



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2000

LCO No. 5297

Offered by:

REP. STAPLES, 96<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. MATTIELLO, 65<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. GAFFEY, 13<sup>th</sup> Dist.

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To: Subst. House Bill No. 5737

File No. 523

Cal. No. 416

**"An Act Concerning Underperforming Schools And  
School Readiness."**

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

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, the  
4 Commissioner of Education shall provide grants, within available  
5 appropriations, to local and regional boards of education that have one  
6 or more schools in need of improvement on the most recent list  
7 prepared pursuant to section 2 of public act 99-288. Eligible boards of  
8 education shall use grant funds for costs related to the implementation  
9 of improvement plans for such schools, partnership programs between  
10 such schools and public libraries in the school district and actions  
11 necessary for such schools to become accredited by the New England  
12 Association of Schools and Colleges. An eligible board of education  
13 shall submit a plan for the expenditure of grant funds, in accordance  
14 with subsection (b) of this section, to the Department of Education, at

15 such time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes.

16 (b) The plan for the expenditure of grant funds shall be approved by  
17 the department, after consultation with the State Librarian for  
18 purposes of the partnership programs, and shall include: (1) Methods  
19 and school-based programs identified pursuant to section 2 of this act,  
20 that address the specific subject areas, by grade level, in which  
21 students attending the school were most deficient on the state-wide  
22 mastery examinations pursuant to section 10-14n of the general  
23 statutes, as amended, and (2) partnership programs with public  
24 libraries in the school district that are designed to improve family  
25 literacy and parent involvement.

26 (c) Each board of education receiving a grant pursuant to this  
27 section shall set aside an amount equal to at least ten per cent of the  
28 grant for partnership programs with public libraries in the school  
29 district.

30 (d) The Department of Education may retain up to one per cent of  
31 the amount appropriated for purposes of this section for coordination,  
32 program evaluation and administration.

33 (e) No funds received pursuant to this section shall be used to  
34 supplant federal, state or local funding to the local or regional board of  
35 education for such schools.

36 (f) Expenditure reports shall be filed with the Department of  
37 Education as requested by the commissioner. School districts shall  
38 refund (1) any unexpended amounts at the close of the program for  
39 which the grant was awarded, and (2) any amounts not expended in  
40 accordance with the approved grant application.

41 (g) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, the Hartford school  
42 district shall not receive grants pursuant to this section but shall use a  
43 portion of the supplemental aid provided in section 35 of substitute  
44 house bill 5216 of the current session to implement improvement plans  
45 and partnership programs in accordance with this section.

46 Sec. 2. (NEW) (a) The Department of Education shall identify  
47 methods and programs that have a demonstrated record of success in  
48 improving student performance in such areas as reading, mathematics  
49 and writing. The department shall make information on such methods  
50 and programs available to local and regional boards of education to  
51 assist them in utilizing such methods and establishing such programs  
52 to address deficiencies in schools on the list prepared pursuant to  
53 section 2 of public act 99-288. For purposes of this section, "methods"  
54 includes professional development for teachers and administrators,  
55 instructional techniques and the governance and management  
56 structure and systems.

57 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall report, annually, in  
58 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint  
59 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
60 matters relating to education on the implementation of improvement  
61 plans and student achievement at schools on the list prepared  
62 pursuant to section 2 of public act 99-288.

63 Sec. 3. Section 4 of public act 99-288 is repealed and the following is  
64 substituted in lieu thereof:

65 (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, and each fiscal year  
66 thereafter, the Commissioner of Education shall award grants, within  
67 available appropriations, to local and regional boards of education for  
68 priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p, as amended, for  
69 summer school programs required pursuant to section 3 of [this act]  
70 public act 99-288, and week-end school programs. Eligibility for grants  
71 pursuant to this section shall be determined for a five-year period  
72 based on a school district's designation as a priority school district for  
73 the initial year of application. In order to receive a grant, an eligible  
74 board of education shall submit a plan for the expenditure of grant  
75 funds to the Department of Education, at such time and in such  
76 manner as the commissioner prescribes.

