



AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPARENCY IN EDUCATION.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) Not later than January 1,
2 2024, and annually thereafter, the Department of Education shall
3 conduct a review of each chart of accounts for the previous fiscal year
4 submitted pursuant to section 10-227 of the general statutes, as
5 amended by this act. Following the review of each such chart of
6 accounts, the department shall prepare a report for each local or
7 regional board of education that includes school district financial
8 information for the following categories: (1) Expense function, (2)
9 expense object, (3) education type, (4) pre-k flag, (5) allocation, and (6)
10 funding source. Within each such category, such financial information
11 shall be disaggregated by each education financial system code
12 utilized by the department as part of its education financial system.

13 (b) The department shall make the chart of accounts and report of
14 such chart of accounts for each local or regional board of education
15 available on its Internet web site.

16 Sec. 2. Section 10-227 of the general statutes is repealed and the
17 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

18 [Each board of education shall cause the superintendent to make

19 returns not later than September first of each year to the Commissioner
20 of Education of the receipts, expenditures and statistics, as prescribed
21 by the commissioner, provided each such board may submit revisions
22 to the returns in such form and with such documentation as required
23 by the commissioner no later than December thirty-first of each year
24 following the September submission. Such reports or returns required]
25 Not later than September first of each year, each board of education
26 shall cause the superintendent to make returns of the receipts,
27 expenditures and statistics of such board for the previous fiscal year by
28 filing the chart of accounts described in section 10-10c, as amended by
29 this act, with the Commissioner of Education. Each such board may
30 submit revisions to its chart of accounts not later than December thirty-
31 first of each year following the September submission. Such chart of
32 accounts shall be [made] filed in accordance with the instructions
33 furnished by the commissioner, shall be certified no later than
34 December thirty-first of each year by the independent public
35 accountant selected pursuant to section 7-392 for the purpose of
36 auditing municipal accounts, and shall be subject to Department of
37 Education verification. If the [returns and statistics] chart of accounts
38 and revisions called for by said commissioner are not [sent] filed on or
39 before the days specified in this section or if the [returns are] chart of
40 accounts is not certified as required by the commissioner on or before
41 December thirty-first, each local and regional board of education
42 required by law to [make separate returns] file the chart of accounts,
43 whose [returns and statistics] chart of accounts or revisions are
44 delayed until after those days, shall forfeit of the total sum which is
45 paid for such board of education from the State Treasurer an amount
46 to be determined by the State Board of Education, which amount shall
47 be not less than one thousand dollars nor more than ten thousand
48 dollars. The amount so forfeited shall be withheld from a subsequent
49 grant payment as determined by the commissioner. [Notwithstanding
50 the penalty provision of this section, the Commissioner of Education
51 may waive said forfeiture for good cause.]

52 Sec. 3. Section 10-10c of the general statutes is repealed and the

53 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

54 (a) The Department of Education shall develop and implement a
55 uniform system of accounting for school revenues and expenditures.
56 Such uniform system of accounting shall include a chart of accounts to
57 be used at the school and district level. Such chart of accounts shall
58 include, but not be limited to, all amounts and sources of revenue and
59 donations of cash and real or personal property in the aggregate
60 totaling five hundred dollars or more, including federal impact aid,
61 received by a local or regional board of education, regional educational
62 service center, charter school or charter management organization on
63 behalf of a school district or individual school. Select measures shall be
64 required at the individual school level, as determined by the
65 department. The department shall make such chart of accounts
66 available on its Internet web site.

67 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2015] 2024, and each fiscal
68 year thereafter, each local or regional board of education, regional
69 educational service center and state charter school shall implement
70 such uniform system of accounting by completing and filing annual
71 financial reports with the department using the chart of accounts and
72 meet the provisions of section 10-227, as amended by this act.

73 (c) The Office of Policy and Management may annually audit the
74 financial reports submitted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section
75 for any local or regional board of education, regional educational
76 service center or state charter school.

