



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

**Committee Bill No. 1**

LCO No. 6296



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

**AN ACT INCREASING RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS, SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL EDUCATION.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) As used in this section,  
2 sections 2 to 9, inclusive, of this act and section 10-505b of the general  
3 statutes, as amended by this act:

4 (1) "Designated beneficiary" means an early care and education  
5 program offered by an eligible board of education or a licensed provider  
6 of child care services;

7 (2) "Eligible board of education" means a local or regional board of  
8 education that (A) is eligible to receive a grant under the Connecticut  
9 Smart Start competitive grant program pursuant to section 10-506 of the  
10 general statutes, (B) offers a full-day preschool program, and (C) does  
11 not charge tuition to the parents or guardians of children enrolled in  
12 such full-day preschool program, unless such tuition is required as part  
13 of a state or federally funded subsidy or grant program;

14 (3) "Child care services" has the same meaning as provided in section  
15 19a-77 of the general statutes;

16 (4) "Covered child" means any child who is enrolled in an early care  
17 and education program offered by a designated beneficiary;

18 (5) "Eligible expense" means expenses incurred by a designated  
19 beneficiary and authorized under section 4 of this act for reimbursement  
20 by the trust;

21 (6) "Unpaid portion" means the difference between (A) the total  
22 amount of tuition charged for a covered child's enrollment in an early  
23 care and education program offered by a designated beneficiary, and (B)  
24 the sum of (i) any state or federal child care subsidies received for such  
25 covered child, and (ii) an amount not to exceed seven per cent of the  
26 annual household income of the family for such covered child that is  
27 paid by such family to such designated beneficiary; and

28 (7) "Trust" means the Universal Preschool Trust.

29 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Commencing on July 1, 2025,  
30 there is established the Universal Preschool Trust. The trust shall  
31 constitute an instrumentality of the state and shall perform essential  
32 governmental functions as provided in sections 2 to 9, inclusive, of this  
33 act. The trust shall receive and hold all payments and deposits or  
34 contributions intended for the trust, as well as gifts, bequests,  
35 endowments or federal, state or local grants and any other funds from  
36 any public or private source and all earnings until disbursed in  
37 accordance with section 5 of this act.

38 (b) The amounts on deposit in the trust shall not constitute property  
39 of the state and the trust shall not be construed to be a department,  
40 institution or agency of the state. Amounts on deposit in the trust shall  
41 not be commingled with state funds and the state shall have no claim to  
42 or against, or interest in, such funds. Any contract entered into by or any  
43 obligation of the trust shall not constitute a debt or obligation of the state  
44 and the state shall have no obligation to any designated beneficiary or  
45 any other person on account of the trust and all amounts obligated to be  
46 paid from the trust shall be limited to amounts available for such

47 obligation on deposit in the trust. The amounts on deposit in the trust  
48 may only be disbursed in accordance with the provisions of section 5 of  
49 this act. The trust shall continue in existence as long as it holds any  
50 deposits or has any obligations and until its existence is terminated by  
51 law and upon termination any unclaimed assets shall return to the state.  
52 Property of the trust shall not be governed by section 3-61a of the  
53 general statutes.

54 (c) The Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipt, maintenance,  
55 administration, investing and disbursements of amounts from the trust.  
56 The trust shall not receive deposits in any form other than cash.

57 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the fiscal year ending June  
58 30, 2025, after the accounts for the General Fund have been closed and  
59 the Comptroller has determined the amount of unappropriated surplus,  
60 if any, in said fund, the amount of such surplus to a maximum of three  
61 hundred million dollars shall be transferred by the Treasurer to the  
62 Universal Preschool Trust established under section 2 of this act.

63 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year  
64 thereafter, after the accounts for the General Fund have been closed and  
65 the Comptroller has determined the amount of unappropriated surplus,  
66 if any, in said fund, the entire amount of such surplus shall be  
67 transferred by the Treasurer to the Universal Preschool Trust, except  
68 that if the amount in the Budget Reserve Fund is less than eighteen per  
69 cent of the net General Fund appropriations for the current fiscal year,  
70 the amount of such transfer shall be reduced and an amount equal to  
71 such reduction shall be transferred to the Budget Reserve Fund.

72 (c) Any amount transferred pursuant to this section shall be deducted  
73 in determining the amount of unappropriated surplus to be transferred  
74 to the Budget Reserve Fund pursuant to subsection (b) of section 4-30a  
75 of the general statutes.

76 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the fiscal year ending June  
77 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Treasurer shall authorize

78 phases for the administration and expenditure of funds from the trust  
79 as follows:

80 (1) Phase I shall commence for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027,  
81 and operate when the rate of return on the trust's amounts on deposit  
82 meets or exceeds the amount needed to fund all covered children as of  
83 July 1, 2025, according to the eligible expenses for such covered children.

84 (2) Phase II shall commence whenever the two-year annual rate of  
85 return on the trust's amounts on deposit meets or exceeds the amount  
86 needed to fund all covered children served by designated beneficiaries  
87 in phase I plus the amount of eligible expenses described in subdivision  
88 (2) of subsection (b) of this section.

89 (3) Phase III shall commence not earlier than one year following the  
90 first year of implementation of phase II and whenever the two-year  
91 annual rate of return on the trust's amounts on deposit meets or exceeds  
92 the amount needed to fund the number of all covered children served  
93 by designated beneficiaries in phase I and the first year of phase II.

94 (4) Phase IV shall commence not earlier than one year following the  
95 first year of implementation of phase III and whenever the two-year  
96 annual rate of return on the trust's amounts on deposit meets or exceeds  
97 the amount needed to fund the number of all covered children served  
98 by designated beneficiaries in phase I, phase II and phase III.

99 (b) The eligible expenses for each phase shall be as follows:

100 (1) Phase I eligible expenses shall include (A) the unpaid portion of a  
101 covered child's tuition for enrollment in a preschool program as part of  
102 an early care and education program offered by a designated beneficiary  
103 pursuant to section 10-505b of the general statutes, as amended by this  
104 act, and (B) the cost charged to a family associated with a covered child  
105 in a preschool program offered by an eligible board of education.

106 (2) Phase II eligible expenses shall include (A) phase I eligible  
107 expenses, and (B) costs associated with the expansion of slots offered by

108 existing designated beneficiaries, including, but not limited to,  
109 transportation costs, capital expenses and costs associated with  
110 obtaining accreditation for the early care and education program from  
111 the National Association for the Education of Young Children, National  
112 Association for Family Child Care, a Head Start on-site program review  
113 instrument or a successor instrument pursuant to federal regulations.

114 (3) Phase III eligible expenses shall include (A) phase I eligible  
115 expenses, (B) phase II eligible expenses, and (C) the unpaid portion of a  
116 covered child's tuition for enrollment in a preschool program as part of  
117 an early care and education program offered by a designated beneficiary  
118 who is a private provider of child care services.

119 (4) Phase IV eligible expenses shall include (A) phase I eligible  
120 expenses, (B) phase II eligible expenses, (C) phase III eligible expenses,  
121 and (D) the unpaid portion of a covered child's tuition for enrollment in  
122 an infant and toddler program as part of an early care and education  
123 program offered by a designated beneficiary.

124 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Not later than the fifteenth of each  
125 month, each designated beneficiary seeking a reimbursement payment  
126 from the trust for eligible expenses incurred during the previous month  
127 shall submit a claim to the child care resource and referral agency  
128 designated by the Commissioner of Early Childhood. The child care  
129 resource and referral agency shall provide the Treasurer with such  
130 claims for eligible expenses. Upon review and approval of such claims,  
131 the Treasurer shall disburse funds in an amount equal to the total sum  
132 of such claims to the child care resource and referral agency. The child  
133 care resource and referral agency shall distribute such funds to each  
134 designated beneficiary in an amount equal to the amount approved by  
135 the Treasurer for such designated beneficiary's claim.

136 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) There is established the  
137 Universal Preschool Trust Board. The board shall be responsible for the  
138 administration of the Universal Preschool Trust.

139 (b) The board shall consist of the following members:

140 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
141 who is currently employed in the early childhood workforce;

142 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who is  
143 a representative from the Service Employees' International Union, Local  
144 2001;

145 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
146 Representatives, who is the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in a  
147 preschool program provided by an eligible board of education;

148 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is a  
149 member of the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance;

150 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
151 Representatives, who is a member of an eligible board of education;

152 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a  
153 member of the parent cabinet established by the Office of Early  
154 Childhood pursuant to section 10-500 of the general statutes;

155 (7) One appointed by the Governor, who is a representative of a  
156 corporation with a significant physical presence in the state and that  
157 employs individuals who may benefit from early childhood education  
158 and state child care initiatives;

159 (8) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's  
160 designee;

161 (9) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the  
162 secretary's designee; and

163 (10) The Treasurer, or the Treasurer's designee.

164 (c) All initial appointments to the board shall be made not later than  
165 September 1, 2025. Each appointed member shall serve in accordance

166 with the provisions of section 4-1a of the general statutes, and the  
167 appointing authorities shall appoint members to ensure representation  
168 on the board of all geographic areas in the state, to the extent practicable.  
169 Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. Any vacancy  
170 occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the balance  
171 of the unexpired term.

172 (d) The Treasurer, or the Treasurer's designee, shall serve as the  
173 chairperson of the board. The chairperson shall schedule the first  
174 meeting of the board to be held not later than October 1, 2025. The board  
175 shall meet at least quarterly, and upon request of the board or the  
176 Treasurer.

177 (e) The Treasurer shall, at the first meeting of the board and  
178 biannually thereafter, submit to the board an actuarial chart that  
179 includes a review of the total amount of funds within the trust, the  
180 health of the investments of the trust, the anticipated growth of the trust  
181 and any recommended models for the timing and rate of drawing down  
182 from the trust.

183 (f) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the board  
184 shall submit a report on the actuarial future of the trust, the current  
185 phase of the trust, the anticipated date to advance phases of the trust, if  
186 any, and an assessment of the success and efficacy of the Universal  
187 Preschool Trust to the joint standing committees of the General  
188 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, children  
189 and appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
190 of the general statutes.

191 (g) The board shall be within the office of the Treasurer for  
192 administrative purposes only.

193 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) The Treasurer, on behalf of the  
194 trust and for purposes of the trust, may:

195 (1) Receive and invest moneys in the trust in any instruments,

196 obligations, securities or property in accordance with section 8 of this  
197 act;

198 (2) Enter into one or more contractual agreements, including  
199 contracts for legal, actuarial, accounting, custodial, advisory,  
200 management, administrative, advertising, marketing and consulting  
201 services for the trust, and pay for such services from the assets of the  
202 trust;

203 (3) Procure insurance in connection with the trust's property, assets,  
204 activities or deposits to the trust;

205 (4) Apply for, accept and expend gifts, grants or donations from  
206 public or private sources to enable the trust to carry out its objectives;

207 (5) Adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 of the general  
208 statutes for purposes of sections 2 to 9, inclusive, of this act;

209 (6) Sue and be sued;

210 (7) Establish one or more funds within the trust; and

211 (8) Take any other action necessary to carry out the purposes of  
212 sections 2 to 9, inclusive, of this act and incidental to the duties imposed  
213 on the Treasurer pursuant to said sections.

214 (b) The Treasurer, on behalf of the trust and for purposes of the trust,  
215 shall:

216 (1) Enter into a memorandum of understanding with the  
217 Commissioner of Early Childhood to establish information sharing  
218 practices for purposes of sections 2 to 9, inclusive, of this act. Such  
219 memorandum of understanding shall be in accordance with applicable  
220 state and federal laws.

221 (2) Enter into a memorandum of understanding with the child care  
222 resource and referral agency described in section 5 of this act to establish  
223 information sharing practices for purposes of sections 2 to 9, inclusive,



224 of this act. Such memorandum of understanding shall be in accordance  
225 with applicable state and federal laws.

226 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding the provisions  
227 of sections 3-13 to 3-13h, inclusive, of the general statutes, the Treasurer  
228 shall invest the amounts on deposit in the trust in a manner reasonable  
229 and appropriate to achieve the objectives of the trust, exercising the  
230 discretion and care of a prudent person in similar circumstances with  
231 similar objectives. The Treasurer shall give due consideration to rate of  
232 return, risk, term or maturity, diversification of the total portfolio within  
233 the trust, liquidity, the projected disbursements and expenditures and  
234 the expected payments, deposits, contributions and gifts to be received.  
235 The Treasurer shall not require the trust to invest directly in obligations  
236 of the state or any political subdivision of the state or in any investment  
237 or other fund administered by the Treasurer. The assets of the trust shall  
238 be continuously invested and reinvested in a manner consistent with the  
239 objectives of the trust until disbursed for eligible expenditures or  
240 expended on expenses incurred by the operations of the trust.

241 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Disbursements from the trust  
242 shall be exempt from all taxation by the state and all political  
243 subdivisions of the state.

244 Sec. 10. Section 3-13c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
245 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

246 As used in sections 3-13 to 3-13e, inclusive, and 3-31b, "trust funds"  
247 includes the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement Fund A, the  
248 Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement Fund B, the Soldiers,  
249 Sailors and Marines Fund, the Family and Medical Leave Insurance  
250 Trust Fund, the State's Attorneys' Retirement Fund, the Teachers'  
251 Annuity Fund, the Teachers' Pension Fund, the Teachers' Survivorship  
252 and Dependency Fund, the School Fund, the State Employees  
253 Retirement Fund, the Hospital Insurance Fund, the Policemen and  
254 Firemen Survivor's Benefit Fund, any trust fund described in  
255 subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 7-450 that is administered,

256 held or invested by the State Treasurer, the Connecticut Baby Bond  
257 Trust, any Climate Change and Coastal Resiliency Reserve Fund created  
258 pursuant to section 7-159d, the Universal Preschool Trust and all other  
259 trust funds administered, held or invested by the State Treasurer.

