 levels established in the individualized education or service plan. The
2033 Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall also make
2034 available resources, including, but not limited to, the braille and large
2035 print library, to all teachers of public and nonpublic school children. The
2036 commissioner may also provide vision-related professional
2037 development and training to all school districts and cover the actual cost
2038 for [paraprofessionals] paraeducators from school districts to
2039 participate in agency-sponsored braille training programs. The
2040 commissioner shall utilize education consultant positions, funded by
2041 moneys appropriated from the General Fund, to supplement new
2042 staffing that will be made available through the educational aid for
2043 children who are blind or visually impaired account, which shall be
2044 governed by formal written policies established by the commissioner.

2045 Sec. 37. Subsection (a) of section 46a-11b of the general statutes is
2046 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
2047 *2024*):

2048 (a) Any physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of chapter
2049 370, any resident physician or intern in any hospital in this state,
2050 whether or not so licensed, any registered nurse, any person paid for
2051 caring for persons in any facility and any licensed practical nurse,
2052 medical examiner, dental hygienist, dentist, occupational therapist,
2053 optometrist, chiropractor, psychologist, podiatrist, social worker, school
2054 teacher, school principal, school guidance counselor, school counselor,
2055 [school paraprofessional] paraeducator, licensed behavior analyst,
2056 mental health professional, physician assistant, licensed or certified
2057 substance abuse counselor, licensed marital and family therapist, speech
2058 and language pathologist, clergyman, police officer, pharmacist,

2059 physical therapist, licensed professional counselor or sexual assault
2060 counselor or domestic violence counselor, as defined in section 52-146k,
2061 who has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any person with
2062 intellectual disability or any person who receives services from the
2063 Department of Social Services' Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder
2064 Services has been abused or neglected shall, as soon as practicable but
2065 not later than forty-eight hours after such person has reasonable cause
2066 to suspect or believe that a person with intellectual disability or any
2067 person who receives services from the Department of Social Services'
2068 Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Services has been abused or
2069 neglected, report such information or cause a report to be made in any
2070 reasonable manner to the commissioner, or the commissioner's
2071 designee. An unsuccessful attempt to make an initial report to the
2072 commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, on a weekend, holiday
2073 or after normal business hours shall not be construed as a violation of
2074 this section if reasonable attempts are made by a person required to
2075 report under this subsection to reach the commissioner, or the
2076 commissioner's designee, as soon as practicable after the initial attempt.
2077 The initial report shall be followed up by a written report not later than
2078 five calendar days after the initial report was made. Any person
2079 required to report under this subsection who fails to make such report
2080 shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars. For purposes of this
2081 subsection, "reasonable manner" and "reasonable attempts" mean efforts
2082 that include, but are not limited to, efforts to reach the commissioner, or
2083 the commissioner's designee, by phone, in person or by electronic mail.

2084 Sec. 38. Subdivision (13) of section 53a-65 of the 2024 supplement to
2085 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
2086 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

2087 (13) "School employee" means: (A) A teacher, substitute teacher,
2088 school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor,
2089 school counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, [school
2090 paraprofessional] paraeducator or coach employed by a local or regional
2091 board of education or a private elementary, middle or high school or
2092 working in a public or private elementary, middle or high school; or (B)

2093 any other person who, in the performance of his or her duties, has
2094 regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf
2095 of students enrolled in (i) a public elementary, middle or high school,
2096 pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of education, or
2097 (ii) a private elementary, middle or high school, pursuant to a contract
2098 with the supervisory agent of such private school.

2099 Sec. 39. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section:

2100 (1) "Health benefit plan" has the same meaning as provided in section
2101 38a-1080 of the general statutes, and

2102 (2) "Partnership plan" has the same meaning as provided in section 3-
2103 123aaa of the general statutes.