77 (b) In order to receive a grant, an eligible board of education shall

78 submit a plan for the expenditure of grant funds to the Department of  
79 Education, at such time and in such manner as the commissioner  
80 prescribes. The plan shall include: (1) Criteria for student participation  
81 in the program, including provision for priority to students who are  
82 determined to be substantially deficient in reading, (2) criteria for  
83 teacher selection that emphasize the skills needed for teaching the  
84 summer program and criteria for establishment of the curriculum for  
85 the summer program, and (3) a system for reporting, by school and  
86 grade, on the number of students who attend the program, for  
87 assessing the performance of such students in the program and for  
88 tracking their performance during the school year. In deciding where  
89 to establish a summer school program, eligible boards of education  
90 shall give preference to elementary and middle schools with the  
91 highest number of students who are substantially deficient in reading.

92 [(b)] (c) Each priority school district shall receive a grant based on  
93 the ratio of the number of resident students, as defined in subdivision  
94 (22) of section 10-262f, as amended, in the district to the total number  
95 of resident students in all priority school districts.

96 [(c)] (d) No funds received pursuant to this section shall be used to  
97 supplant federal, state or local funding to the local or regional board of  
98 education for summer school or week-end school programs.

99 [(d)] (e) Expenditure reports shall be filed with the department as  
100 requested by the commissioner. Local or regional boards of education  
101 shall refund (1) any unexpended amounts at the close of the program  
102 for which the grant is awarded, and (2) any amounts not expended in  
103 accordance with an approved grant application.

104 Sec. 4. Section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by section  
105 1 of public act 99-230, is repealed and the following is substituted in  
106 lieu thereof:

107 (a) As used in sections 10-16o to 10-16r, inclusive, as amended by  
108 this act, section 9 of this act, section 17b-749a and section 17b-749c, as  
109 amended by this act:

110 (1) "School readiness program" means a nonsectarian program that  
111 (A) meets the standards set by the department pursuant to subsection  
112 (b) of this section and the requirements of section 10-16q, and (B)  
113 provides a developmentally appropriate learning experience of not less  
114 than four hundred fifty hours and one hundred eighty days for eligible  
115 children, provided, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1998, and June  
116 30, 1999, the commissioner may approve programs that provide  
117 learning experiences which are for less than said hours and days;

118 (2) "Eligible children" means children three and four years of age  
119 and children five years of age who are not eligible to enroll in school  
120 pursuant to section 10-15c, or who are eligible to enroll in school and  
121 will attend a school readiness program pursuant to section 9 of [this  
122 act] public act 99-230;

123 (3) "Priority school" means a school in which forty per cent or more  
124 of the lunches served are served to students who are eligible for free or  
125 reduced price lunches pursuant to federal law and regulations,  
126 excluding such a school located in a priority school district pursuant to  
127 section 10-266p, as amended, or in a former priority school district  
128 receiving a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and, on and  
129 after July 1, 2001, excluding such a school in a transitional school  
130 district receiving a grant pursuant to section 9 of this act;

131 (4) "Severe need school" means a school in a priority school district  
132 pursuant to section 10-266p, as amended, or in a former priority school  
133 district in which forty per cent or more of the lunches served are  
134 served to students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches;

135 (5) "Accredited" means accredited by the National Association for  
136 the Education of Young Children, a Head Start on-site program review  
137 instrument or a successor instrument pursuant to federal regulations,  
138 or otherwise meeting such criteria as may be established by the  
139 commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social  
140 Services;

141 (6) "Approved" means meeting the criteria established by the

142 commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social  
143 Services;

144 (7) "Year-round" means fifty weeks per year;

145 (8) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Education; and

146 (9) "Department" means the Department of Education.