260 Sec. 11. Section 10-505b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
261 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

262 (a) The Office of Early Childhood shall, within available  
263 appropriations, establish a state-wide Tri-Share Child Care Matching  
264 Program. [serving New London County.] Under such program, costs for  
265 child care provided by duly licensed child care facilities in the state shall  
266 be shared [equally] among participating employers, employees and the  
267 [state] Universal Preschool Trust as follows:

268 (1) A participating employer shall be responsible for at least one-third  
269 of an employee's full-day child care costs for a covered child enrolled in  
270 an early care and education program offered by a designated  
271 beneficiary;

272 (2) An employee shall be responsible for child care costs in an amount  
273 not to exceed seven per cent of such employee's annual household  
274 income; and

275 (3) The remaining balance of such employee's child care costs shall be  
276 paid for with funds from the Universal Preschool Trust in accordance  
277 with the provisions of section 5 of this act.

278 (b) (1) The [program shall be established for a minimum of two years  
279 and the] office shall select a regional or state-wide organization as the  
280 administrator of the program. Such administrator shall (A) determine  
281 employers' and employees' eligibility for participation in the program,  
282 (B) ensure that child care facilities to which payments will be made  
283 under the program are licensed by the state, (C) collect and ensure  
284 timely payment from participating employers, participating employees  
285 and the state, (D) disburse funds to the appropriate child care provider,

286 (E) recruit employers to participate in the program, (F) coordinate  
287 adequate communication between all parties, and (G) collect and submit  
288 to the Office of Early Childhood data concerning participating  
289 employees, including, but not limited to, the annual household income  
290 of such employees, provided any such submitted data shall be  
291 deidentified.

292 (2) To be eligible to participate in the program:

293 (A) An employer shall have a physical facility located in [New  
294 London County] the state that is the principal workplace of its  
295 employees; and

296 (B) An employee shall (i) be employed by a participating employer,  
297 (ii) reside in the state, and (iii) have as such employee's principal  
298 workplace a location in [New London County, and (iv) not be receiving  
299 other public assistance for child care costs] the state.

300 (c) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall enter into an  
301 agreement with such administrator to perform the duties described  
302 under subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section. Such agreement  
303 shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) a provision that the  
304 administrator shall receive, for administrative costs of the program, up  
305 to ten per cent of the funds allocated by the state for the program, (2) a  
306 requirement that the administrator not commingle funds received for  
307 purposes of the program, other than funds for administrative costs  
308 allowed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, with other funds  
309 held or controlled by the administrator, (3) any restrictions or  
310 prohibitions on the disclosure of data received or collected by the  
311 administrator in the performance of its duties under subdivision (1) of  
312 subsection (b) of this section, and (4) penalties for violation of a  
313 provision of the agreement or of this section.

314 (d) Commencing with the fiscal year immediately following the first  
315 year of the program and annually thereafter, the commissioner shall  
316 submit to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having

317 cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state  
318 agencies, finance, revenue and bonding, education and children, a  
319 report on the program. Such report shall include, but need not be limited  
320 to, (1) for the fiscal year immediately preceding, (A) the number of  
321 participating employers and participating employees, (B) the  
322 percentage of participating employees whose household incomes are  
323 below the asset limited, income constrained, employed population  
324 threshold, as calculated in the most recent ALICE report by the United  
325 Way of Connecticut, and (C) the amounts disbursed by the  
326 administrator for child care costs and the amounts retained by the  
327 administrator for administrative costs, and (2) any programmatic or  
328 legislative changes the commissioner recommends to improve the  
329 program or further its purposes.

330 Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) The Office of Early  
331 Childhood shall develop a centralized online enrollment portal for (1)  
332 designated beneficiaries to apply for payments from the Universal  
333 Preschool Trust, established pursuant to section 2 of this act, and (2)  
334 families to apply for a subsidy or other state or federal financial  
335 assistance for child care under (A) a Head Start or Early Head Start  
336 program, (B) the child care subsidy program, established pursuant to  
337 section 17b-749 of the general statutes, (C) an early care and education  
338 program receiving financial assistance under Early Start CT pursuant to  
339 section 10-550b of the general statutes, (D) a preschool program under  
340 the Connecticut Smart Start competitive grant program, pursuant to  
341 section 10-506 of the general statutes, (E) the temporary family  
342 assistance program pursuant to section 17b-112 of the general statutes,  
343 (F) foster care placements or certified relative foster care placements  
344 through the Department of Children and Families, or (G) any other state  
345 or federal program for child care assistance.

346 (b) The enrollment portal shall (1) enable families to identify early  
347 care and education programs in their area, (2) determine a family's  
348 eligibility for a subsidy and allow such family to apply for a subsidy for  
349 which they are eligible, and (3) provide an estimate of the amount of

350 tuition a family would pay after deducting any subsidies for which such  
351 family is eligible and any amount covered by the Universal Preschool  
352 Trust.

353 Sec. 13. Subsection (c) of section 10-4 of the general statutes is  
354 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
355 *2025*):

356 (c) Said board shall prepare every five years a five-year  
357 comprehensive plan for elementary, secondary, vocational, career and  
358 adult education. Such comprehensive plan shall include, but need not  
359 be limited to, (1) a policy statement of the State Board of Education's  
360 long-term goals and short-term objectives, including, for any  
361 comprehensive plan prepared on or after July 1, 2018, a policy statement  
362 that the demographics of educators in the public schools should reflect  
363 the racial and ethnic diversity of the total population of the state, (2) an  
364 analysis of cost implications and measurement criteria and how said  
365 board's programs and operations relate to such goals and objectives, and  
366 (3) specific action plans, target dates and strategies and methods of  
367 implementation for achieving such goals and objectives. The State Board  
368 of Education shall establish, every five years, an advisory committee to  
369 assist the board in the preparation of the comprehensive plan. Members  
370 of the advisory committee shall be appointed by the State Board of  
371 Education with representation on the committee to include, but not be  
372 limited to, representatives of the Connecticut Advisory Council on  
373 Vocational and Career Education, education organizations, parent  
374 organizations, student organizations, business and industry, organized  
375 labor and appropriate state agencies. Notwithstanding any requirement  
376 for submission of a plan for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1984,  
377 pursuant to section 10-96a of the general statutes, revision of 1958,  
378 revised to January 1, 1983, the State Board of Education shall not be  
379 required to submit the master plan for vocational and career education  
380 but shall submit, pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the  
381 comprehensive plan for elementary and secondary, vocational, career  
382 and adult education to the Governor and the joint standing committee

383 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
384 education on or before September 1, 1996, and every five years  
385 thereafter provided, the master plan currently in effect shall remain in  
386 effect until the comprehensive plan is submitted. The Commissioner of  
387 Education shall make semiannual presentations to the State Board of  
388 Education, at regularly scheduled meetings of said board, to provide  
389 updates on the strategic priorities, actions and outcomes outlined in the  
390 comprehensive plan. The State Board of Education shall be responsible  
391 for annually updating the progress in implementing the goals and  
392 objectives of the comprehensive plan based on the presentations of the  
393 commissioner and shall report on such progress to the Governor and to  
394 said standing committee annually and make such information available  
395 on the Internet web site of the Department of Education. The State Board  
396 of Education shall provide opportunity for public comment prior to its  
397 adoption of a plan.

398       Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) On or after June first, but prior  
399 to September thirtieth, the superintendent of schools for each school  
400 district shall annually provide, at a regularly scheduled meeting of the  
401 local or regional board of education for the school district, the following:  
402 (1) The number and names of all community-based organizations with  
403 whom the board of education has executed a formal memorandum of  
404 understanding, memorandum of agreement or contract to provide  
405 support services to students in the school district, disaggregated by  
406 school and type of support service provided, (2) the number of students  
407 engaged in both credit-bearing and noncredit-bearing internships or  
408 workforce training programs, disaggregated by type and duration of the  
409 internship or workforce training program, (3) the actual classroom size  
410 and student-teacher ratio during the previous school year,  
411 disaggregated by school and subject area, (4) attrition data for certified  
412 and noncertified staff, disaggregated by school and subject, not  
413 including in-district transfers, and (5) any savings achieved through the  
414 vacancies of positions approved as part of the school district's budget  
415 for the academic year.

416 Sec. 15. (*Effective from passage*) Any state agency that contributes data  
417 for the purposes of the development of the report of disconnected youth  
418 pursuant to section 22 of public act 24-45 shall post such report on the  
419 agency's Internet web site.

420 Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) There is established within  
421 the Department of Education, for administrative purposes only, a  
422 regional education accountability review board for each planning  
423 region, as defined in section 4-124i of the general statutes. Each such  
424 board shall (1) provide intensive technical, financial and other assistance  
425 and related accountability to the priority school districts, as described in  
426 section 10-266p of the general statutes, located in the planning region  
427 for such board, (2) develop guidelines and criteria for the budgeting and  
428 expenditure of funds for each such priority school district, and (3)  
429 review and analyze all educational spending of each such priority  
430 school district.

431 (b) Each regional education accountability review board shall consist  
432 of (1) the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;  
433 (2) the State Treasurer, or the State Treasurer's designee; (3) three  
434 appointed by the Governor, one of whom has significant professional  
435 experience that focuses on the health and well-being of children and  
436 youth, and one of whom shall be the chief elected official of a  
437 community in the planning region for the board; (4) one appointed by  
438 the president pro tempore of the Senate who has significant experience  
439 as a member of an organization with a collective bargaining agreement  
440 in at least one school district in the planning region for the board, if  
441 applicable, and who shall be selected from a list of names recommended  
442 by the Connecticut Education Association, the American Federation of  
443 Teachers-Connecticut, the Service Employees International Union and  
444 the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; (5)  
445 one appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives who shall  
446 be actively serving as a superintendent of schools for a school district;  
447 (6) one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate who has  
448 significant professional experience that focuses on the health and well-

449 being of children and youth; and (7) one appointed by the minority  
450 leader of the House of Representatives who shall be a current or former  
451 attorney who practices or practiced education law. The members  
452 described in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection shall serve as the  
453 chairpersons of each board.

454 (c) Each regional education accountability review board shall submit  
455 an annual expenditure report for each priority school district located in  
456 the planning region for such board to the State Board of Education. Each  
457 such report shall be made available on the Internet web site of the  
458 Department of Education.

459 Sec. 17. Section 10-227 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
460 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

461 (a) Each board of education shall cause the superintendent to make  
462 returns not later than September first of each year to the Commissioner  
463 of Education of the receipts, expenditures and statistics, as prescribed  
464 by the commissioner, provided each such board may submit revisions  
465 to the returns in such form and with such documentation as required by  
466 the commissioner not later than January thirty-first of each year  
467 following the September submission. Such reports or returns required  
468 shall be filed in accordance with the instructions furnished by the  
469 commissioner, shall be certified not later than January thirty-first of each  
470 year by the independent public accountant selected pursuant to section  
471 7-392 for the purpose of auditing municipal accounts, and shall be  
472 subject to Department of Education verification. If the returns and  
473 statistics and revisions called for by said commissioner are not filed on  
474 or before the days specified in this section or if the returns are not  
475 certified as required by the commissioner on or before January thirty-  
476 first, each local and regional board of education required by law to make  
477 separate returns, whose returns and statistics or revisions are delayed  
478 until after those days, shall forfeit of the total sum which is paid for such  
479 board of education from the State Treasurer an amount to be determined  
480 by the State Board of Education, which amount shall be not less than



481 one thousand dollars nor more than ten thousand dollars. The amount  
482 so forfeited shall be withheld from a subsequent grant payment as  
483 determined by the commissioner. Notwithstanding the penalty  
484 provision of this section, the Commissioner of Education may waive  
485 said forfeiture for good cause.

486 (b) Not later than March 15, 2025, and annually thereafter, the  
487 Department of Education shall publish on its Internet web site the data  
488 contained in the reports and returns filed pursuant to subsection (a) of  
489 this section by education program type, expense function, expense  
490 object and funding source, including, but not limited to, federal,  
491 combined state and local and combined private and other sources for  
492 the school and district level. The department shall develop and publish  
493 a guide that contains definitions for each category of expenditure and  
494 funding source and the corrective actions or penalties that the  
495 department may take or impose on a board of education if the data  
496 contained in the reports and returns filed by such board does not align  
497 with such definitions.

498 (c) Not later than March 15, 2025, and annually thereafter, the  
499 Department of Education shall develop and publish the data contained  
500 in the reports and returns filed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section  
501 in a format that allows financial comparisons between school districts  
502 and schools, including student enrollment and demographic statistics  
503 as of October first of the school year in which such reports and returns  
504 were filed. The department shall provide to each board of education an  
505 application program interface through its education data portal, or  
506 through other means, to assist such board in posting the data contained  
507 in the reports and returns filed by such board on its Internet web site.

508 Sec. 18. Section 10-198d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
509 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

510 (a) Not later than January 1, 2016, the Department of Education, in  
511 consultation with the Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement  
512 Gap established pursuant to section 10-16nn, shall develop a chronic

513 absenteeism prevention and intervention plan for use by local and  
514 regional boards of education to reduce chronic absenteeism in the school  
515 district.