2104 (b) Not later than October 1, 2024, each local and regional board of
2105 education shall report to the Comptroller information concerning the
2106 health benefit plan through which it provides coverage to employees.
2107 Such information shall include (1) the premium cost for coverage under
2108 such plan, (2) the level of coverage provided under such plan, (3) the
2109 number of employees covered under such plan, and (4) any other
2110 information requested by the Comptroller.

2111 (c) The Comptroller shall conduct a cost-benefit analysis of each local
2112 or regional board of education providing coverage for employees under
2113 a partnership plan in lieu of the coverage provided by such board of
2114 education under its current health benefit plan. Such analysis shall
2115 include, but need not be limited to, a comparison of the costs incurred
2116 by such board of education and its employees and the level of coverage
2117 provided under each plan. Not later than January 1, 2025, the
2118 Comptroller shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
2119 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of
2120 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
2121 education and to each local or regional board of education on such cost-
2122 benefit analysis.

2123 Sec. 40. Subsection (a) of section 31-3i of the 2024 supplement to the

2124 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
2125 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

2126 (a) Pursuant to Section 101 of the federal Workforce Innovation and
2127 Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, the members of the Governor's
2128 Workforce Council shall be:

2129 (1) The Governor;

2130 (2) A member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the
2131 speaker of the House of Representatives, and a member of the Senate,
2132 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

2133 (3) Twenty-four members, appointed by the Governor, who (A) are
2134 owners of a business, chief executives or operating officers of a business,
2135 or other business executives or employers with optimum policy-making
2136 or hiring authority; (B) represent businesses or organizations
2137 representing businesses that provide employment opportunities that, at
2138 a minimum, include high-quality, work-relevant training and
2139 development in in-demand industry sectors or occupation in the state;
2140 or (C) have been nominated by state business organizations or business
2141 trade associations. At a minimum, at least one such member shall
2142 represent small businesses, as defined by the United States Small
2143 Business Administration; [.]

2144 (4) The Labor Commissioner, Commissioner of Aging and Disability
2145 Services, Commissioner of Education, Commissioner of Economic and
2146 Community Development and the Chief Workforce Officer, or their
2147 respective designees;

2148 (5) Four representatives of labor organizations, who have been
2149 nominated by state labor federations and appointed by the Governor;

2150 (6) An individual, appointed by the Governor, who is a member of a
2151 labor organization or a training director from a joint labor-management
2152 apprenticeship program, or, if no such joint program exists in the state,
2153 such a representative of an apprenticeship program in the state;

2154 (7) An individual, appointed by the Governor, who is an expert in
2155 residential construction;

2156 (8) Five members, appointed by the Governor, who represent
2157 community-based organizations that have demonstrated experience
2158 and expertise in addressing employment, training, or education,
2159 including one representative of a community action agency, as defined
2160 in section 17b-885, and one representative of a philanthropic
2161 organization;

2162 (9) A representative from the Connecticut State Colleges and
2163 Universities, a representative from The University of Connecticut and a
2164 representative from a nonprofit institution of higher education in the
2165 state, each appointed by the Governor;

2166 (10) A representative from a regional vocational-technical school and
2167 a representative from a regional agricultural science and technology
2168 school, each appointed by the Governor;

2169 (11) Two superintendents of a local or regional board of education,
2170 appointed by the Governor;

2171 (12) A certified teacher employed by a local or regional board of
2172 education, appointed by the Governor;

2173 ~~[(12)]~~ (13) Two chief elected officials of municipalities, appointed by
2174 the Governor; and

2175 ~~[(13)]~~ (14) Two members of the public, who are enrolled in or who
2176 have recently completed a nondegree workforce training program,
2177 appointed by the Governor.