77 (d) Not later than July 1, [2013] 2023, the Department of Education
78 shall submit the chart of accounts described in subsection (a) of this
79 section to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
80 having cognizance of matters relating to education and appropriations
81 and the budgets of state agencies, in accordance with the provisions of
82 section 11-4a.

83 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) On and after July 1, 2023, the

84 Department of Education shall annually offer a training program to
85 newly elected members of local and regional boards of education. Such
86 training program shall be developed by the department, and include,
87 but not be limited to, the role and responsibilities of a board member,
88 the duties and obligations of a board of education and school district
89 budgeting and education finance.

90 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) On and after July 1, 2023, any
91 person who has been elected to a local or regional board of education
92 for the first time shall complete, at a time and in a manner prescribed
93 by the Department of Education, the training program for newly
94 elected members of local and regional boards of education, as
95 described in section 4 of this act. Each such member shall complete
96 such training program not later than one year after assuming office.

97 Sec. 6. Subsection (i) of section 10-145a of the general statutes is
98 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
99 *1, 2023*):

100 (i) On and after July 1, [2016] 2023, any program of teacher
101 preparation leading to professional certification shall require, as part of
102 the curriculum, clinical experience, field experience or student
103 teaching experience in a classroom during four semesters of such
104 program of teacher preparation. [Such clinical experience, field
105 experience or student teaching experience shall occur: (1) In a school
106 district that has been categorized by the Department of Education as
107 District Reference Group A, B, C, D or E, and (2) in a school district
108 that has been categorized by the department as District Reference
109 Group F, G, H or I.] Such clinical experience, field experience or
110 student teaching experience may include a cooperating teacher serving
111 as a mentor to student teachers, provided such cooperating teacher has
112 received a performance evaluation designation of exemplary or
113 proficient, pursuant to section 10-151b, for the prior school year.

114 Sec. 7. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 10-262u of the
115 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu

116 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

117 (a) As used in this section and section 10-262i:

118 (1) "Alliance district" means a school district for a town that (A) is
119 among the towns with the [thirty-three] lowest accountability index
120 scores [, as calculated] and so designated by the [Department]
121 Commissioner of Education, or (B) was previously designated as an
122 alliance district by the Commissioner of Education [for the fiscal years
123 ending June 30, 2013, to June 30, 2022, inclusive] on or before July 1,
124 2023.

125 (2) "Accountability index" has the same meaning as provided in
126 section 10-223e.

127 (3) "Mastery test data of record" has the same meaning as provided
128 in section 10-262f.

129 (4) "Educational reform district" means an alliance district that is
130 among the ten lowest accountability index scores when all towns are
131 ranked highest to lowest in accountability index scores.

132 (b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, the Commissioner of
133 Education shall designate thirty school districts as alliance districts.
134 [Any school district designated as an alliance district shall be so
135 designated for a period of five years. On or before June 30, 2016, the
136 Department of Education shall determine if there are any additional
137 alliance districts.]

138 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, the commissioner shall
139 designate thirty-three school districts as alliance districts. [Any school
140 district designated as an alliance district shall be so designated for a
141 period of five years.]

142 (3) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the commissioner shall
143 designate thirty-six school districts as alliance districts. [Any school
144 district designated as an alliance district shall be so designated for a

145 period of five years.]

146 (4) On and after July 1, 2023, the commissioner may designate
147 additional school districts as alliance districts.

148 (c) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year
149 thereafter, the Comptroller shall withhold from any town that [(A)]
150 was designated as an alliance district (A) pursuant to subdivision (2) of
151 subsection (b) of this section any increase in funds received over the
152 amount the town received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012,
153 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-262i, [and (B) was designated
154 as an alliance district] (B) for the first time pursuant to subdivision (3)
155 of subsection (b) of this section, any increase in funds received over the
156 amount the town received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022,
157 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-262i, or (C) pursuant to
158 subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of this section any increase in funds
159 received over the amount the town received for the fiscal year prior to
160 such designation as an alliance district pursuant to subsection (a) of
161 section 10-262i. The Comptroller shall transfer such funds to the
162 Commissioner of Education.