516 (b) (1) The department shall biannually review, and revise as needed,  
517 the chronic absenteeism prevention and intervention plan. In making  
518 such revisions, the department shall incorporate the findings of the most  
519 recent report of disconnected youth, developed pursuant to section 22  
520 of public act 24-45. In addition to the policies and procedures concerning  
521 truants described in section 10-198a, the plan shall include, but need not  
522 be limited to, the following: (A) Information that describes (i) chronic  
523 absenteeism, including, but not limited to, the definition of a chronically  
524 absent child under section 10-198c, and the causes of chronic  
525 absenteeism, such as poverty, violence, poor health and lack of access to  
526 transportation, (ii) the effect of chronic absenteeism on a student's  
527 academic performance, and (iii) how family and school partnerships  
528 with community resources, including, but not limited to, family  
529 resource centers and youth service bureaus, can reduce chronic  
530 absenteeism and improve student attendance, [and] (B) the use of an  
531 early indication tool provided by the department or other third party,  
532 provided such tool is designed to quickly identify students who are at  
533 risk for becoming chronically absent or disconnected from school, such  
534 as those students who (i) are at risk of not graduating or satisfying the  
535 high school graduation requirements pursuant to section 10-221a, (ii)  
536 have a history of behavioral concerns or disciplinary issues, including  
537 suspensions or expulsions, and (iii) are homeless children or youth, as  
538 defined in 42 USC 11343a, as amended from time to time, and (C) a  
539 means of collecting and analyzing data relating to student attendance,  
540 truancy and chronic absenteeism for the purpose of (i) disaggregating  
541 such data by school district, school, grade and subgroups, such as race,  
542 ethnicity, gender, eligibility for free or reduced priced lunches, housing  
543 status, students whose primary language is not English and students  
544 with disabilities, and (ii) assisting local and regional boards of education  
545 in (I) tracking chronic absenteeism over multiple years and for the  
546 current school year, (II) developing indicators to identify students who

547 are at risk of being chronically absent children, (III) monitoring students'  
548 attendance over time, and (IV) making adjustments to interventions as  
549 they are being implemented.

550 (2) The chronic absenteeism prevention and intervention plan may  
551 include, but need not be limited to, the following: (A) A research-based  
552 and data-driven home visiting or mentorship model that addresses and  
553 attempts to prevent or reduce chronic absenteeism through the use of  
554 mentors, such as students, teachers, administrators, intramural and  
555 interscholastic athletic coaches, school resource officers, family  
556 navigators, student success coaches and community partners, and (B)  
557 incentives and rewards that recognize schools and students that  
558 improve attendance and reduce the school chronic absenteeism rate.

559 Sec. 19. Section 10-222 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
560 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

561 Each local board of education shall prepare an itemized estimate of  
562 the cost of maintenance of public schools for the ensuing year and shall  
563 submit such estimate to the board of finance in each town or city having  
564 a board of finance, to the board of selectmen in each town having no  
565 board of finance or otherwise to the authority making appropriations  
566 for the school district, not later than two months preceding the annual  
567 meeting at which appropriations are to be made. The board or authority  
568 that receives such estimate shall, not later than ten days after the date  
569 the board of education submits such estimate, make spending  
570 recommendations and suggestions to such board of education as to how  
571 such board of education may consolidate noneducational services and  
572 realize financial efficiencies. Such board of education may accept or  
573 reject the suggestions of the board of finance, board of selectmen or  
574 appropriating authority and shall provide the board of finance, board of  
575 selectmen or appropriating authority with a written explanation of the  
576 reason for any rejection. The money appropriated by any municipality  
577 for the maintenance of public schools shall be expended by and in the  
578 discretion of the board of education. Except as provided in this

579 subsection, any such board may transfer any unexpended or  
580 uncontracted-for portion of any appropriation for school purposes to  
581 any other item of such itemized estimate. Boards may, by adopting  
582 policies and procedures, authorize designated personnel to make  
583 limited transfers under emergency circumstances if the urgent need for  
584 the transfer prevents the board from meeting in a timely fashion to  
585 consider such transfer. All transfers made in such instances shall be  
586 announced at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board and a  
587 written explanation of such transfer shall be provided to the legislative  
588 body of the municipality or, in a municipality where the legislative body  
589 is a town meeting, to the board of selectmen. Expenditures by the board  
590 of education shall not exceed the appropriation made by the  
591 municipality, with such money as may be received from other sources  
592 for school purposes. If any occasion arises whereby additional funds are  
593 needed by such board, the chairman of such board shall notify the board  
594 of finance, board of selectmen or appropriating authority, as the case  
595 may be, and shall submit a request for additional funds in the same  
596 manner as is provided for departments, boards or agencies of the  
597 municipality and no additional funds shall be expended unless such  
598 supplemental appropriation shall be granted and no supplemental  
599 expenditures shall be made in excess of those granted through the  
600 appropriating authority. The annual report of the board of education  
601 shall, in accordance with section 10-224, include a summary showing (1)  
602 the total cost of the maintenance of schools, (2) the amount received  
603 from the state and other sources for the maintenance of schools, [and]  
604 (3) the net cost to the municipality of the maintenance of schools, and  
605 (4) the balance of any nonlapsing, unexpended funds account described  
606 in section 10-248a, as amended by this act. For purposes of this  
607 subsection, "meeting" means a meeting, as defined in section 1-200, and  
608 "itemized estimate" means an estimate in which broad budgetary  
609 categories including, but not limited to, salaries, fringe benefits, utilities,  
610 supplies and grounds maintenance are divided into one or more line  
611 items.

612 Sec. 20. Section 10-248a of the general statutes is repealed and the

613 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

614     (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year  
615 thereafter, notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any  
616 special act, municipal charter, home rule ordinance or other ordinance,  
617 a local board of education may deposit into a nonlapsing account any  
618 unexpended funds from the prior fiscal year from the budgeted  
619 appropriation for education, provided (1) such deposited amount does  
620 not exceed two per cent of the total budgeted appropriation for  
621 education for such prior fiscal year, (2) each expenditure from such  
622 account shall be made only for educational purposes, and (3) each such  
623 expenditure shall be authorized by the local board of education for such  
624 town.

625     (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year  
626 thereafter, each local board of education shall compile a report  
627 regarding the nonlapsing, unexpended funds account described in this  
628 section, including, but not limited to, the total balance of the account,  
629 the amount deposited into such account in a fiscal year and an  
630 accounting of the expenditures made from such account. Each such  
631 board shall submit such report to the Department of Education and the  
632 exclusive bargaining representative for certified employees chosen  
633 pursuant to section 10-153b.

634     (c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year  
635 thereafter, each local board of education shall, not later than thirty days  
636 from the adoption of such board's budget, notify the exclusive  
637 bargaining representative for certified employees, chosen pursuant to  
638 section 10-153b, of (1) the establishment of a nonlapsing, unexpended  
639 funds account described in this section, or (2) the board's intended uses  
640 for any funds in such nonlapsing, unexpended funds account during the  
641 next fiscal year.

642     Sec. 21. Subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 10-51 of the  
643 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
644 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

645 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year  
646 thereafter, a regional board of education, by a majority vote of its  
647 members, may create a reserve fund for educational expenditures. Such  
648 fund shall thereafter be termed "reserve fund for educational  
649 expenditures". The aggregate amount of annual and supplemental  
650 appropriations by a district to such fund shall not exceed two per cent  
651 of the annual district budget for such fiscal year. Annual appropriations  
652 to such fund shall be included in the share of net expenses to be paid by  
653 each member town. Supplemental appropriations to such fund may be  
654 made from estimated fiscal year end surplus in operating funds. Interest  
655 and investment earnings received with respect to amounts held in the  
656 fund shall be credited to such fund. The board shall annually submit a  
657 complete and detailed report of the condition of such fund to the  
658 member towns. Upon the recommendation and approval by the  
659 regional board of education, any part or the whole of such fund may be  
660 used for educational expenditures. Upon the approval of any such  
661 expenditure an appropriation shall be set up, plainly designated for the  
662 educational expenditure for which it has been authorized. Any  
663 unexpended portion of such appropriation remaining shall revert to  
664 said fund. If any authorized appropriation is set up pursuant to the  
665 provisions of this subsection and through unforeseen circumstances the  
666 board is unable to expend the total amount of such appropriation, the  
667 board, by a majority vote of its members, may terminate such  
668 appropriation which then shall no longer be in effect. Such fund may be  
669 discontinued, after the recommendation and approval by the regional  
670 board of education, and any amounts held in the fund shall be  
671 transferred to the general fund of the district. For the fiscal year ending  
672 June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, each board shall (A) make  
673 available and annually update information regarding such fund,  
674 including, but not limited to, the total balance of the fund, the amount  
675 deposited into such fund in a fiscal year and an accounting of the  
676 expenditures made from such fund, and (B) not later than thirty days  
677 from the adoption of such board's budget, notify the exclusive  
678 bargaining representative for certified employees, chosen pursuant to

679 section 10-153b, of (i) the establishment of the reserve fund for  
680 educational expenditures, or (ii) the board's intended uses for any funds  
681 in such fund during the next fiscal year.

682 Sec. 22. Section 10-222o of the general statutes is repealed and the  
683 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

684 (a) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, and each fiscal year  
685 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall annually  
686 make available on the Internet web site of such local or regional board  
687 of education the aggregate spending on salaries, employee benefits,  
688 instructional supplies, educational media supplies, instructional  
689 equipment, regular education tuition, special education tuition,  
690 purchased services and all other expenditure items, excluding debt  
691 service, for each school under the jurisdiction of such local or regional  
692 board of education.

693 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year  
694 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall, on a  
695 quarterly basis, post on the Internet web site of such local or regional  
696 board of education (A) the actual classroom size and student-teacher  
697 ratios during the current school year, disaggregated by school, (B) the  
698 number of full-time equivalent staffing positions, disaggregated by  
699 categories assigned by the Department of Education, (C) the number of  
700 staffing vacancies in the school district and any accrued savings from  
701 such vacancies during the current fiscal year, and (D) the names and  
702 scope of services provided by all nonprofit organizations or the regional  
703 educational service center with whom the board has executed a formal  
704 memorandum of understanding, memorandum of agreement or  
705 contract to provide any support services to students, including, but not  
706 limited to, students who may be considered at risk of becoming  
707 disconnected from school. Each board shall submit a copy of the  
708 information described in this subsection to the legislative body of the  
709 municipality or, in a municipality where the legislative body is a town  
710 meeting, to the board of selectmen and the district's exclusive

711 bargaining representative for certified employees chosen pursuant to  
712 section 10-153b.

713 (b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, and each fiscal year  
714 thereafter, each regional educational service center shall annually make  
715 available on the Internet web site of such regional educational service  
716 center the aggregate spending on salaries, employee benefits,  
717 instructional supplies, educational media supplies, instructional  
718 equipment, regular education tuition, special education tuition,  
719 purchased services and all other expenditure items, excluding debt  
720 service, for each school under the jurisdiction of such regional  
721 educational service center.

722 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year  
723 thereafter, each regional educational service center shall, on a quarterly  
724 basis, post on the Internet web site of such regional educational service  
725 center (A) the actual classroom size and student-teacher ratios during  
726 the current school year, disaggregated by school, (B) the number of full-  
727 time equivalent staffing positions, disaggregated by categories assigned  
728 by the Department of Education, (C) the number of staffing vacancies of  
729 such regional educational service center and any accrued savings from  
730 such vacancies during the current fiscal year, and (D) the names and  
731 scope of services provided by all nonprofit organizations with whom  
732 the regional educational service center has executed a formal  
733 memorandum of understanding, memorandum of agreement or  
734 contract to provide any support services to students, including, but not  
735 limited to, students who may be considered at risk of becoming  
736 disconnected from school. Each regional educational service center shall  
737 submit a copy of the information described in this subsection to the  
738 legislative body of the members of such regional educational service  
739 center or, in those municipalities where the legislative body is a town  
740 meeting, to the board of selectmen and the exclusive bargaining  
741 representative for certified employees chosen pursuant to section 10-  
742 153b.



743 (c) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, and each fiscal year  
744 thereafter, the governing authority for each state charter school shall  
745 annually make available on the Internet web site of such governing  
746 authority the aggregate spending on salaries, employee benefits,  
747 instructional supplies, educational media supplies, instructional  
748 equipment, regular education tuition, special education tuition,  
749 purchased services and all other expenditure items, excluding debt  
750 service, for each state charter school under the jurisdiction of such  
751 governing authority.

752 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year  
753 thereafter, the governing authority for each state charter school shall, on  
754 a quarterly basis, post on the Internet web site of such governing  
755 authority (A) the actual classroom size and student-teacher ratios  
756 during the current school year, disaggregated by school, (B) the number  
757 of full-time equivalent staffing positions, disaggregated by categories  
758 assigned by the Department of Education, (C) the number of staffing  
759 vacancies in the state charter school and any accrued savings from such  
760 vacancies during the current fiscal year, and (D) the names and scope of  
761 services provided by all nonprofit organizations or the regional  
762 educational service center with whom the governing authority has  
763 executed a formal memorandum of understanding, memorandum of  
764 agreement or contract to provide any support services to students,  
765 including, but not limited to, students who may be considered at risk of  
766 becoming disconnected from school. Each governing authority shall  
767 submit a copy of the information described in this subsection to the  
768 exclusive bargaining representative for certified employees chosen  
769 pursuant to section 10-153b.

770 (d) Not later than January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the  
771 Department of Education shall make all information described in this  
772 section available on the department's Internet web site.