2178 Sec. 41. Section 17a-101a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2179 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

2180 (a) (1) Any mandated reporter, as described in section 17a-101, who
2181 in the ordinary course of such person's employment or profession has
2182 reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any child under the age of

2183 eighteen years (A) has been abused or neglected, as described in section
2184 46b-120, (B) has had nonaccidental physical injury, or injury which is at
2185 variance with the history given of such injury, inflicted upon such child,
2186 or (C) is placed at imminent risk of serious harm, or (2) any school
2187 employee, as defined in section 53a-65, as amended by this act, who in
2188 the ordinary course of such person's employment or profession has
2189 reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any person who is being
2190 educated by the Technical Education and Career System, [or] a local or
2191 regional board of education, other than as part of an adult education
2192 program, or a nonpublic school, is a victim under the provisions of
2193 section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a, and the
2194 perpetrator is a school employee shall report or cause a report to be
2195 made in accordance with the provisions of sections 17a-101b to 17a-
2196 101d, inclusive.

2197 [(b) (1) Any person required to report under the provisions of this
2198 section who fails to make such report or fails to make such report within
2199 the time period prescribed in sections 17a-101b to 17a-101d, inclusive,
2200 and section 17a-103 shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor, except that
2201 such person shall be guilty of a class E felony if (A) such violation is a
2202 subsequent violation, (B) such violation was wilful or intentional or due
2203 to gross negligence, or (C) such person had actual knowledge that (i) a
2204 child was abused or neglected, as described in section 46b-120, or (ii) a
2205 person was a victim described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this
2206 section.

2207 (2) Any person who intentionally and unreasonably interferes with
2208 or prevents the making of a report pursuant to this section, or attempts
2209 or conspires to do so, shall be guilty of a class D felony. The provisions
2210 of this subdivision shall not apply to any child under the age of eighteen
2211 years or any person who is being educated by the Technical Education
2212 and Career System or a local or regional board of education, other than
2213 as part of an adult education program.

2214 (3) Any person found guilty under the provisions of this subsection
2215 shall be required to participate in an educational and training program.

2216 The program may be provided by one or more private organizations
2217 approved by the commissioner, provided the entire cost of the program
2218 shall be paid from fees charged to the participants, the amount of which
2219 shall be subject to the approval of the commissioner.

2220 (c) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
2221 commissioner's designee, shall promptly notify the Chief State's
2222 Attorney when there is reason to believe that any such person has failed
2223 to make a report in accordance with this section.]

2224 [(d)] (b) For purposes of this section and section 17a-101b, a
2225 mandated reporter's suspicion or belief may be based on factors
2226 including, but not limited to, observations, allegations, facts or
2227 statements by a child, victim, as described in subdivision (2) of
2228 subsection (a) of this section, or third party. Such suspicion or belief does
2229 not require certainty or probable cause. Nothing in this section shall
2230 preclude a mandated reporter from conducting a preliminary inquiry to
2231 determine if reasonable cause exists for such mandated reporter to make
2232 a report pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

2233 Sec. 42. Section 17a-101e of the general statutes is repealed and the
2234 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

2235 (a) No employer shall (1) discharge, or in any manner discriminate or
2236 retaliate against, any employee who in good faith makes a report
2237 pursuant to sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, as amended by this
2238 act, and 17a-103, testifies or is about to testify in any proceeding
2239 involving child abuse or neglect, or (2) hinder or prevent, or attempt to
2240 hinder or prevent, any employee from making a report pursuant to
2241 sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, as amended by this act, and
2242 17a-103, or testifying in any proceeding involving child abuse or neglect.
2243 The Attorney General may bring an action in Superior Court against an
2244 employer who violates this subsection. The court may assess a civil
2245 penalty of not more than two thousand five hundred dollars and may
2246 order such other equitable relief as the court deems appropriate.

2247 (b) Any person, institution or agency [which, in good faith,] that (1)

2248 makes or does not make, in good faith, a report pursuant to sections 17a-
2249 101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, as amended by this act, and 17a-103, or (2)
2250 provides, in good faith, professional medical intervention or assistance
2251 in any proceeding involving child abuse and neglect, including, but not
2252 limited to, (A) causing a photograph, x-ray or a physical custody
2253 examination to be made, (B) causing a child to be taken into emergency
2254 protective custody, (C) disclosing a medical record or other information
2255 pertinent to the proceeding, or (D) performing a medically relevant test,
2256 shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, which might
2257 otherwise arise from or be related to the actions taken pursuant to this
2258 subsection and shall have the same immunity with respect to any
2259 judicial proceeding which results from such report or actions, provided
2260 such person did not perpetrate or cause such abuse or neglect. The
2261 immunity from civil or criminal liability extends only to actions done
2262 pursuant to this subsection and does not extend to the malpractice of a
2263 medical professional that results in personal injury or death.