147 (b) The Department of Education shall be the lead agency for school  
148 readiness. [School] For purposes of this section and section 9 of this  
149 act, school readiness program providers eligible for funding from the  
150 Department of Education shall include local and regional boards of  
151 education, regional educational service centers, family resource centers  
152 and providers of child day care centers, as defined in section 19a-77,  
153 Head Start programs, preschool programs and other programs that  
154 meet such standards established by the Commissioner of Education.  
155 The department shall establish standards for school readiness  
156 programs. The standards may include, but need not be limited to,  
157 guidelines for staff-child interactions, curriculum content, lesson plans,  
158 parent involvement, staff qualifications and training, and  
159 administration. The department shall develop age-appropriate  
160 developmental skills and goals for children attending such programs.  
161 The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioners of Higher  
162 Education and Social Services and other appropriate entities, shall  
163 develop a continuing education training program for the staff of school  
164 readiness programs. For purposes of this section, on and after July 1,  
165 2003, "staff qualifications" means there is in each classroom an  
166 individual who has at least the following: (1) A credential issued by an  
167 organization approved by the Commissioner of Education and nine  
168 credits or more in early childhood education or child development  
169 from an institution of higher education accredited by the Board of  
170 Governors of Higher Education or regionally accredited; (2) an  
171 associate's degree in early childhood education or child development  
172 from such an institution; or (3) a four-year degree in early childhood  
173 education or child development from such an institution.

174 (c) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the  
175 Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a grant program to  
176 provide spaces in accredited or approved school readiness programs  
177 for eligible children who reside in priority school districts pursuant to  
178 section 10-266p, as amended, or in former priority school districts as  
179 provided in this subsection. Under the program, the grant shall be  
180 provided, in accordance with this section, to the town in which such  
181 priority school district or former priority school district is located.  
182 Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year period based on an  
183 applicant's designation as a priority school district for the initial year  
184 of application, except that if a school district that receives a grant  
185 pursuant to this subsection is no longer designated as a priority school  
186 district at the end of such five-year period, such former priority school  
187 district shall continue to be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to this  
188 subsection. Grant awards shall be made annually contingent upon  
189 available funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief  
190 elected official of such town and the superintendent of schools for such  
191 priority school district or former priority school district shall submit a  
192 plan for the expenditure of grant funds and responses to the local  
193 request for proposal process to the Departments of Education and  
194 Social Services. The departments shall jointly review such plans and  
195 shall each approve the portion of such plan within its jurisdiction for  
196 funding. The plan shall: (1) Be developed in consultation with the local  
197 school readiness council established pursuant to section 10-16r, as  
198 amended; (2) be based on a needs and resource assessment; (3) provide  
199 for the issuance of requests for proposals for providers of accredited or  
200 approved school readiness programs, provided, after the initial  
201 requests for proposals, facilities that have been approved to operate a  
202 child care program financed through the Connecticut Health and  
203 Education Facilities Authority and [who] have received a commitment  
204 for debt service from the Department of Social Services pursuant to  
205 section 17b-749i, as amended, are exempt from the requirement for  
206 issuance of annual requests for proposals; and (4) identify the need for  
207 funding pursuant to section 17b-749a in order to extend the hours and  
208 days of operation of school readiness programs in order to provide

209 child day care services for children attending such programs.

210 (d) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the  
211 Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a competitive grant  
212 program to provide spaces in accredited or approved school readiness  
213 programs for eligible children who reside in an area served by a  
214 priority school. A town in which such a school is located or a regional  
215 school readiness council, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-16r,  
216 as amended, for a region in which such a school is located may apply  
217 for such a grant in an amount not to exceed one hundred thousand  
218 dollars per priority school. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-  
219 year period based on an applicant's designation as having a priority  
220 school for the initial year of application. Grant awards shall be made  
221 annually contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory annual  
222 evaluation. The chief elected official of such town and the  
223 superintendent of schools of the school district or the regional school  
224 readiness council shall submit a plan, as described in subsection (c) of  
225 this section, for the expenditure of such grant funds to the Department  
226 of Education. In awarding grants pursuant to this subsection, the  
227 commissioner shall give preference to applications submitted by  
228 regional school readiness councils and may, within available  
229 appropriations, provide a grant in excess of one hundred thousand  
230 dollars to towns with two or more priority schools in such district. A  
231 town or regional school readiness council awarded a grant pursuant to  
232 this subsection shall use the funds to purchase spaces for such children  
233 from providers of accredited or approved school readiness programs.