773 Sec. 23. Subsection (a) of section 10-233d of the general statutes is  
774 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*

775 2025):

776 (a) (1) Any local or regional board of education, at a meeting at which  
777 three or more members of such board are present, or the impartial  
778 hearing board established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, may  
779 expel, subject to the provisions of this subsection, any pupil in grades  
780 three to twelve, inclusive, whose conduct on school grounds or at a  
781 school-sponsored activity is violative of a publicized policy of such  
782 board and is seriously disruptive of the educational process or  
783 endangers persons or property or whose conduct off school grounds is  
784 violative of such policy and is seriously disruptive of the educational  
785 process, provided a majority of the board members sitting in the  
786 expulsion hearing vote to expel and that at least three affirmative votes  
787 for expulsion are cast. In making a determination as to whether conduct  
788 is seriously disruptive of the educational process, the board of education  
789 or impartial hearing board may consider, but such consideration shall  
790 not be limited to: (A) Whether the incident occurred within close  
791 proximity of a school; (B) whether other students from the school were  
792 involved or whether there was any gang involvement; (C) whether the  
793 conduct involved violence, threats of violence or the unlawful use of a  
794 weapon, as defined in section 29-38, and whether any injuries occurred;  
795 and (D) whether the conduct involved the use of alcohol.

796 (2) Expulsion proceedings pursuant to this section, except as  
797 provided in subsection (i) of this section, shall be required for any pupil  
798 in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, whenever there is reason to  
799 believe that any pupil (A) on school grounds or at a school-sponsored  
800 activity, was in possession of a firearm, as defined in 18 USC 921, as  
801 amended from time to time, or deadly weapon, dangerous instrument  
802 or martial arts weapon, as defined in section 53a-3, (B) off school  
803 grounds, did possess such a firearm in violation of section 29-35 or did  
804 possess and use such a firearm, instrument or weapon in the  
805 commission of a crime under chapter 952, or (C) on or off school  
806 grounds, offered for sale or distribution a controlled substance, as  
807 defined in section 21a-240, whose manufacture, distribution, sale,

808 prescription, dispensing, transporting or possessing with intent to sell  
809 or dispense, offering, or administering is subject to criminal penalties  
810 under sections 21a-277 and 21a-278. Such a pupil shall be expelled for  
811 one calendar year if the local or regional board of education or impartial  
812 hearing board finds that the pupil did so possess or so possess and use,  
813 as appropriate, such a firearm, instrument or weapon or did so offer for  
814 sale or distribution such a controlled substance, provided the board of  
815 education or the hearing board may modify the period of expulsion for  
816 a pupil on a case-by-case basis, and as provided for in subdivision (2) of  
817 subsection (c) of this section.

818 (3) Unless an emergency exists, no pupil shall be expelled without a  
819 formal hearing held pursuant to sections 4-176e to 4-180a, inclusive, and  
820 section 4-181a, provided whenever such pupil is a minor, the notice  
821 required by section 4-177 and section 4-180 shall also be given to the  
822 parents or guardian of the pupil at least five business days before such  
823 hearing, not including the day of such hearing. If an emergency exists,  
824 such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible. The  
825 notice shall include information concerning the parent's or guardian's  
826 and the pupil's legal rights and concerning legal services provided free  
827 of charge or at a reduced rate that are available locally and how to access  
828 such services. An attorney or other advocate may represent any pupil  
829 subject to expulsion proceedings. The parent or guardian of the pupil  
830 shall have the right to have the expulsion hearing postponed for up to  
831 one week to allow time to obtain representation, except that if an  
832 emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion  
833 as possible.

834 (4) (A) Prior to conducting an expulsion hearing as required by this  
835 subsection, an administrator, school counselor or school social worker  
836 at the school in which the pupil is enrolled shall contact the local  
837 homeless education liaison designated by the local or regional board of  
838 education for the school district, pursuant to Subtitle B of Title VII of the  
839 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC 11431 et seq., as  
840 amended from time to time, to make a determination whether such

841 pupil is a homeless child or youth, as defined in 42 USC 11343a, as  
842 amended from time to time. If it is determined that such pupil is a  
843 homeless child or youth, the local or regional board of education, or the  
844 impartial hearing board established pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
845 section, shall consider the impact of homelessness on the behavior of the  
846 pupil during the hearing. No such pupil may be expelled without a plan  
847 of interventions and supports to mitigate the impact of homelessness on  
848 the behavior of the student.

849 (B) Any pupil who is determined to be a homeless child or youth and  
850 has been expelled for a second time shall be provided a meeting with  
851 the local homeless education liaison by the local or regional board of  
852 education.

853 Sec. 24. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the fiscal years ending June 30,  
854 2026, to June 30, 2028, inclusive, the Department of Education shall  
855 administer a student success coach pilot program to be implemented in  
856 the school districts for the towns of Bridgeport, New Haven, Waterbury,  
857 New Britain, Hartford, Windham, New London and Norwich. The  
858 student success coach pilot program shall utilize evidence-based  
859 strategies that have demonstrated effectiveness in supporting students  
860 identified as having attendance, behavioral or credit attainment  
861 challenges and any other risk factors that contribute to students  
862 becoming more likely to become disconnected from school and  
863 increasing their risk of misusing drugs, including the use of opioids.

864 (b) The local board of education for a school district participating in  
865 the student success pilot program may apply for a grant in an amount  
866 not to exceed two million dollars. The department shall award such  
867 grants to participating boards, in accordance with the provisions of  
868 section 17a-674d of the general statutes, provided such participating  
869 boards (1) utilize an early indicator tool prescribed by the department  
870 to identify those students who have the greatest need for a student  
871 success coach, and (2) are evaluated by the Center for Connecticut  
872 Education Research Collaboration within the department, or another

873 third party selected by the department.

874 (c) Not later than February 15, 2029, the department shall evaluate the  
875 implementation and effectiveness of the student success pilot program  
876 and submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the State  
877 Board of Education, the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee,  
878 established pursuant to section 17a-674c of the general statutes, and the  
879 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance  
880 of matters relating to education and children, in accordance with the  
881 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

882 Sec. 25. Subsection (b) of section 10-283 of the general statutes is  
883 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
884 *2025*):

885 (b) (1) Notwithstanding the application date requirements of this  
886 section, at any time within the limit of available grant authorization and  
887 within the limit of appropriated funds, the Commissioner of  
888 Administrative Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of  
889 Education, may approve applications for grants and make payments for  
890 such grants, for any of the following reasons: (A) To assist school  
891 building projects to remedy damage from fire and catastrophe, (B) to  
892 correct safety, health and other code violations, (C) to replace roofs,  
893 including the replacement or installation of skylights as part of the roof  
894 replacement project, (D) to remedy a certified school indoor air quality  
895 emergency, (E) to install insulation for exterior walls and attics, [or] (F)  
896 to purchase and install a limited use and limited access elevator,  
897 windows, photovoltaic panels, wind generation systems, building  
898 management systems or portable classroom buildings, provided  
899 portable classroom building projects shall not create a new facility or  
900 cause an existing facility to be modified so that the portable buildings  
901 comprise a substantial percentage of the total facility area, as  
902 determined by the commissioner, or (G) to upgrade heating, ventilation  
903 and air conditioning systems or make other improvements to indoor air  
904 quality in school buildings subject to subdivision (2) of this subsection.

905       (2) The commissioner shall not award a grant under subparagraph  
906 (G) of subdivision (1) of this subsection to any applicant that, on or after  
907 July 1, 2026, has not certified compliance with the uniform inspection  
908 and evaluation of an existing heating, ventilation and air conditioning  
909 system pursuant to subsection (d) of section 10-220. The following  
910 expenses shall not be eligible for reimbursement under this subsection:  
911 Routine maintenance and cleaning of the heating, ventilation and air  
912 conditioning system, and work performed at or on a public school  
913 administrative or service facility that is not located or housed within a  
914 public school building. Recipients of a grant under subparagraph (G) of  
915 subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be responsible for the routine  
916 maintenance and cleaning of the heating, ventilation and air  
917 conditioning system and provide training to school personnel and  
918 building maintenance staff concerning the proper use and maintenance  
919 of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system.

920       Sec. 26. Subsection (c) of section 10-66bb of the general statutes is  
921 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
922 *2025*):

923       (c) On and after July 1, 2015, the State Board of Education shall  
924 review, annually, all applications and grant initial certificates of  
925 approval for charters, in accordance with subsections (e) and (f) of this  
926 section, for a local or state charter school located in [a town that has one  
927 or more schools that have been designated as a commissioner's network  
928 school, pursuant to section 10-223h, at the time of such application, or]  
929 a town that has been designated as a low achieving school district,  
930 pursuant to section 10-223e, at the time of such application. (1) Except  
931 as provided for in subdivision (2) of this subsection, no state charter  
932 school shall enroll (A) (i) more than two hundred fifty students, or (ii)  
933 in the case of a kindergarten to grade eight, inclusive, school, more than  
934 three hundred students, or (B) twenty-five per cent of the enrollment of  
935 the school district in which the state charter school is to be located,  
936 whichever is less. (2) In the case of a state charter school found by the  
937 State Board of Education to have a demonstrated record of achievement,

938 said board shall, upon application by such school to said board, waive  
939 the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection for such school. (3)  
940 The State Board of Education shall give preference to applicants for  
941 charter schools (A) whose primary purpose is the establishment of  
942 education programs designed to serve one or more of the following  
943 student populations: (i) Students with a history of low academic  
944 performance, (ii) students who receive free or reduced priced lunches  
945 pursuant to federal law and regulations, (iii) students with a history of  
946 behavioral and social difficulties, (iv) students identified as requiring  
947 special education, (v) students who are multilingual learners, or (vi)  
948 students of a single gender; (B) whose primary purpose is to improve  
949 the academic performance of an existing school that has consistently  
950 demonstrated substandard academic performance, as determined by  
951 the Commissioner of Education; (C) that will serve students who reside  
952 in a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p; (D) that will  
953 serve students who reside in a district in which seventy-five per cent or  
954 more of the enrolled students are members of racial or ethnic minorities;  
955 (E) that demonstrate highly credible and specific strategies to attract,  
956 enroll and retain students from among the populations described in  
957 subparagraph (A)(i) to (A)(vi), inclusive, of this subdivision; or (F) that,  
958 in the case of an applicant for a state charter school, such state charter  
959 school will be located at a work-site or such applicant is an institution  
960 of higher education. In determining whether to grant an initial  
961 certificate of approval for a charter, the State Board of Education shall  
962 consider (i) the effect of the proposed charter school on (I) the reduction  
963 of racial, ethnic and economic isolation in the region in which it is to be  
964 located, (II) the regional distribution of charter schools in the state, (III)  
965 the potential of over-concentration of charter schools within a school  
966 district or in contiguous school districts, and (IV) the state's efforts to  
967 close achievement gaps, as defined in section 10-1600, and (ii) the  
968 comments made at a public hearing conducted pursuant to subdivision  
969 (2) of subsection (e) of this section or subparagraph (B)(ii) of subdivision  
970 (1) of subsection (f) of this section.

971 Sec. 27. Subsection (c) of section 10-74i of the general statutes is

972 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
973 *2025*):

974 (c) Following the designation or establishment of a community  
975 school, but prior to the opening of such community school, the board of  
976 education shall conduct (1) an operations and instructional audit [, in  
977 accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of section 10-223h,] for  
978 an existing school that has been designated as a community school, (2)  
979 a community needs audit to identify the academic, physical, social,  
980 emotional, health, mental health and civic needs of students and their  
981 families that may impact student learning and academic achievement,  
982 and (3) a community resource assessment of potential resources,  
983 services and opportunities available within or near the community that  
984 students, families and community members may access and integrate  
985 into the community school.

986 Sec. 28. Subdivision (14) of subsection (a) of section 4a-60g of the  
987 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
988 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

989 (14) "Municipal public works contract" means that portion of an  
990 agreement entered into on or after October 1, 2015, between any  
991 individual, firm or corporation and a municipality for the construction,  
992 rehabilitation, conversion, extension, demolition or repair of a public  
993 building, highway or other changes or improvements in real property,  
994 which is financed in whole or in part by the state, including, but not  
995 limited to, matching expenditures, grants, loans, insurance or  
996 guarantees. [but excluding any project of an alliance district, as defined  
997 in section 10-262u, financed by state funding in an amount equal to fifty  
998 thousand dollars or less.]

999 Sec. 29. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 8-240a of the  
1000 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
1001 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1002 (a) As used in this section:



1003 (1) ["Alliance district" has the same meaning as provided in section  
1004 10-262u] "Eligible community" means the fifty towns with the lowest  
1005 equalized net grand list;

1006 (2) "Environmental justice community" has the same meaning as  
1007 provided in section 22a-20a; and

1008 (3) "Low-income resident" means, after adjustments for family size,  
1009 individuals or families whose income is not greater than (A) sixty per  
1010 cent of the state median income, (B) eighty per cent of the area median  
1011 income for the area in which the resident resides, as determined by the  
1012 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, or (C)  
1013 any other definition of "low-income resident" included in any program  
1014 in the state that utilizes federal funding, as determined by the  
1015 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

1016 (b) There is established a revolving loan and grant fund to be known  
1017 as the "Housing Environmental Improvement Revolving Loan and  
1018 Grant Fund". The fund may be funded from the proceeds of bonds  
1019 issued pursuant to section 8-240b or from any moneys available to the  
1020 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection or from other  
1021 sources. Investment earnings credited to the fund shall become part of  
1022 the assets of the fund. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of  
1023 any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the fund for the next fiscal  
1024 year. Payments of principal or interest on a low interest loan made  
1025 pursuant to this section shall be paid to the State Treasurer for deposit  
1026 in the Housing Environmental Improvement Revolving Loan and Grant  
1027 Fund. The fund shall be used to make grants or low interest loans  
1028 pursuant to this section to pay reasonable and necessary fees incurred  
1029 in administering loans under this section. The Commissioner of Energy  
1030 and Environmental Protection may enter into contracts with quasi-  
1031 public agencies or nonprofit corporations to provide for the  
1032 administration of the Housing Environmental Improvement Revolving  
1033 Loan and Grant Fund by such entity or entities, provided no grant or  
1034 low interest loan shall be made from the fund without the authorization

1035 of the commissioner as provided in this section.