2264 (c) Any person who is alleged to have knowingly made a false report
2265 of child abuse or neglect pursuant to sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d,
2266 inclusive, as amended by this act, and 17a-103 shall be referred to the
2267 office of the Chief State's Attorney for purposes of a criminal
2268 investigation.

2269 (d) Any person who knowingly makes a false report of child abuse or
2270 neglect pursuant to sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, as amended
2271 by this act, and 17a-103 shall be fined not more than two thousand
2272 dollars or imprisoned not more than one year or both.

2273 Sec. 43. Subsection (d) of section 17a-101i of the general statutes is
2274 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
2275 *2024*):

2276 (d) If a school employee, as defined in section 53a-65, as amended by
2277 this act, or any person holding a certificate, permit or authorization
2278 issued by the State Board of Education under the provisions of sections
2279 10-144o to 10-149, inclusive, is convicted of a crime involving an act of

2280 child abuse or neglect as described in section 46b-120 or a violation of
2281 subdivision (2) of subsection [(b) of section 17a-101a] (d) of section 17a-
2282 101o, as amended by this act, or section 53-21, 53a-71 or 53a-73a against
2283 any person, or a violation of section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-72a or 53a-72b
2284 against a victim, as described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of
2285 section 17a-101a, as amended by this act, the state's attorney for the
2286 judicial district in which the conviction occurred shall in writing notify
2287 the superintendent of the school district or the supervisory agent of the
2288 nonpublic school in which the person is employed and the
2289 Commissioner of Education of such conviction.

2290 Sec. 44. Section 17a-101o of the general statutes is repealed and the
2291 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

2292 (a) If the Commissioner of Children and Families suspects or knows
2293 that a mandated reporter, as defined in section 17a-101, [employed by a
2294 local or regional board of education,] has failed to make a report that a
2295 child has been abused or neglected or placed in immediate risk of
2296 serious harm within the time period prescribed in sections 17a-101a to
2297 [17a-101d] 17a-101c, inclusive, as amended by this act, [and section 17a-
2298 103,] the commissioner shall make a record of such [delay] failure to
2299 report and develop and maintain a database of such records. The
2300 commissioner shall [investigate such delayed reporting. Such
2301 investigation] conduct an assessment with respect to such failure to
2302 report. Such assessment shall be conducted in accordance with the
2303 policy developed in subsection (b) of this section, and include the
2304 actions taken by the employing local or regional board of education or
2305 superintendent of schools for the district in response to such employee's
2306 failure to report.

2307 (b) The Department of Children and Families shall develop a policy
2308 for the [investigation of delayed reports by mandated reporters]
2309 assessment of the failure of mandated reporters to make reports within
2310 the time period prescribed in sections 17a-101a to 17a-101c, inclusive, as
2311 amended by this act. Such policy shall include, but not be limited to,
2312 when referrals to the appropriate law enforcement agency for [delayed

2313 reporting] the failure to report are required and when the department
2314 shall require mandated reporters who have been found to have [delayed
2315 making a report] failed to make reports to participate in the educational
2316 and training program pursuant to subsection [(b) of section 17a-101a]
2317 (d) of this section.

2318 (c) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
2319 commissioner's designee, shall promptly notify the Chief State's
2320 Attorney when there is reason to believe that a mandated reporter has
2321 failed to make a report in accordance with sections 17a-101a to 17a-101c,
2322 inclusive, as amended by this act.