234 (e) (1) Ninety-three per cent of the amount appropriated for  
235 purposes of this section shall be used for the grant program pursuant  
236 to subsection (c) of this section. Priority school districts and former  
237 priority school districts shall receive grants based on their proportional  
238 share of the sum of the products obtained by multiplying the average  
239 number of enrolled kindergarten students in each priority school  
240 district and in each former priority school district for the [year] three  
241 years prior to the year the grant is to be paid, by the ratio of the  
242 average percentage of free and reduced price meals for all severe need

243 schools in such district to the minimum percentage requirement for  
244 severe need school eligibility, provided no such school district shall  
245 receive a grant that is less than the grant it received for the prior fiscal  
246 year.

247 (2) Six and five-tenths per cent of the amount appropriated for  
248 purposes of this section shall be used for the competitive grant  
249 program pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

250 (3) The Department of Education may retain up to five-tenths of one  
251 per cent of the amount appropriated for purposes of this section for  
252 coordination, program evaluation and administration.

253 (4) If a town that is eligible for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of  
254 this section does not submit, by January first, a plan which is  
255 subsequently approved for the expenditure of the entire amount of  
256 funds for which such town is eligible, the department may use up to  
257 ten per cent of any amounts such town has not earmarked for  
258 expenditure to provide supplemental grants to other towns that are  
259 eligible for grants pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

260 (f) Any school readiness program that receives funds pursuant to  
261 this section or section 9 of this act shall not discriminate on the basis of  
262 race, color, national origin, gender, religion or disability. For purposes  
263 of this section, a nonsectarian program means any public or private  
264 school readiness program that is not violative of the Establishment  
265 Clause of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut or the  
266 Establishment Clause of the Constitution of the United States of  
267 America.

268 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, no funds received by  
269 a town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 9 of  
270 this act shall be used to supplant federal, state or local funding  
271 received by such town for early childhood education, provided (1) a  
272 town may use up to five per cent but no more than fifty thousand  
273 dollars of the amount received pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this  
274 section or section 9 of this act for coordination, program evaluation

275 and administration, and (2) if a town provides twenty-five thousand  
276 dollars in local funding for early childhood education coordination,  
277 program evaluation and administration, such town may use up to ten  
278 per cent but no more than seventy-five thousand dollars of such  
279 amount for coordination, program evaluation and administration.  
280 Each town that receives a grant pursuant to said subsection (c) or (d) or  
281 section 9 of this act shall designate a person to be responsible for such  
282 coordination, program evaluation and administration and to act as a  
283 liaison between the town and the Departments of Education and Social  
284 Services. Each school readiness program that receives funds pursuant  
285 to this section or section 9 of this act shall provide information to the  
286 department or the school readiness council, as requested, that is  
287 necessary for purposes of any school readiness program evaluation.

288 (h) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 1998, June 30, 1999, [and]  
289 June 30, 2000, and June 30, 2001, grants pursuant to this section may be  
290 used, with the approval of the commissioner, to prepare a facility or  
291 staff for operating a school readiness program and shall be adjusted  
292 based on the number of days of operation of a school readiness  
293 program if a shorter term of operation is approved by the  
294 commissioner.

295 (i) A town may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible  
296 children who reside in such town at an accredited or approved school  
297 readiness program located in another town. A regional school  
298 readiness council may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible  
299 children who reside in the region covered by the council at an  
300 accredited or approved school readiness program located outside such  
301 region.

302 (j) Children enrolled in school readiness programs funded pursuant  
303 to this section shall not be counted as resident students for purposes of  
304 subdivision (22) of section 10-262f, as amended.