1036 (c) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in  
1037 collaboration with the Commissioner of Housing, shall establish a pilot  
1038 program or programs to provide financing or grants from the fund  
1039 established in subsection (b) of this section for retrofitting projects for  
1040 multifamily residences located in environmental justice communities or  
1041 [alliance districts] eligible communities that (1) improve the energy  
1042 efficiency of such residences, which may include, but need not be  
1043 limited to, the installation of heat pumps, solar power generating  
1044 systems, improved roofing, exterior doors and windows, improved  
1045 insulation, air sealing, improved ventilation, appliance upgrades and  
1046 any electric system or wiring upgrades necessary for such retrofit, (2)  
1047 remediate health and safety concerns that are barriers to any such  
1048 retrofit, including, but not limited to, mold, vermiculite, asbestos, lead  
1049 and radon, or (3) provide services to assist residents and building  
1050 owners to access and implement the programs established pursuant to  
1051 this section or other available state or federal programs that enable the  
1052 implementation of energy efficiency retrofitting.

1053 Sec. 30. Section 8-265pp of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1054 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1055 The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority shall develop and  
1056 administer a program of mortgage assistance to certified teachers (1)  
1057 employed by priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p, (2)  
1058 employed by transitional school districts pursuant to section 10-263c, (3)  
1059 employed by the Technical Education and Career System at a technical  
1060 education and career school located in such priority or transitional  
1061 school districts, (4) who teach in a subject matter shortage area pursuant  
1062 to section 10-8b, (5) who graduated from a public high school in [an  
1063 educational reform district, as defined in section 10-262u] a priority  
1064 school district, or (6) who graduated from an historically black college  
1065 or university or a Hispanic-serving institution, as those terms are  
1066 defined in the Higher Education Act of 1965, P.L. 89-329, as amended

1067 from time to time, and reauthorized by the Higher Education  
1068 Opportunity Act of 2008, P.L. 110-315, as amended from time to time.  
1069 Such assistance shall be available to eligible teachers for the purchase of  
1070 a house as their principal residence, provided, in the case of a teacher  
1071 employed by a priority or a transitional school district, or by the  
1072 Technical Education and Career System at a technical education and  
1073 career school located in a priority or transitional school district, the  
1074 house is located in such district. In making mortgage assistance  
1075 available under the program, the authority shall utilize down payment  
1076 assistance or any other appropriate housing subsidies. The terms of any  
1077 mortgage assistance shall allow the mortgagee to realize a reasonable  
1078 portion of the equity gain upon sale of the mortgaged property.

1079 Sec. 31. Section 10-4q of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1080 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1081 The Commissioner of Education, with the assistance of the State  
1082 Education Resource Center, established pursuant to section 10-357a,  
1083 may provide grants to those local and regional boards of education [for  
1084 school districts designated as alliance districts, pursuant to section 10-  
1085 262u] who have been identified by the commissioner as in need of  
1086 literacy assistance based on student performance on the mastery  
1087 examination in reading. Such grants shall be for the creation and  
1088 acquisition of new curricula, training in the use of such curricula and  
1089 related supporting textbooks and other materials. Such local and  
1090 regional boards of education may use such grants only for curricula,  
1091 training and related textbooks and materials that have been authorized  
1092 by the commissioner. Such local and regional boards of education shall  
1093 apply for grants pursuant to this section at such time and in such  
1094 manner as the commissioner prescribes, and the commissioner shall  
1095 determine the amount of the grant awards.

1096 Sec. 32. Section 10-14u of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1097 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1098 (a) As used in this section:

1099 (1) "Achievement gaps" means the existence of a significant disparity  
1100 in the academic performance of students among and between (A) racial  
1101 groups, (B) ethnic groups, (C) socioeconomic groups, (D) genders, and  
1102 (E) multilingual learners and students whose primary language is  
1103 English.

1104 (2) "Opportunity gaps" means the ways in which race, ethnicity,  
1105 socioeconomic status, English proficiency, community wealth, familial  
1106 situations or other factors intersect with the unequal or inequitable  
1107 distribution of resources and opportunities to contribute to or  
1108 perpetuate lower educational expectations, achievement or attainment.

1109 (3) "Scientifically-based reading research and instruction" means (A)  
1110 a comprehensive program or a collection of instructional practices that  
1111 is based on reliable, valid evidence showing that when such programs  
1112 or practices are used, students can be expected to achieve satisfactory  
1113 reading progress, and (B) the integration of instructional strategies for  
1114 continuously assessing, evaluating and communicating the student's  
1115 reading progress and needs in order to design and implement ongoing  
1116 interventions so that students of all ages and proficiency levels can read  
1117 and comprehend text and apply higher level thinking skills. Such  
1118 comprehensive program or collection of practices includes, but is not  
1119 limited to, instruction in the following areas of reading: Oral language,  
1120 phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, rapid automatic  
1121 name or letter name fluency and reading comprehension.

1122 (4) "Literacy district" means a school district for a local or regional  
1123 board of education who has been identified by the Commissioner of  
1124 Education as in need of literacy assistance based on student  
1125 performance on the mastery examination in reading for such district.

1126 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year  
1127 thereafter, the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success,  
1128 established pursuant to section 10-14gg, shall oversee an intensive  
1129 reading instruction program to improve student literacy in grades  
1130 kindergarten to grade three, inclusive, and close the achievement gaps

1131 that result from opportunity gaps. Such intensive reading instruction  
1132 program shall include routine reading assessments for students in  
1133 kindergarten to grade three, inclusive, scientifically-based reading  
1134 research and instruction, an intensive reading intervention strategy, as  
1135 described in subsection (c) of this section, supplemental reading  
1136 instruction and reading remediation plans, as described in subsection  
1137 (d) of this section, and an intensive summer school reading program, as  
1138 described in subsection (e) of this section. For the school year  
1139 commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year thereafter, the Center for  
1140 Literacy Research and Reading Success shall provide, upon request of a  
1141 local or regional board of education for a [town designated as an alliance  
1142 district, as defined in section 10-262u,] literacy district the intensive  
1143 reading instruction program to such board, or may include the intensive  
1144 reading instruction program in the tiered supports in early literacy  
1145 provided under the reading readiness program pursuant to section 10-  
1146 14y, as amended by this act.

1147 (c) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year  
1148 thereafter, the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success, shall  
1149 develop an intensive reading intervention strategy which shall be  
1150 available to local and regional boards of education for a town  
1151 designated as [an alliance district] a literacy district that have any  
1152 elementary schools that enroll students who are not reading at or above  
1153 grade level to ensure that such students are reading proficiently by  
1154 grade three in such schools. Such intensive reading intervention  
1155 strategy shall (1) include, but not be limited to, (A) rigorous assessments  
1156 in reading skills, (B) scientifically-based reading research and  
1157 instruction, (C) external literacy coaches who have experience and  
1158 expertise in the science of teaching reading, who will work with the  
1159 reading data collected, support the principal of the school as needed,  
1160 observe, and coach classes and supervise the reading interventions, (D)  
1161 reading interventionists who will develop a reading remediation plan  
1162 for any student who is reading below proficiency, be responsible for all  
1163 supplemental reading instruction, and conduct reading assessments as  
1164 needed, and (E) training for teachers and administrators in

1165 scientifically-based reading research and instruction, including, training  
1166 for school administrators on how to assess a classroom to ensure that all  
1167 children are proficient in reading by grade three, and (2) outline, at a  
1168 minimum, how (A) reading data will be collected, analyzed and used  
1169 for purposes of instructional development, (B) professional and  
1170 leadership development will be related to reading data analysis and  
1171 used to support individual teacher and classroom needs, (C) schools  
1172 will communicate with parents and guardians of students on reading  
1173 instruction strategies and student reading performance goals, and on  
1174 opportunities for parents and guardians to partner with teachers and  
1175 school administrators to improve reading at home and at school, (D)  
1176 teachers and school leaders will be trained in the science of teaching  
1177 reading, (E) periodic student progress reports will be issued, and (F)  
1178 such intensive reading intervention strategy will be monitored at the  
1179 classroom level. The commissioner shall review and evaluate the  
1180 intensive reading intervention strategy for model components that may  
1181 be used and replicated in other [alliance districts] literacy districts to  
1182 ensure that all children are proficient in reading by grade three.

1183 (d) (1) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school  
1184 year thereafter, each local and regional board of education for a [town  
1185 designated as an alliance district] literacy district shall, in consultation  
1186 with the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success, provide  
1187 supplemental reading instruction to students in kindergarten to grade  
1188 three, inclusive, who are reading below proficiency, as identified by the  
1189 reading assessment described in section 10-14t. Such supplemental  
1190 reading instruction shall be provided by a reading interventionist  
1191 during regular school hours.

1192 (2) A reading remediation plan shall be developed by a reading  
1193 interventionist for each student enrolled in an elementary school in [an  
1194 alliance district] a literacy district in kindergarten to grade three,  
1195 inclusive, who has been identified as reading below proficiency to  
1196 address and correct the reading deficiency of such student. Such  
1197 remediation plan shall include instructional strategies that utilize

1198 research-based reading instruction materials and teachers trained in  
1199 reading instruction, parental involvement in the implementation of the  
1200 remediation plan and regular progress reports on such student.

1201 (3) The principal of each elementary school in [an alliance district] a  
1202 literacy district shall notify the parent or guardian of any student in  
1203 kindergarten to grade three, inclusive, who has been identified as being  
1204 below proficiency in reading. Such notice shall be in writing and (A)  
1205 include an explanation of why such student is below proficiency in  
1206 reading, and (B) inform such parent or guardian that a remediation plan,  
1207 as described in subdivision (2) of this subsection, will be developed for  
1208 such student to provide supplemental reading instruction, including  
1209 strategies for the parent or guardian to use at home with such student.

1210 (e) (1) Each local and regional board of education for a [town  
1211 designated as an alliance district] literacy district shall, in consultation  
1212 with the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success, provide any  
1213 student in kindergarten to grade three, inclusive, who is reading below  
1214 proficiency at the end of the school year with an intensive summer  
1215 school reading instruction program. Such intensive summer school  
1216 reading instruction program shall include, (A) a comprehensive reading  
1217 intervention program, (B) scientifically-based reading research and  
1218 instruction strategies and interventions, (C) diagnostic assessments  
1219 administered to a student prior to or during an intensive summer school  
1220 reading instruction program to determine such student's particularized  
1221 need for instruction, (D) teachers who are trained in the teaching of  
1222 reading and reading assessment and intervention, and (E) weekly  
1223 progress monitoring to assess the reading progress of such student and  
1224 tailor instruction for such student.

1225 (2) Each local and regional board of education for a [town designated  
1226 as an alliance district] literacy district providing supplemental reading  
1227 instruction as part of the intensive reading instruction program under  
1228 this section shall submit reports to the Center for Literacy Research and  
1229 Reading Success, at such time and in such manner as prescribed by the

1230 Department of Education, on (A) student reading progress for each  
1231 student reading below proficiency based on the data collected from the  
1232 screening and progress monitoring of such student using the reading  
1233 assessments described in section 10-14t, and (B) the specific reading  
1234 interventions and supports implemented.

1235 (f) Not later than October 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the  
1236 Commissioner of Education shall report to the joint standing committee  
1237 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
1238 education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on student  
1239 reading levels in the intensive reading instruction program. Such report  
1240 shall include recommendations on model components of the school  
1241 intensive reading intervention strategy that may be used and replicated  
1242 in other [alliance districts] literacy districts.

1243 Sec. 33. Section 10-14y of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1244 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1245 (a) The Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success, established  
1246 pursuant to section 10-14gg, shall, within available appropriations,  
1247 establish a reading readiness program that provides tiered supports in  
1248 early literacy to each [school district designated as an alliance district,  
1249 pursuant to section 10-262u] literacy district, as defined in section 10-  
1250 14u, as amended by this act. The center shall conduct an assessment of  
1251 the reading readiness of students enrolled in kindergarten to grade  
1252 three, inclusive, for each [alliance district] literacy district. Such reading  
1253 readiness assessment shall consider any combination of the following:  
1254 (1) Whether such [alliance district] literacy district has developed and is  
1255 implementing a multiyear plan and allocated resources specifically for  
1256 early literacy in kindergarten to grade three, inclusive, (2) whether  
1257 teachers and administrators have received training regarding the  
1258 science of teaching reading, and the extent to which teachers and  
1259 administrators have completed the program of professional  
1260 development in scientifically based reading research and instruction,  
1261 pursuant to section 10-148b, (3) the level of access to external literacy



1262 coaches who have experience and expertise in the science of teaching  
1263 reading, and (4) whether there is reading intervention staff embedded  
1264 in the [alliance district] literacy district.