2323 (d) (1) Any person required to report under the provisions of section
2324 17a-101a, as amended by this act, who fails to make such report or fails
2325 to make such report within the time period prescribed in sections 17a-
2326 101a to 17a-101c, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall be guilty of a
2327 class A misdemeanor, except that such person shall be guilty of a class
2328 E felony if (A) such violation is a subsequent violation, (B) such violation
2329 was wilful or intentional or due to gross negligence, or (C) such person
2330 had actual knowledge that (i) a child was abused or neglected, as
2331 described in section 46b-120, or (ii) a person was a victim described in
2332 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 17a-101a, as amended by this
2333 act.

2334 (2) Any person who intentionally and unreasonably interferes with
2335 or prevents the making of a report pursuant to section 17a-101a, as
2336 amended by this act, or attempts or conspires to do so, shall be guilty of
2337 a class D felony. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to
2338 any child under the age of eighteen years or any person who is being
2339 educated by the Technical Education and Career System, a local or
2340 regional board of education, other than as part of an adult education
2341 program, or a nonpublic school.

2342 (3) Any person found guilty under the provisions of this subsection
2343 shall be required to participate in an educational and training program.
2344 The program may be provided by one or more private organizations

2345 approved by the commissioner and the entire cost of the program shall
2346 be paid from fees charged to the participants, the amount of which shall
2347 be subject to the approval of the commissioner.

2348 [(c)] (e) For purposes of this section, "child" includes any victim
2349 described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 17a-101a, as
2350 amended by this act.

2351 Sec. 45. Section 10-145i of the general statutes is repealed and the
2352 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

2353 Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 10-144o to 10-146b,
2354 inclusive, and 10-149, the State Board of Education shall not issue or
2355 reissue any certificate, authorization or permit pursuant to said sections
2356 if (1) the applicant for such certificate, authorization or permit has been
2357 convicted of any of the following: (A) A capital felony, as defined under
2358 the provisions of section 53a-54b in effect prior to April 25, 2012; (B)
2359 arson murder, as defined in section 53a-54d; (C) any class A felony; (D)
2360 any class B felony except a violation of section 53a-122, 53a-252 or 53a-
2361 291; (E) a crime involving an act of child abuse or neglect as described
2362 in section 46b-120; or (F) a violation of section [17a-101a] 17a-101o, as
2363 amended by this act, 53-21, 53-37a, 53a-60b, 53a-60c, 53a-71, 53a-72a,
2364 53a-72b, 53a-73a, 53a-88, 53a-90a, 53a-99, 53a-103a, 53a-181c, 53a-191,
2365 53a-196, 53a-196c, 53a-216, 53a-217b or 21a-278 or a violation of
2366 subsection (a) of section 21a-277, and (2) the applicant completed
2367 serving the sentence for such conviction within the five years
2368 immediately preceding the date of the application.

2369 Sec. 46. Section 10-149a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2370 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

2371 If a person holding a certificate, authorization or permit issued by the
2372 State Board of Education under the provisions of sections 10-144o to 10-
2373 149, inclusive, is convicted of a felony or fined pursuant to section [17a-
2374 101a] 17a-101o, as amended by this act, the state's attorney or assistant
2375 state's attorney for the judicial district in which the conviction or fine
2376 occurred shall notify, in writing, the Commissioner of Education of such

2377 conviction or fine.

2378 Sec. 47. Subsection (a) of section 10-222c of the general statutes is
2379 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
2380 *2024*):

2381 (a) No local or regional board of education, governing council of a
2382 state or local charter school, interdistrict magnet school operator or
2383 supervisory agent of a nonpublic school shall offer employment to an
2384 applicant for a position, including any position which is contracted for,
2385 if such applicant would have direct student contact, prior to such board,
2386 council, operator or supervisory agent:

2387 (1) Requiring of such applicant:

2388 (A) To list the name, address and telephone number of each current
2389 or former employer of the applicant, if such current or former employer
2390 was a local or regional board of education, council, operator or
2391 supervisory agent or if such employment otherwise caused the
2392 applicant to have contact with children;