305 Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 17b-749 of the general statutes, as  
306 amended by section 7 of public act 99-166 and section 5 of public act

307 99-252, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

308 (c) The commissioner shall establish eligibility and program  
309 standards including, but not limited to: (1) A priority intake and  
310 eligibility system with preference given to serving teen parents,  
311 low-income working families, adoptive families of children who were  
312 adopted from the Department of Children and Families and who are  
313 granted a waiver of income standards under subdivision (2) of  
314 subsection (b), and working families who are at risk of welfare  
315 dependency; (2) health and safety standards for child care providers  
316 not required to be licensed; (3) a reimbursement system for child care  
317 services which account for differences in the age of the child, number  
318 of children in the family, the geographic region and type of care  
319 provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers, the cost and type of  
320 services provided by licensed and unlicensed caregivers, successful  
321 completion of fifteen hours of annual in-service training or  
322 credentialing of child care directors and administrators, and program  
323 accreditation; (4) supplemental payment for special needs of the child  
324 and extended nontraditional hours; (5) an annual rate review process  
325 which assures that reimbursement rates are maintained at levels which  
326 permit equal access to a variety of child care settings; (6) a sliding  
327 reimbursement scale for participating families; (7) an administrative  
328 appeals process; (8) an administrative hearing process to adjudicate  
329 cases of alleged fraud and abuse and to impose sanctions and recover  
330 overpayments; and (9) a waiting list for the child care subsidy program  
331 that reflects the priority and eligibility system set forth in subdivision  
332 (1) of subsection (c) of this section, which is reviewed periodically,  
333 with the inclusion of this information in the annual report required to  
334 be issued annually by the Department of Social Services to the  
335 Governor and the General Assembly in accordance with subdivision  
336 (10) of section 17b-733. Such action will include, but not be limited to,  
337 family income, age of child, region of state and length of time on such  
338 waiting list.

339 Sec. 6. Subsection (c) of section 17b-749c of the general statutes, as  
340 amended by section 7 of public act 99-230, is repealed and the

341 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

342 (c) The grants shall be used to:

343 (1) Help providers who are not accredited by the National  
344 Association for the Education of Young Children to obtain such  
345 accreditation;

346 (2) Provide comprehensive services, such as enhanced access to  
347 health care, nutrition, family support services, parent education,  
348 literacy and parental involvement, and community and home outreach  
349 programs;

350 (3) Purchase educational equipment;

351 (4) Provide scholarships for training to obtain a child development  
352 associate certificate;

353 (5) Provide training for persons who are mentor teachers, as defined  
354 in federal regulations for the Head Start program, and provide a  
355 family service coordinator or a family service worker as such positions  
356 are defined in such federal regulations;

357 (6) Repair fire, health and safety problems in existing facilities and  
358 conduct minor remodeling to comply with the Americans with  
359 Disabilities Act;

360 (7) Create a supportive network with family day care homes;

361 (8) Provide for educational consultation and staff development;

362 (9) Provide for program quality assurance personnel; [and]

363 (10) Provide technical assistance services to enable providers to  
364 develop child care facilities pursuant to sections 17b-749g, 17b-749h  
365 and 17b-749i, as amended; and

366 (11) Establish a single point of entry system.

367 Sec. 7. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the  
368 Commissioner of Social Services, shall require school readiness  
369 councils in priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p of the  
370 general statutes, as amended, and school districts with a severe need  
371 school as defined in section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended  
372 by this act, and invite school readiness councils in transitional school  
373 districts pursuant to section 10-263c of the general statutes, as  
374 amended, to submit an operating and capital school readiness needs  
375 assessment that provides an estimate of the number of three and four  
376 year old children in such districts not enrolled in a school readiness  
377 program whose parents would likely enroll them if a school readiness  
378 program were available and a proposed three-year plan to address any  
379 gap in the number of available spaces and the demand for such spaces.  
380 On or before January 1, 2001, the Commissioner of Education shall  
381 report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the  
382 General Assembly on such needs assessments and recommend actions  
383 to address unmet needs.

384 Sec. 8. (NEW) (a) The Department of Education shall develop and  
385 implement a state-wide public school information system. The system  
386 shall be designed for the purpose of establishing a standardized  
387 electronic data collection and reporting protocol that will facilitate  
388 compliance with state and federal reporting requirements, improve  
389 school to school and district to district information exchanges, and  
390 maintain the confidentiality of individual student and staff data. The  
391 initial design shall focus on student information, provided the system  
392 shall be created to allow for future compatibility with financial, facility  
393 and staff data. The system shall provide for the tracking of the  
394 performance of individual students on each of the state-wide mastery  
395 examinations under section 10-14n of the general statutes, in order to  
396 allow the department to compare the progress of the same cohort of  
397 students who take each examination and to better analyze school  
398 performance for purposes of section 2 of public act 99-288.