1265 (b) The center shall identify the early literacy needs of each [alliance  
1266 district] literacy district based on the results of the reading readiness  
1267 assessment conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and  
1268 provide tiered supports in early literacy as follows:

1269 (1) Tier one universal supports shall be provided to each [alliance  
1270 district, as defined in section 10-262u,] literacy district and include  
1271 online professional development modules aligned with the reading  
1272 instruction survey, as described in section 10-145r, and other literacy  
1273 modules and programs available in the state;

1274 (2) Tier two targeted supports shall include (A) a two-year program  
1275 of literacy leadership training for certain teachers and administrators,  
1276 (B) targeted professional development, in accordance with the  
1277 provisions of section 10-148b, using the results of the reading instruction  
1278 survey, as described in section 10-145r, and (C) external coaching  
1279 support; [, which may utilize funding received pursuant to section 10-  
1280 223h or 10-262u;] and

1281 (3) Tier three intensive supports shall include multiyear support from  
1282 the center and a commitment from the [alliance district] literacy district,  
1283 that includes, but need not be limited to, [(A) the use of funding received  
1284 pursuant to section 10-262u to support an early literacy program for  
1285 students enrolled in kindergarten to grade three, inclusive, (B) technical  
1286 support in the drafting and submission of alliance district reading plans,  
1287 as described in section 10-262u, (C)] (A) identifying and engaging  
1288 dedicated literacy coaches and reading interventionists, [(D)] (B)  
1289 targeted and intensive professional development, and [(E)] (C) funds for  
1290 assessment and instructional materials.

1291 [(c) Any tiered supports in early literacy provided under this section  
1292 shall be aligned with any turnaround plan, developed pursuant to

1293 section 10-223h, or alliance district plan, developed pursuant to section  
1294 10-262u, as applicable.]

1295 Sec. 34. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-16z of the general statutes  
1296 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
1297 *1, 2025*):

1298 (a) There is established the Early Childhood Cabinet. The cabinet  
1299 shall consist of: (1) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the  
1300 commissioner's designee, (2) the Commissioner of Education, or the  
1301 commissioner's designee, (3) the Commissioner of Social Services, or the  
1302 commissioner's designee, (4) the chancellor of the Connecticut State  
1303 Colleges and Universities, or the chancellor's designee, (5) the  
1304 Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee, (6) the  
1305 Commissioner of Developmental Services, or the commissioner's  
1306 designee, (7) the Commissioner of Children and Families, or the  
1307 commissioner's designee, (8) the executive director of the Commission  
1308 on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity or the executive  
1309 director's designee, (9) the project director of the Connecticut Head Start  
1310 State Collaboration Office, (10) a parent or guardian of a child who  
1311 attends or attended a school readiness program appointed by the  
1312 minority leader of the House of Representatives, (11) a representative of  
1313 a local provider of early childhood education appointed by the minority  
1314 leader of the Senate, (12) a representative of the Connecticut Family  
1315 Resource Center Alliance appointed by the majority leader of the House  
1316 of Representatives, (13) a representative of a state-funded child care  
1317 center appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, (14) two  
1318 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom  
1319 is a member of a board of education for a [town designated as an alliance  
1320 district, as defined in section 10-262u] priority school district pursuant  
1321 to section 10-266p, and one of whom is a parent who has a child  
1322 attending a school in [an educational reform district, as defined in  
1323 section 10-262u] a priority school district, (15) two appointed by the  
1324 president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom is a representative of  
1325 an association of early education and child care providers and one of

1326 whom is a representative of a public elementary school with a  
1327 prekindergarten program, (16) ten appointed by the Governor, one of  
1328 whom is a representative of the Connecticut Head Start Association, one  
1329 of whom is a representative of the business community in this state, one  
1330 of whom is a representative of the philanthropic community in this  
1331 state, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut State  
1332 Employees Association, one of whom is an administrator of the child  
1333 care development block grant pursuant to the Child Care and  
1334 Development Block Grant Act of 1990, one of whom is responsible for  
1335 administering grants received under section 1419 of Part B of the  
1336 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1419, as amended  
1337 from time to time, one of whom is responsible for administering the  
1338 provisions of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20  
1339 USC 6301 et seq., one of whom is responsible for coordinating education  
1340 services to children and youth who are homeless, one of whom is a  
1341 licensed family child care home provider and a member of a staffed  
1342 family child care network identified by the Commissioner of Early  
1343 Childhood, and one of whom is a parent recommended by a parent  
1344 advisory group that has been appointed by the Commissioner of Early  
1345 Childhood, (17) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,  
1346 or the secretary's designee, (18) the Lieutenant Governor, or the  
1347 Lieutenant Governor's designee, (19) the Commissioner of Housing, or  
1348 the commissioner's designee, [and] (20) the Commissioner of Mental  
1349 Health and Addiction Services, or the commissioner's designee, and (21)  
1350 the executive director of the Connecticut Library Consortium, or a  
1351 cooperating library service unit as defined in section 11-9e, or the  
1352 executive director's designee.

1353 (b) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall serve as a  
1354 cochairperson of the cabinet. The other cochairperson of the cabinet  
1355 shall be appointed from among its members by the Governor. The  
1356 cabinet shall meet at least quarterly. Members shall not be compensated  
1357 for their services, except the following members, who are parents or  
1358 guardians, may, within available appropriations, be compensated for  
1359 any time and travel related to meetings of the cabinet: (1) The parent or

1360 guardian of a child who attends or attended a school readiness program  
1361 and was appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
1362 Representatives under subdivision (10) of subsection (a) of this section,  
1363 (2) the parent who has a child attending a school in [an educational  
1364 reform district, as defined in section 10-262u] a priority school district,  
1365 and was appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives  
1366 under subdivision (14) of subsection (a) of this section, and (3) the parent  
1367 who was recommended by a parent advisory group and appointed by  
1368 the Governor under subdivision (16) of subsection (a) of this section.

1369       Sec. 35. Subsection (c) of section 10-95i of the general statutes is  
1370 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
1371 *2025*):

1372       (c) The board shall consider the addition of new trade programs.  
1373 Decisions by the board to add such programs shall at a minimum be  
1374 based on the (1) projected employment demand for graduates of the  
1375 program, (2) cost of establishing the program, (3) availability of  
1376 qualified instructors, (4) existence of similar programs at other  
1377 educational institutions, (5) interest of students in the trade, (6) need to  
1378 diversify the trade with workers from underrepresented populations,  
1379 and (7) workforce training needs of (A) students, graduates and  
1380 residents of [alliance districts, as defined in section 10-262u, and]  
1381 priority school districts, as described in section 10-266p, and (B) students  
1382 and graduates of priority schools, as defined in section 10-265e. The  
1383 board shall authorize new trade programs for a maximum of five years.  
1384 The board shall provide a process for the public, including, but not  
1385 limited to, employers, parents, students or teachers, to request  
1386 consideration of the establishment of a new trade program.

1387       Sec. 36. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-156ii of the general  
1388 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
1389 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1390       (a) There is established an aspiring educators diversity scholarship  
1391 program administered by the Department of Education. The program

1392 shall provide an annual scholarship to diverse students who (1)  
1393 graduated from a public high school in [an alliance district, as defined  
1394 in section 10-262u] the state, and (2) are enrolled in a teacher preparation  
1395 program at any four-year institution of higher education. A diverse  
1396 student may receive an annual scholarship in an amount up to ten  
1397 thousand dollars for each year such diverse student is enrolled and in  
1398 good standing in a teacher preparation program. As used in this section,  
1399 "diverse" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-156bb.

1400 (b) Not later than January 1, 2023, the department shall, in  
1401 consultation with the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the  
1402 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,  
1403 develop a policy concerning the administration of the scholarship. Such  
1404 policy shall include, but need not be limited to, provisions regarding (1)  
1405 any additional eligibility criteria, (2) payment and distribution of the  
1406 scholarships to diverse students through the teacher preparation  
1407 programs in which they are enrolled, and (3) the notification of students  
1408 in high school [in alliance districts] of the scholarship program,  
1409 including the opportunity to apply for a scholarship under the program  
1410 while enrolled in high school and prior to graduation if such student  
1411 will be enrolled in a teacher preparation program during the following  
1412 fall semester at a four-year institution of higher education.

1413 Sec. 37. Subsection (d) of section 10-215l of the general statutes is  
1414 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
1415 *2025*):

1416 (d) In awarding grants under this section, the department shall (1)  
1417 give priority to applicants (A) located in [alliance districts, as defined in  
1418 section 10-262u, or who are providers of school readiness programs, as  
1419 defined in section 10-16p] priority school districts pursuant to section  
1420 10-266p, or who received a grant under this section prior to July 1, 2025,  
1421 and (B) who demonstrate broad commitment from school  
1422 administrators, school nutrition professionals, educators and  
1423 community stakeholders, and (2) not award a grant that is in an amount

1424 greater than ten per cent of the total amount available for the fiscal year.

1425 Sec. 38. Subsection (g) of section 10-215m of the general statutes is  
1426 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
1427 *2025*):

1428 (g) In addition to the reimbursement payments otherwise provided  
1429 pursuant to this section, the department may, within available  
1430 appropriations, provide supplemental grants to eligible boards of  
1431 education. Such supplemental grant funds may be expended for the  
1432 purpose of purchasing kitchen equipment, engaging with school  
1433 nutrition or farm-to-school consultants or training relating to the  
1434 processing, preparation and serving of locally sourced food and  
1435 regionally sourced food. In awarding supplemental grants under this  
1436 subsection, the department shall give priority to an eligible board of  
1437 education for a [town designated as an alliance district pursuant to  
1438 section 10-262u] priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p, or  
1439 who received a grant under this section prior to July 1, 2025.

1440 Sec. 39. Subsection (j) of section 10-236b of the general statutes is  
1441 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
1442 *2025*):

1443 (j) [(1)] On and after July 1, 2016, each local or regional board of  
1444 education, and each institution or facility operating under contract with  
1445 a local or regional board of education pursuant to subsection (d) of  
1446 section 10-76d that provides special education for children, including  
1447 any approved private special education program, shall (A) record each  
1448 instance of the use of physical restraint or seclusion on a student, (B)  
1449 specify whether the use of seclusion was in accordance with an  
1450 individualized education program, (C) specify the nature of the  
1451 emergency that necessitated the use of such physical restraint or  
1452 seclusion, and (D) include such information in an annual compilation  
1453 on its use of such restraint and seclusion on students. Each local or  
1454 regional board of education and such institutions or facilities operating  
1455 under contract with a local or regional board of education pursuant to

1456 subsection (d) of section 10-76d that provides special education for  
1457 children, including any approved private special education program  
1458 shall provide such annual compilation to the Department of Education  
1459 for the purposes of the pilot program established pursuant to  
1460 subdivision (2) of this subsection to examine incidents of physical  
1461 restraint and seclusion in schools and to the State Board of Education  
1462 for the purposes of subsection (k) of this section. Local or regional  
1463 boards of education and such institutions and facilities that provide  
1464 special education for children shall not be required to report instances  
1465 of in-school suspensions, as defined in subsection (c) of section 10-233a.

1466 [(2) The Department of Education shall establish a pilot program for  
1467 the school year commencing July 1, 2015. Such pilot program shall be  
1468 implemented in various districts, including, but not limited to, an  
1469 alliance district, a regional school district and a regional education  
1470 service center. Under the pilot program, the Department of Education  
1471 shall examine incidents of physical restraint and seclusion in schools  
1472 and shall compile and analyze data regarding such incidents to enable  
1473 the department to better understand and respond to incidents of  
1474 physical restraint and seclusion on students in the state.]

1475 Sec. 40. Subdivision (2) of section 10-262f of the general statutes is  
1476 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
1477 *2025*):

1478 (2) "Base aid ratio" means for the fiscal year ending June 30, [2018]  
1479 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the sum of (A) one minus the town's  
1480 wealth adjustment factor, and (B) the town's base aid ratio adjustment  
1481 factor, if any, except that a town's base aid ratio shall not be less than (i)  
1482 ten per cent for [a town designated as an alliance district, as defined in  
1483 section 10-262u, or] a priority school district, as described in section 10-  
1484 266p, and (ii) one per cent for a town that is not [designated as an  
1485 alliance district or] a priority school district.

1486 Sec. 41. Section 10-262h of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1487 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1488 (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, each town maintaining  
1489 public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid  
1490 grant as follows: (1) Any town [designated as an alliance district, as  
1491 defined in section 10-262u,] that is a priority school district pursuant to  
1492 section 10-266p shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an  
1493 amount equal to its base grant amount; and (2) any town that is not  
1494 [designated as an alliance district] a priority school district shall be  
1495 entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to ninety-five  
1496 per cent of its base grant amount.

1497 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, each town maintaining  
1498 public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid  
1499 grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than  
1500 its base grant amount shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an  
1501 amount equal to its base grant amount plus four and one-tenth per cent  
1502 of its grant adjustment; and (2) any town whose fully funded grant is  
1503 less than its base grant amount shall be entitled to an equalization aid  
1504 grant in an amount equal to its base grant amount minus twenty-five  
1505 per cent of its grant adjustment, except any such town designated as an  
1506 alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an  
1507 amount equal to its base grant amount.

1508 (c) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2020, and June 30, 2021, each  
1509 town maintaining public schools according to law shall be entitled to an  
1510 equalization aid grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded  
1511 grant is greater than its base grant amount shall be entitled to an  
1512 equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid grant  
1513 amount for the previous fiscal year plus ten and sixty-six-one-  
1514 hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment; and (2) any town whose  
1515 fully funded grant is less than its base grant amount shall be entitled to  
1516 an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its equalization aid  
1517 grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus eight and thirty-three-  
1518 one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment, except any such town  
1519 designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an equalization aid  
1520 grant in an amount equal to its base grant amount.



1521 (d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, each town maintaining  
1522 public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid  
1523 grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than  
1524 its base grant amount shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an  
1525 amount equal to its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal  
1526 year plus ten and sixty-six-one-hundredths per cent of its grant  
1527 adjustment; and (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its  
1528 base grant amount shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an  
1529 amount equal to the amount the town was entitled to for the fiscal year  
1530 ending June 30, 2021.