2393 (B) A written authorization that (i) consents to and authorizes
2394 disclosure by the employers listed under subparagraph (A) of this
2395 subdivision of the information requested under subdivision (2) of this
2396 subsection and the release of related records by such employers, (ii)
2397 consents to and authorizes disclosure by the Department of Education
2398 of the information requested under subdivision (3) of this subsection
2399 and the release of related records by the department, and (iii) releases
2400 those employers and the department from liability that may arise from
2401 such disclosure or release of records pursuant to subdivision (2) or (3)
2402 of this subsection; and

2403 (C) A written statement of whether the applicant (i) has been the
2404 subject of an abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct investigation by any
2405 employer, state agency or municipal police department, unless the
2406 investigation resulted in a finding that all allegations were
2407 unsubstantiated, (ii) has ever been disciplined or asked to resign from

2408 employment or resigned from or otherwise separated from any
2409 employment while an allegation of abuse or neglect was pending or
2410 under investigation by the Department of Children and Families, or an
2411 allegation of sexual misconduct was pending or under investigation or
2412 due to an allegation substantiated pursuant to section 17a-101g of abuse
2413 or neglect, or of sexual misconduct or a conviction for abuse or neglect
2414 or sexual misconduct, or (iii) has ever had a professional or occupational
2415 license or certificate suspended or revoked or has ever surrendered such
2416 a license or certificate while an allegation of abuse or neglect was
2417 pending or under investigation by the department or an investigation
2418 of sexual misconduct was pending or under investigation, or due to an
2419 allegation substantiated by the department of abuse or neglect or of
2420 sexual misconduct or a conviction for abuse or neglect or sexual
2421 misconduct;

2422 (2) Conducting a review of the employment history of the applicant
2423 by contacting those employers listed by the applicant under subdivision
2424 (1) of this subsection. Such review shall be conducted using a form
2425 developed by the Department of Education in accordance with section
2426 3 of public act 16-67 that shall request (A) the dates of employment of
2427 the applicant, and (B) a statement as to whether the employer has
2428 knowledge that the applicant (i) was the subject of an allegation of abuse
2429 or neglect or sexual misconduct for which there is an investigation
2430 pending with any employer, state agency or municipal police
2431 department or which has been substantiated, unless such substantiation
2432 has been reversed as a result of an appeal conducted pursuant to section
2433 17a-101k; (ii) was disciplined or asked to resign from employment or
2434 resigned from or otherwise separated from any employment while an
2435 allegation of abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct was pending or
2436 under investigation, or due to a substantiation of abuse or neglect or
2437 sexual misconduct, unless such substantiation has been reversed as a
2438 result of an appeal conducted pursuant to section 17a-101k; or (iii) has
2439 ever had a professional or occupational license, certificate, authorization
2440 or permit suspended or revoked or has ever surrendered such a license,
2441 certificate, authorization or permit while an allegation of abuse or

2442 neglect or sexual misconduct was pending or under investigation, or
2443 due to a substantiation of abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct, unless
2444 such substantiation has been reversed as a result of an appeal conducted
2445 pursuant to section 17a-101k. Such review may be conducted
2446 telephonically or through written communication. Notwithstanding the
2447 provisions of subsection (g) of section 31-51i, not later than five business
2448 days after any such current or former employer of the applicant receives
2449 a request for such information, such employer shall respond with such
2450 information. A local or regional board of education, council, operator or
2451 supervisory agent may request more information concerning any
2452 response made by a current or former employer, and, notwithstanding
2453 the provisions of said subsection (g), such employer shall respond not
2454 later than five business days after receiving such request; and

2455 (3) Requesting information from the Department of Education
2456 concerning (A) the eligibility status for employment of any applicant for
2457 a position requiring a certificate, authorization or permit issued
2458 pursuant to chapter 166, (B) whether the department has knowledge
2459 that a finding has been substantiated by the Department of Children and
2460 Families pursuant to section 17a-101g of abuse or neglect or of sexual
2461 misconduct against the applicant and any information concerning such
2462 a finding, and (C) whether the department has received notification that
2463 the applicant has been convicted of a crime or of criminal charges
2464 pending against the applicant and any information concerning such
2465 charges.