399 (b) The system database of student information shall not be  
400 considered a public record for the purposes of section 1-210 of the

401 general statutes.

402 (c) The department shall initiate a pilot system project not later than  
403 the 2002-2003 school year with full implementation in the school year  
404 following successful implementation of the pilot. All school districts  
405 shall participate in the system, provided the department provides for  
406 technical assistance and training of school staff in the use of the  
407 system.

408 Sec. 9. (NEW) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, and each  
409 fiscal year thereafter, the Commissioner of Education, in consultation  
410 with the Commissioner of Social Services, shall provide grants, within  
411 available appropriations, to eligible school readiness program  
412 providers pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-16p of the general  
413 statutes, as amended by this act, to provide spaces in accredited or  
414 approved school readiness programs for eligible children who reside  
415 in transitional school districts pursuant to section 10-263c of the  
416 general statutes, as amended, except for transitional school districts  
417 eligible for grants pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-16p, as  
418 amended by this act. Under the program, the grant shall be provided  
419 to the town in which such transitional school district is located.  
420 Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year period based on a school  
421 district's designation as a transitional school district in the initial year  
422 of application, except that grants pursuant to this section shall not be  
423 provided for transitional school districts eligible for grants pursuant to  
424 subsection (c) of said section 10-16p. Grant awards shall be made  
425 annually contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory annual  
426 evaluation. The chief elected official of such town and the  
427 superintendent of schools for such transitional school district shall  
428 submit a plan for the expenditure of grant funds and responses to the  
429 local request for proposal process to the Departments of Education and  
430 Social Services. The departments shall jointly review such plans and  
431 shall each approve the portion of such plan within its jurisdiction for  
432 funding. The plan shall meet the requirements specified in subsection  
433 (c) of said section 10-16p.

434 Sec. 10. Section 10-16o of the general statutes is repealed and the  
435 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

436 The state shall encourage the development of a network of school  
437 readiness programs pursuant to sections 10-16p to 10-16r, inclusive, as  
438 amended by this act, section 9 of this act, and section 17b-749a in order  
439 to:

440 (1) Provide open access for children to quality programs that  
441 promote the health and safety of children and prepare them for formal  
442 schooling;

443 (2) Provide opportunities for parents to choose among affordable  
444 and accredited or approved programs;

445 (3) Encourage coordination and cooperation among programs and  
446 prevent the duplication of services;

447 (4) Recognize the specific service needs and unique resources  
448 available to particular municipalities and provide flexibility in the  
449 implementation of programs;

450 (5) Prevent or minimize the potential for developmental delay in  
451 children prior to children reaching the age of five;

452 (6) Enhance federally funded school readiness programs;

453 (7) Strengthen the family through: (A) Encouragement of parental  
454 involvement in a child's development and education; and (B)  
455 enhancement of a family's capacity to meet the special needs of the  
456 children, including children with disabilities;

457 (8) Reduce educational costs by decreasing the need for special  
458 education services for school age children and to avoid grade  
459 repetition;

460 (9) Assure that children with disabilities are integrated into  
461 programs available to children who are not disabled; and

462 (10) Improve the availability and quality of school readiness  
463 programs.