163 (2) Upon receipt of an application pursuant to subsection (d) of this
164 section or section 10-156gg, the Commissioner of Education may pay
165 such funds to the town designated as an alliance district and such
166 town shall pay all such funds to the local or regional board of
167 education for such town on the condition that such funds shall be
168 expended in accordance with (A) the plan described in subsection (d)
169 of this section, (B) the minority candidate certification, retention or
170 residency year program pursuant to section 10-156gg, (C) the family
171 resource center program, pursuant to section 10-4o, to establish a
172 family resource center in each elementary school under the jurisdiction
173 of such board, (D) the provisions of subsection (c) of section 10-262i,
174 and [(D)] (E) any guidelines developed by the State Board of Education
175 for such funds. Such funds shall be used to improve student
176 achievement and recruit and retain minority teachers in such alliance
177 district and to offset any other local education costs approved by the

178 commissioner.

179 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) As used in this section:

180 (1) "Alliance district" has the same meaning as provided in section
181 10-262u of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

182 (2) "Private entity" means any individual, corporation, general
183 partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, joint
184 venture, nonprofit organization or other business entity;

185 (3) "Public-private partnership" means the relationship established
186 between the local or regional board of education for a town designated
187 as an alliance district, a community college and a private entity for the
188 purpose of implementing a pathways in technology early college high
189 school program; and

190 (4) "Pathways in technology early college high school program"
191 means a program of instruction in which students in grades nine to
192 twelve, inclusive, complete high school and college-level coursework
193 while simultaneously engaging in industry-guided workforce
194 development.

195 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year
196 thereafter, the Department of Education shall annually issue a request
197 for proposals to local and regional boards of education for towns
198 designated as alliance districts for the establishment of a new public-
199 private partnership or the enhancement of an existing pathways in
200 technology early college high school program. The department shall
201 review such proposals and award a grant to two such boards for the
202 costs associated with the establishment of a new public-private
203 partnership or enhancement of a pathways in technology early college
204 high school program.

205 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) No person shall sell or offer for
206 sale to any local or regional board of education, or in any public
207 school, any food product in which the name and branding on the

208 packaging that is available at retail in the general market place is the
209 same or similar to the name and branding on the packaging for sale in
210 a public school, but in which the nutritional value per portion or
211 ingredients in such food product deviate from the same or similarly
212 named and branded food product that is for sale in a public school.

213 Sec. 10. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) For the fiscal years ending June 30,
214 2024, to June 30, 2026, inclusive, the Department of Education shall
215 administer a wholesome school meals pilot program that awards a
216 grant to an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u of the general
217 statutes, as amended by this act, for the purpose of embedding a
218 professional chef in such alliance district to assist school meal
219 programs in building the capacity of food service staff, improving
220 school meal quality, increasing diner satisfaction, streamlining
221 operations and establishing a financially viable school meal program.
222 The department shall partner with an organization that specializes in
223 the placement of chefs for the purposes described in this subsection.

224 (b) Not later than October 1, 2023, a local or regional board of
225 education for a town designated as an alliance district may apply to
226 the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the department,
227 for a grant under this section.

228 (c) The department shall review each application submitted under
229 subsection (b) of this section and award five grants under this section.
230 Each grant recipient shall receive an annual grant of one hundred fifty
231 thousand dollars in each year of the pilot program. Such grant shall be
232 expended for the purposes described in subsection (a) of this section.

233 (d) Not later than January 1, 2027, the department shall submit a
234 report on the wholesome school meals pilot program to the joint
235 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
236 matters relating to education and appropriations, in accordance with
237 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	10-227
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	10-10c
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-145a(i)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-262u(a) to (c)
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a), "school district" was changed to "local or regional board of education", for consistency; in Section 8(b), "of a new public-private partnership" was added, for clarity; in Section 9, "per portion" was added, for clarity.

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*