2466 Sec. 48. Subsection (m) of section 10-222c of the general statutes is
2467 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
2468 *2024*):

2469 (m) No local or regional board of education, council, operator or
2470 supervisory agent shall offer employment to any applicant who had any
2471 previous employment contract terminated by a board, council, operator
2472 or supervisory agent or who resigned from such employment, if such
2473 person has been convicted of a violation of section [17a-101a] 17a-101o,
2474 as amended by this act, when an allegation of abuse or neglect or sexual

2475 assault has been substantiated.

2476 Sec. 49. Section 10-221s of the general statutes is repealed and the
2477 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

2478 (a) Each local and regional board of education shall post the
2479 telephone number for the Careline operated by the Department of
2480 Children and Families, pursuant to section 17a-103a, and the Internet
2481 web site address that provides information about the Careline in a
2482 conspicuous location frequented by students in each school under the
2483 jurisdiction of the board. Such posting shall be in various languages that
2484 are the most appropriate for the students enrolled in the school.

2485 (b) A local or regional board of education shall permit and give
2486 priority to any investigation conducted by the Commissioner of
2487 Children and Families or the appropriate local law enforcement agency
2488 that a child has been abused or neglected pursuant to sections 17a-101a
2489 to 17a-101d, inclusive, as amended by this act, and section 17a-103. Such
2490 board of education shall conduct its own investigation and take any
2491 disciplinary action, in accordance with the provisions of section 17a-
2492 101i, as amended by this act, upon notice from the commissioner or the
2493 appropriate local law enforcement agency that such board's
2494 investigation will not interfere with the investigation of the
2495 commissioner or such local law enforcement agency. A preliminary
2496 inquiry described in subsection (b) of section 17a-101a, as amended by
2497 this act, shall not be considered an investigation conducted by a board
2498 of education under this section.

2499 Sec. 50. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2024, the
2500 Commissioner of Children and Families shall update the educational
2501 training program and refresher training program for the accurate and
2502 prompt identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect,
2503 developed pursuant to subsection (c) of section 17a-101 of the general
2504 statutes, to include training for school employees, as defined in section
2505 53a-65 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, on (1) the proper
2506 manner in which to conduct a preliminary inquiry described in

2507 subsection (b) of section 17a-101a of the general statutes, as amended by
2508 this act, and (2) the provisions of section 10-221s of the general statutes,
2509 as amended by this act.

2510 Sec. 51. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-156ii of the 2024
2511 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
2512 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

2513 (a) There is established an aspiring educators diversity scholarship
2514 program administered by the Department of Education. The program
2515 shall provide an annual scholarship to diverse students who (1)
2516 graduated from a public high school in [a priority school district, as
2517 described in section 10-266p] an alliance district, as defined in section
2518 10-262u, and (2) are enrolled in a teacher preparation program at any
2519 four-year institution of higher education. A diverse student may receive
2520 an annual scholarship in an amount up to ten thousand dollars for each
2521 year such diverse student is enrolled and in good standing in a teacher
2522 preparation program. As used in this section, "diverse" has the same
2523 meaning as provided in section 10-156bb.

2524 (b) Not later than January 1, 2023, the department shall, in
2525 consultation with the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the
2526 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
2527 develop a policy concerning the administration of the scholarship. Such
2528 policy shall include, but need not be limited to, provisions regarding (1)
2529 any additional eligibility criteria, (2) payment and distribution of the
2530 scholarships to diverse students through the teacher preparation
2531 programs in which they are enrolled, and (3) the notification of students
2532 in high school in [priority school] alliance districts of the scholarship
2533 program, including the opportunity to apply for a scholarship under the
2534 program while enrolled in high school and prior to graduation if such
2535 student will be enrolled in a teacher preparation program during the
2536 following fall semester at a four-year institution of higher education.