1531 (e) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, each town maintaining  
1532 public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid  
1533 grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than  
1534 its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be  
1535 entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its  
1536 equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year plus sixteen  
1537 and sixty-seven-one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment; and  
1538 (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its equalization aid  
1539 grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an  
1540 equalization aid grant in an amount equal to the amount the town was  
1541 entitled to for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

1542 (f) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, each town maintaining  
1543 public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid  
1544 grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than  
1545 its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be  
1546 entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its  
1547 equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year plus twenty  
1548 per cent of its grant adjustment; (2) any town whose fully funded grant  
1549 is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year  
1550 shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to the  
1551 amount the town was entitled to for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023;  
1552 and (3) any town designated as an alliance district shall be entitled to an  
1553 equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount

1554 described in either subdivision (1) of this subsection or subdivision (2)  
1555 of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its  
1556 equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

1557 (g) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, each town maintaining  
1558 public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid  
1559 grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than  
1560 its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be  
1561 entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its  
1562 equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year plus fifty-six  
1563 and five tenths per cent of its grant adjustment; (2) any town whose fully  
1564 funded grant is less than its equalization aid grant amount for the  
1565 previous fiscal year shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an  
1566 amount equal to the amount the town was entitled to for the fiscal year  
1567 ending June 30, 2024; and (3) any town designated as an alliance district,  
1568 shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the  
1569 greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) of this  
1570 subsection or subdivision (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base  
1571 grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the  
1572 previous fiscal year.

1573 (h) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, each town maintaining  
1574 public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid  
1575 grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than  
1576 its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be  
1577 entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully  
1578 funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its  
1579 equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be  
1580 entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its  
1581 equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus  
1582 fourteen and twenty-nine-one-hundredths per cent of its grant  
1583 adjustment; and (3) any town [designated as an alliance district] that is  
1584 a priority school district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in  
1585 an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either  
1586 subdivision (1) of this subsection or subdivision (2) of this subsection, as

1587 applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant  
1588 entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

1589 (i) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, each town maintaining  
1590 public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid  
1591 grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than  
1592 its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be  
1593 entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully  
1594 funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its  
1595 equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be  
1596 entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its  
1597 equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus sixteen  
1598 and sixty-seven-one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment; and  
1599 (3) any town [designated as an alliance district] that is a priority school  
1600 district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that  
1601 is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) of  
1602 this subsection or subdivision (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its  
1603 base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the  
1604 previous fiscal year.

1605 (j) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, each town maintaining  
1606 public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid  
1607 grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than  
1608 its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be  
1609 entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully  
1610 funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its  
1611 equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be  
1612 entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its  
1613 equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus twenty  
1614 per cent of its grant adjustment; and (3) any town [designated as an  
1615 alliance district] that is a priority school district shall be entitled to an  
1616 equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount  
1617 described in either subdivision (1) of this subsection or subdivision (2)  
1618 of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its  
1619 equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

1620 (k) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2029, each town maintaining  
1621 public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid  
1622 grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than  
1623 its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be  
1624 entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully  
1625 funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its  
1626 equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be  
1627 entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its  
1628 equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus  
1629 twenty-five per cent of its grant adjustment; and (3) any town  
1630 [designated as an alliance district] that is a priority school district shall  
1631 be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater  
1632 of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1) of this subsection  
1633 or subdivision (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant  
1634 amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous  
1635 fiscal year.

1636 (l) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2030, each town maintaining  
1637 public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid  
1638 grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than  
1639 its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be  
1640 entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully  
1641 funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its  
1642 equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be  
1643 entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its  
1644 equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus thirty-  
1645 three and thirty-three-one-hundredths per cent of its grant adjustment;  
1646 and (3) any town [designated as an alliance district] that is a priority  
1647 school district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount  
1648 that is the greater of (A) the amount described in either subdivision (1)  
1649 of this subsection or subdivision (2) of this subsection, as applicable, (B)  
1650 its base grant amount, or (C) its equalization aid grant entitlement for  
1651 the previous fiscal year.

1652 (m) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2031, each town maintaining

1653 public schools according to law shall be entitled to an equalization aid  
1654 grant as follows: (1) Any town whose fully funded grant is greater than  
1655 its equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be  
1656 entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully  
1657 funded grant; (2) any town whose fully funded grant is less than its  
1658 equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year shall be  
1659 entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its  
1660 equalization aid grant amount for the previous fiscal year minus fifty  
1661 per cent of its grant adjustment; and (3) any town [designated as an  
1662 alliance district] that is a priority school district shall be entitled to an  
1663 equalization aid grant in an amount that is the greater of (A) the amount  
1664 described in either subdivision (1) of this subsection or subdivision (2)  
1665 of this subsection, as applicable, (B) its base grant amount, or (C) its  
1666 equalization aid grant entitlement for the previous fiscal year.

1667 (n) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2032, and each fiscal year  
1668 thereafter, each town maintaining public schools according to law shall  
1669 be entitled to an equalization aid grant in an amount equal to its fully  
1670 funded grant, except any town [designated as an alliance district] that is  
1671 a priority school district shall be entitled to an equalization aid grant in  
1672 an amount that is the greater of (1) its fully funded grant, (2) its base  
1673 grant amount, or (3) its equalization aid grant entitlement for the  
1674 previous fiscal year.

1675 Sec. 42. Subsection (c) of section 10-262i of the general statutes is  
1676 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
1677 *2025*):

1678 (c) All aid distributed to a town pursuant to the provisions of this  
1679 section [and section 10-262u] shall be expended for educational  
1680 purposes only and shall be expended upon the authorization of the local  
1681 or regional board of education. [and in accordance with the provisions  
1682 of section 10-262u.] For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, and each  
1683 fiscal year thereafter, if a town receives an increase in funds pursuant to  
1684 this section over the amount it received for the prior fiscal year, such

1685 increase shall not be used to supplant local funding for educational  
1686 purposes. The budgeted appropriation for education in any town  
1687 receiving an increase in funds pursuant to this section shall be not less  
1688 than the amount appropriated for education for the prior year plus such  
1689 increase in funds.

1690 Sec. 43. Subsection (c) of section 10-262j of the general statutes is  
1691 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
1692 *2025*):

1693 (c) Except as otherwise provided under the provisions of subsections  
1694 (g) and (h) of this section, a town designated as [an alliance district, as  
1695 defined in section 10-262u,] a priority school district pursuant to section  
1696 10-266p shall not reduce its budgeted appropriation for education  
1697 pursuant to this section.

1698 Sec. 44. Section 10-265h of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1699 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1700 (a) The Commissioner of Administrative Services, in consultation  
1701 with the Commissioner of Education, shall establish, within available  
1702 bond authorizations, a grant program to assist [alliance districts, as  
1703 defined in section 10-262u,] priority school districts pursuant to section  
1704 10-266p in paying for general improvements to school buildings. For  
1705 purposes of this section "general improvements to school buildings"  
1706 means work that (1) is generally not eligible for reimbursement  
1707 pursuant to chapter 173, and (2) is to (A) replace windows, doors, boilers  
1708 and other heating and ventilation system components, internal  
1709 communications and technology systems, lockers, floors, cafeteria  
1710 equipment and ceilings, including the installation of new drop ceilings,  
1711 (B) upgrade restrooms including the replacement of fixtures and related  
1712 water supplies and drainage, (C) upgrade and replace lighting,  
1713 including energy efficient upgrades to lighting systems and controls to  
1714 increase efficiency, and reduce consumption levels and cost, (D)  
1715 upgrade entryways, driveways, parking areas, play areas and athletic  
1716 fields, (E) upgrade equipment, including, but not limited to, the

1717 following equipment purchased on or after November 1, 2017: Cabinets,  
1718 computers, laptops and related equipment and accessories, (F) repair  
1719 roofs, including the installation of energy efficient fixtures and systems  
1720 and environmental enhancements, or (G) install or upgrade security  
1721 equipment that is consistent with the school safety infrastructure criteria  
1722 described in section 10-292r, including, but not limited to, video  
1723 surveillance devices and fencing, provided "general improvements to  
1724 school buildings" may include work not specified in this subdivision if  
1725 the [alliance district] priority school district provides justification for  
1726 such work acceptable to the Commissioner of Administrative Services,  
1727 but shall not include routine maintenance such as painting, cleaning,  
1728 equipment repair or other minor repairs or work done at the  
1729 administrative facilities of a board of education.

1730 (b) Eligibility for grants pursuant to this section shall be determined  
1731 for a five-year period. [based on a school district's designation as an  
1732 alliance district in the initial year of designation as an alliance district.]  
1733 Grant awards shall be made annually contingent upon the filing of an  
1734 application and a satisfactory annual evaluation. Priority shall be given  
1735 to [an alliance district] a priority school district that includes a life-cycle  
1736 stewardship plan with such [alliance district's] priority school district's  
1737 application. The life-cycle stewardship plan shall describe the  
1738 investments and other efforts that have been and will be made by the  
1739 [alliance district] priority school district to extend the life cycle of its  
1740 facilities and equipment. [Alliance districts] Priority school districts  
1741 shall apply for grants pursuant to this section at such time and in such  
1742 manner as the commissioner prescribes. Grant awards made to [an  
1743 alliance district] a priority school district that is one of the [alliance  
1744 districts] priority school districts with the five largest populations,  
1745 based on the 2010 federal census, shall be in an amount equal to or  
1746 greater than two million dollars.

1747 (c) No funds received by [an alliance district] a priority school district  
1748 pursuant to this section shall be used to supplant local matching  
1749 requirements for federal or state funding otherwise received by such

1750 [alliance district] priority school district for improvements to school  
1751 buildings.

1752 (d) Each [alliance district] priority school district that receives funds  
1753 pursuant to this section shall file expenditure reports with the  
1754 Department of Administrative Services as requested by the  
1755 Commissioner of Administrative Services. Each [alliance district]  
1756 priority school district shall refund (1) any unexpended amounts at the  
1757 close of the project for which the grants are awarded, and (2) any  
1758 amounts not expended in accordance with the approved grant  
1759 application.

1760 (e) General improvements for which grants are awarded in any year  
1761 shall be completed by the end of the succeeding fiscal year.

1762 Sec. 45. Section 10-265o of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1763 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1764 For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2014] 2026, and each fiscal year  
1765 thereafter, the Department of Education shall establish the municipal  
1766 aid for new educators grant program. On or before March first of each  
1767 year, the program shall, within available appropriations, provide grants  
1768 of up to two hundred thousand dollars to the local or regional board of  
1769 education for [an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u,] a  
1770 priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p for the purpose of  
1771 extending offers of employment to students who are enrolled in a  
1772 teacher preparation program offered by a public or private institution  
1773 of higher education, are graduating seniors and are academically in the  
1774 top ten per cent of their graduating class.

1775 Sec. 46. Section 10-265p of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1776 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1777 The Commissioner of Education shall, within available  
1778 appropriations, establish a wraparound services grant program that  
1779 awards grants to [educational reform districts, as defined in section 10-



1780 262u,] priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p for social-  
1781 emotional behavioral supports, family involvement and support,  
1782 student engagement, physical health and wellness, and social work and  
1783 case management. The local or regional board of education for an  
1784 educational reform district may apply to the commissioner for a grant  
1785 under this section at such time and in such manner as the commissioner  
1786 prescribes.

1787 Sec. 47. Section 10-265q of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1788 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1789 The Commissioner of Education shall, within available  
1790 appropriations, establish [an educational reform district] a priority  
1791 school district science grant program that awards grants to [educational  
1792 reform districts, as defined in section 10-262u,] priority school districts  
1793 pursuant to section 10-266p for the purpose of improving student  
1794 academic performance in science, reading and numeracy in  
1795 kindergarten to grade eight, inclusive. The local or regional board of  
1796 education for [an educational reform district] a priority school district  
1797 may apply to the commissioner for a grant under this section at such  
1798 time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes. In awarding  
1799 such grants, the commissioner shall give priority to (1) applicant  
1800 programs that partner with schools that have a record of low academic  
1801 performance in science, and (2) applicant after-school elementary  
1802 science programs that have a record of improving student academic  
1803 performance in science.

1804 Sec. 48. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 10-505 of the  
1805 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
1806 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1807 (3) "Eligible children" means children (A) from birth to four years of  
1808 age, inclusive, and children five years of age who are not eligible to  
1809 enroll in school pursuant to section 10-15c, or who are eligible to enroll  
1810 in school and will attend a school readiness program pursuant to section  
1811 10-16t, and (B) who reside (i) in an area served by a priority school or a

1812 former priority school, as described in subdivision (2) of subsection (d)  
1813 of section 10-16p, (ii) in a town ranked one to fifty when all towns are  
1814 ranked in ascending order according to town wealth, as defined in  
1815 subdivision (26) of section 10-262f, whose school district is not a priority  
1816 school district pursuant to section 10-266p, (iii) in a town formerly a  
1817 town described in clause (ii) of this subparagraph, as provided for in  
1818 subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 10-16p, or (iv) in a town  
1819 [designated as an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u,] whose  
1820 school district is [not] a priority school district pursuant to section 10-  
1821 266p;

1822       Sec. 49. Subsection (b) of section 10a-11k of the general statutes is  
1823 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
1824 *2025*):

1825       (b) The Office of Higher Education shall award grants under the  
1826 PATH program on a competitive basis to any nonprofit community-  
1827 based organization that (1) provided the types of assistance specified in  
1828 subsection (a) of this section during the academic year prior to the year  
1829 in which the grant will be awarded, and (2) will provide, cooperatively  
1830 with the school administrators of a public high school in the state, such  
1831 assistance during the academic year for which the grant will be  
1832 awarded. The office shall establish procedures for the submission of  
1833 grant applications for said program and shall review such grant  
1834 applications on the basis of an evaluation format developed by the  
1835 office, that shall include, but need not be limited to, preference for such  
1836 nonprofit community-based organizations that provide such assistance  
1837 in a [school district designated as an alliance school district, pursuant to  
1838 section 10-262u,] priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p for  
1839 the academic year in which the grant will be awarded. Grants shall be  
1840 awarded in amounts not exceeding twenty thousand dollars and not  
1841 less than fifteen thousand dollars and shall be available for the duration  
1842 of the academic year for which such grant is awarded. If the office finds  
1843 that any such grant is being used for any purpose that is not in  
1844 conformity with the purposes of the PATH program, the office may

1845 require repayment of the grant to the state.

1846 Sec. 50. Section 10a-247 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1847 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1848 (a) The Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority  
1849 shall establish, subject to available funding pursuant to section 10a-247a,  
1850 an [Alliance District] Educator and Counselor Loan Subsidy Program  
1851 for the purpose of subsidizing interest rates on authority loans, as  
1852 defined in section 10a-223, to teachers, paraeducators and school  
1853 counselors who are employed [in a district designated as an alliance  
1854 district pursuant to section 10-262u] by a local or regional board of  
1855 education and who meet the eligibility criteria as established by the  
1856 authority and the Commissioner of Education.

1857 (b) The authority shall enter into a memorandum of agreement with  
1858 the Commissioner of Education to establish the eligibility criteria and  
1859 administrative guidelines for the [Alliance District] Educator and  
1860 Counselor Loan Subsidy Program. Such eligibility criteria and  
1861 guidelines shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) applicant  
1862 eligibility, (2) interest rate subsidies and principal limits on authority  
1863 loans subject to the [Alliance District] Educator and Counselor Loan  
1864 Subsidy Program, (3) the process for verifying the employment of  
1865 applicants, and (4) the requirement that an interest rate subsidy through  
1866 the [Alliance District] Educator and Counselor Loan Subsidy Program  
1867 shall terminate for any subsidy recipient who ceases to meet the  
1868 employment requirements of such program during the term of such  
1869 recipient's loan from the authority.

1870 Sec. 51. Section 10a-247a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1871 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1872 The Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority  
1873 shall maintain a separate, nonlapsing account to hold funds for the  
1874 [Alliance District] Educator and Counselor Loan Subsidy Program  
1875 established pursuant to section 10a-247, as amended by this act. The

1876 account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the  
1877 account, including, but not limited to, any state appropriation or the  
1878 proceeds from the sale of bonds issued for the purpose of section 10a-  
1879 247, as amended by this act. Moneys in the account shall be used (1) for  
1880 the purposes of the [Alliance District] Educator and Counselor Loan  
1881 Subsidy Program and for reasonable and necessary expenses for the  
1882 administration of such program, (2) for the issuance of authority loans  
1883 to refinance one or more eligible loans, and (3) to maintain a reserve held  
1884 by the authority to cover any losses incurred by the authority from the  
1885 issuance of such authority loans. For the purposes of this section,  
1886 "authority loans" and "eligible loans" have the same [meaning]  
1887 meanings as provided in section 10a-223.

1888 Sec. 52. Subdivision (3) of subsection (d) of section 12-18b of the  
1889 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
1890 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1891 (3) Each municipality [designated as an alliance district pursuant to  
1892 section 10-262u] whose school district is a priority school district  
1893 pursuant to section 10-266p or in which more than fifty per cent of the  
1894 property is state-owned real property shall be classified as a tier one  
1895 municipality.

1896 Sec. 53. Section 12-635 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1897 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1898 The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall grant a credit against  
1899 any tax due under the provisions of chapter 207, 208, 209, 210, 211 or  
1900 212: (1) In an amount not to exceed one hundred per cent of the total  
1901 cash amount invested during the taxable year by the business firm in  
1902 programs operated or created pursuant to proposals approved pursuant  
1903 to section 12-632 for energy conservation projects directed toward  
1904 properties occupied by persons, at least seventy-five per cent of whom  
1905 are at an income level not exceeding one hundred fifty per cent of the  
1906 poverty level for the year next preceding the year during which such tax  
1907 credit is to be granted; (2) in an amount equal to one hundred per cent

1908 of the total cash amount invested during the taxable year by the business  
1909 firm in programs operated or created pursuant to proposals approved  
1910 pursuant to section 12-632 for energy conservation projects at properties  
1911 owned or occupied by charitable corporations, foundations, trusts or  
1912 other entities as determined under regulations adopted pursuant to this  
1913 chapter; (3) in an amount equal to one hundred per cent of the total cash  
1914 amount invested during the taxable year by the business firm in a  
1915 comprehensive college access loan forgiveness program located in [an  
1916 "educational reform district" as defined in section 10-262u] a priority  
1917 school district pursuant to section 10-266p, that has established  
1918 minimum eligibility criteria including, but not limited to, years of  
1919 enrollment in the educational reform district, grade point average,  
1920 attendance record and loan forgiveness prerequisite; or (4) in an amount  
1921 not to exceed sixty per cent of the total cash amount invested during the  
1922 taxable year by the business firm (A) in employment and training  
1923 programs directed at youths, at least seventy-five per cent of whom are  
1924 at an income level not exceeding one hundred fifty per cent of the  
1925 poverty level for the year next preceding the year during which such tax  
1926 credit is to be granted; (B) in employment and training programs  
1927 directed at persons with physical disabilities; (C) in employment and  
1928 training programs for unemployed workers who are fifty years of age  
1929 or older; (D) in education and employment training programs for  
1930 recipients in the temporary family assistance program; or (E) in child  
1931 care services. Any other program which serves persons at least seventy-  
1932 five per cent of whom are at an income level not exceeding one hundred  
1933 fifty per cent of the poverty level for the year next preceding the year  
1934 during which such tax credit is to be granted and which meets the  
1935 standards for eligibility under this chapter shall be eligible for a tax  
1936 credit under this section in an amount equal to sixty per cent of the total  
1937 cash invested by the business firm in such program.

1938 Sec. 54. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 32-285a of the  
1939 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
1940 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1941 (4) "Municipality" means a municipality designated as a public  
1942 investment community pursuant to section 7-545 or [as an alliance  
1943 district pursuant to section 10-262u] whose school district is a priority  
1944 school district pursuant to section 10-266p.

1945 Sec. 55. Section 45a-8c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1946 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1947 (a) The Probate Court Administrator may, within available  
1948 appropriations, establish a truancy clinic within (1) any Regional  
1949 Children's Probate Court, [that serves a town designated as an alliance  
1950 district pursuant to section 10-262u,] or (2) any Probate Court that serves  
1951 a town [designated as an alliance district] that is not served by a  
1952 Regional Children's Probate Court. The administrative judge of the  
1953 Regional Children's Probate Court or the probate judge, as the case may  
1954 be, or the designee of such administrative judge or such probate judge,  
1955 shall administer the truancy clinic for such administrative judge's or  
1956 such probate judge's respective court.

1957 (b) If the Probate Court Administrator establishes truancy clinics  
1958 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the principal of any  
1959 elementary or middle school, [located in a town designated as an  
1960 alliance district,] or the principal's designee, may refer to a truancy clinic  
1961 a parent or guardian with a child enrolled in such school who is a truant,  
1962 as defined in section 10-198a, or at risk of becoming a truant. Upon  
1963 receiving such referral, the truancy clinic shall prepare a citation and  
1964 summons for the parent or guardian of the child to appear at the clinic.  
1965 An attendance officer authorized pursuant to section 10-199, or a police  
1966 officer authorized pursuant to section 10-200, shall deliver the citation  
1967 and summons and a copy of the referral to the parent or guardian.

1968 (c) The administrative judge of the Regional Children's Probate Court  
1969 [that serves a town designated as an alliance district] or the probate  
1970 judge [that serves a town designated as an alliance district, as the case  
1971 may be,] may refer any matter referred to a truancy clinic to a probate  
1972 magistrate or attorney probate referee assigned by the Probate Court

1973 Administrator pursuant to section 45a-123a to hear the matter.

1974 (d) The truancy clinics shall operate for the purpose of identifying  
1975 and resolving the cause of a child's truancy using nonpunitive  
1976 procedures. After the initial appearance made pursuant to the summons  
1977 described in subsection (b) of this section, the participation of a parent  
1978 or guardian in the truancy clinic shall be voluntary. The truancy clinics  
1979 shall establish protocols for clinic participation and shall establish  
1980 programs and relationships with schools, individuals, public and  
1981 private agencies, and other organizations to provide services and  
1982 support for parents, guardians and children participating in the clinics.

1983 (e) The Probate Court Administrator shall establish policies and  
1984 procedures to implement the truancy clinics and measure the  
1985 effectiveness of the truancy clinics.

1986 (f) Not later than September 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, each  
1987 administrative judge of a Regional Children's Probate Court [that serves  
1988 a town designated as an alliance district in which a truancy clinic has  
1989 been established] and each probate judge [that serves a town designated  
1990 as an alliance district in which a truancy clinic has been established]  
1991 shall file a report with the Probate Court Administrator assessing the  
1992 effectiveness of each truancy clinic in such administrative judge's or  
1993 such probate judge's respective court.

1994 (g) Not later than January 1, 2016, the Probate Court Administrator  
1995 shall submit, in accordance with section 11-4a, a report assessing the  
1996 effectiveness of the truancy clinics to the joint standing committees of  
1997 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the  
1998 judiciary and education.

1999 Sec. 56. Sections 10-21r, 10-153s, 10-153t, 10-156gg, 10-183v, 10-223f,  
2000 10-223h, 10-223i, 10-262u, 10-262v, 10-262w and 10-265r of the general  
2001 statutes are repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2025*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 5	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 6	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 7	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 8	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 9	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 10	July 1, 2025	3-13c
Sec. 11	July 1, 2025	10-505b
Sec. 12	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 13	July 1, 2025	10-4(c)
Sec. 14	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 16	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 17	July 1, 2025	10-227
Sec. 18	July 1, 2025	10-198d
Sec. 19	July 1, 2025	10-222
Sec. 20	July 1, 2025	10-248a
Sec. 21	July 1, 2025	10-51(d)(2)
Sec. 22	July 1, 2025	10-222o
Sec. 23	July 1, 2025	10-233d(a)
Sec. 24	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 25	July 1, 2025	10-283(b)
Sec. 26	July 1, 2025	10-66bb(c)
Sec. 27	July 1, 2025	10-74i(c)
Sec. 28	July 1, 2025	4a-60g(a)(14)
Sec. 29	July 1, 2025	8-240a(a) to (c)
Sec. 30	July 1, 2025	8-265pp
Sec. 31	July 1, 2025	10-4q
Sec. 32	July 1, 2025	10-14u
Sec. 33	July 1, 2025	10-14y
Sec. 34	July 1, 2025	10-16z(a) and (b)
Sec. 35	July 1, 2025	10-95i(c)
Sec. 36	July 1, 2025	10-156ii(a) and (b)
Sec. 37	July 1, 2025	10-215l(d)



Sec. 38	July 1, 2025	10-215m(g)
Sec. 39	July 1, 2025	10-236b(j)
Sec. 40	July 1, 2025	10-262f(2)
Sec. 41	July 1, 2025	10-262h
Sec. 42	July 1, 2025	10-262i(c)
Sec. 43	July 1, 2025	10-262j(c)
Sec. 44	July 1, 2025	10-265h
Sec. 45	July 1, 2025	10-265o
Sec. 46	July 1, 2025	10-265p
Sec. 47	July 1, 2025	10-265q
Sec. 48	July 1, 2025	10-505(a)(3)
Sec. 49	July 1, 2025	10a-11k(b)
Sec. 50	July 1, 2025	10a-247
Sec. 51	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 52	July 1, 2025	12-18b(d)(3)
Sec. 53	July 1, 2025	12-635
Sec. 54	July 1, 2025	32-285a(a)(4)
Sec. 55	July 1, 2025	45a-8c
Sec. 56	July 1, 2025	Repealer section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To improve the quality of education for the state's children.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.; SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.  
 SEN. MCCRORY, 2nd Dist.; SEN. ANWAR, 3rd Dist.  
 SEN. CABRERA, 17th Dist.; SEN. COHEN, 12th Dist.  
 SEN. FLEXER, 29th Dist.; SEN. GADKAR-WILCOX, 22nd Dist.  
 SEN. GASTON, 23rd Dist.; SEN. HOCHADEL, 13th Dist.  
 SEN. HONIG, 8th Dist.; SEN. KUSHNER, 24th Dist.  
 SEN. LESSER, 9th Dist.; SEN. LOPES, 6th Dist.  
 SEN. MAHER, 26th Dist.; SEN. MARONEY, 14th Dist.  
 SEN. MARX, 20th Dist.; SEN. MILLER P., 27th Dist.  
 SEN. NEEDLEMAN, 33rd Dist.; SEN. OSTEN, 19th Dist.  
 SEN. RAHMAN, 4th Dist.; SEN. SLAP, 5th Dist.  
 SEN. WINFIELD, 10th Dist.; REP. REYES, 75th Dist.  
 REP. GAUTHIER, 38th Dist.; REP. MARTINEZ, 22nd Dist.

REP. DELNICKI, 14th Dist.; REP. NOLAN, 39th Dist.

S.B. 1