2537 Sec. 52. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Notwithstanding the provisions of
2538 chapter 54 of the general statutes, sections 10-145d-9(b) to 10-145d-9(e),

2539 inclusive, 10-145d-9(g)(1), 10-145d-9(i), 10-145d-10(a) to 10-145d-
 2540 10(b)(9), inclusive, 10-145d-10(c) to 10-145d-10(g), inclusive, 10-145d-11,
 2541 10-145d-400a(a) to 10-145d-400a(d), inclusive, 10-145d-401(a), 10-145d-
 2542 401(c), 10-145d-402, 10-145d-403(b), 10-145d-403(g), 10-145d-404 to 10-
 2543 145d-406, inclusive, 10-145d-407(a), 10-145d-407(b), 10-145d-407(d), 10-
 2544 145d-407(f), 10-145d-407(h), 10-145d-407(i), 10-145d-409 to 10-145d-415,
 2545 inclusive, 10-145d-417, 10-145d-419, 10-145d-420(f), 10-145d-421(b), 10-
 2546 145d-422, 10-145d-423(a), 10-145d-426, 10-145d-427, 10-145d-434, 10-
 2547 145d-435(b), 10-145d-436 to 10-145d-438, inclusive, 10-145d-441 to 10-
 2548 145d-453, inclusive, 10-145d-472 to 10-145d-474, inclusive, 10-145d-476
 2549 to 10-145d-479, inclusive, 10-145d-481, 10-145d-482(c), 10-145d-482(d),
 2550 10-145d-483, 10-145d-484, 10-145d-535 to 10-145d-537, inclusive, 10-
 2551 145d-539 to 10-145d-542, inclusive, 10-145d-608 and 10-145d-609 of the
 2552 regulations of Connecticut state agencies are repealed."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-145b
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-145d(f)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-145a
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-145f(b)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-145t(a) and (b)
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-145w(a)
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-144d(e)
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-145aa
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	31-51rr
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-66r(a)

Sec. 21	July 1, 2024	10-74q
Sec. 22	July 1, 2024	10-74r(b)
Sec. 23	July 1, 2024	10-76d(a)(10)
Sec. 24	July 1, 2024	10-155j
Sec. 25	July 1, 2024	10-155k
Sec. 26	July 1, 2024	10-156gg(a)(2)
Sec. 27	July 1, 2024	10-212a
Sec. 28	July 1, 2024	10-221o(b)
Sec. 29	July 1, 2024	10-221u
Sec. 30	July 1, 2024	10-222d(a)(8)
Sec. 31	July 1, 2024	10-223e(d) to (g)
Sec. 32	July 1, 2024	10-223j(a)(4)
Sec. 33	July 1, 2024	10-236b(o)
Sec. 34	July 1, 2025	10-236b(o)
Sec. 35	July 1, 2024	10-239e(a)
Sec. 36	July 1, 2024	17a-812(b)(1)
Sec. 37	July 1, 2024	46a-11b(a)
Sec. 38	July 1, 2024	53a-65(13)
Sec. 39	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 40	July 1, 2024	31-3i(a)
Sec. 41	July 1, 2024	17a-101a
Sec. 42	July 1, 2024	17a-101e
Sec. 43	July 1, 2024	17a-101i(d)
Sec. 44	July 1, 2024	17a-101o
Sec. 45	July 1, 2024	10-145i
Sec. 46	July 1, 2024	10-149a
Sec. 47	July 1, 2024	10-222c(a)
Sec. 48	July 1, 2024	10-222c(m)
Sec. 49	July 1, 2024	10-221s
Sec. 50	from passage	New section
Sec. 51	July 1, 2024	10-156ii(a) and (b)
Sec. 52	July 1, 2026	New section