464 Sec. 11. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-16r of the general  
465 statutes, as amended by section 3 of public act 99-230, are repealed and  
466 the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

467 (a) A town seeking to apply for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of  
468 section 10-16p, as amended by this act, or section 9 of this act shall  
469 convene a local school readiness council. Any other town may convene  
470 such a council. The chief elected official of the town or, in the case of a  
471 regional school district, the chief elected officials of the towns in the  
472 school district and the superintendent of schools for the school district  
473 shall jointly appoint and convene such council. Each school readiness  
474 council shall be composed of: (1) The chief elected official, or [his] the  
475 official's designee; (2) the superintendent of schools, or a management  
476 level staff person as [his] the superintendent's designee; (3) parents; (4)  
477 representatives from local programs such as Head Start, family  
478 resource centers, nonprofit and for-profit child day care centers, group  
479 day care homes, prekindergarten and nursery schools, and family day  
480 care home providers; and (5) other representatives from the  
481 community who provide services to children. The chief elected official  
482 shall designate the chairperson of the school readiness council.

483 (b) The local school readiness council shall: (1) Make  
484 recommendations to the chief elected official and the superintendent of  
485 schools on issues relating to school readiness, including any  
486 applications for grants pursuant to sections 10-16p, as amended by this  
487 act, section 9 of this act, 17b-749a and 17b-749c, as amended by this act;  
488 (2) foster partnerships among providers of school readiness programs;  
489 (3) assist in the identification of the need for school readiness programs  
490 and the number of children not being served by such a program; (4)  
491 submit biannual reports to the Department of Education on the  
492 number and location of school readiness spaces and estimates of future  
493 needs; (5) cooperate with the department in any program evaluation  
494 and, on and after July 1, 2000, use measures developed pursuant to

495 section 10-16s, as amended, for purposes of evaluating the  
496 effectiveness of school readiness programs; (6) identify existing and  
497 prospective resources and services available to children and families;  
498 (7) facilitate the coordination of the delivery of services to children and  
499 families, including (A) referral procedures, and (B) before and after-  
500 school child care for children attending kindergarten programs; (8)  
501 exchange information with other councils, the community and  
502 organizations serving the needs of children and families; (9) make  
503 recommendations to school officials concerning transition from school  
504 readiness programs to kindergarten; and (10) encourage public  
505 participation.

506 Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 17b-749c of the general statutes is  
507 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

508 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the  
509 Commissioner of Education, shall establish a program, within  
510 available appropriations, to provide, on a competitive basis,  
511 supplemental quality enhancement grants to providers of child day  
512 care services or providers of school readiness programs pursuant to  
513 section 10-16p, as amended by this act and section 9 of this act. Child  
514 day care providers and school readiness programs may apply for a  
515 supplemental quality enhancement grant at such time and on such  
516 form as the Commissioner of Social Services prescribes.

517 Sec. 13. Subdivision (19) of section 10-262f of the general statutes is  
518 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

519 (19) "Regional bonus" means, for any town which is a member of a  
520 regional school district and has students who attend such regional  
521 school district, an amount equal to [twenty-five] one hundred dollars  
522 for each such student enrolled in the regional school district on  
523 October first or the full school day immediately preceding such date  
524 for the school year prior to the fiscal year in which the grant is to be  
525 paid multiplied by the ratio of the number of grades, kindergarten to  
526 grade twelve, inclusive, in the regional school district to thirteen.

527 Sec. 14. Subsection (b) of section 10-262j of the general statutes is  
528 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

529 (b) For the purposes of subsection (a) of this section, the amount of  
530 the aid increase paid to a town shall be (1) for the fiscal year ending  
531 June 30, 1990, the amount of aid to be paid to the town for the fiscal  
532 year ending June 30, 1990, pursuant to section 10-262i, less the base aid  
533 for the town, (2) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1991, the amount of  
534 aid paid to the town for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1991, pursuant  
535 to said section, less the amount of aid paid to the town for the fiscal  
536 year ending June 30, 1990, pursuant to said section, (3) for the fiscal  
537 year ending June 30, 1992, the amount of aid paid to the town for the  
538 fiscal year ending June 30, 1992, pursuant to said section, less the  
539 amount of aid paid to the town for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1991,  
540 pursuant to said section, (4) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1993, the  
541 amount of aid paid to the town for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1993,  
542 less the amount of aid paid to the town for the fiscal year ending June  
543 30, 1992, pursuant to said section, (5) for the fiscal years ending June  
544 30, 1994, and June 30, 1995, the amount of aid paid to the town for the  
545 fiscal year pursuant to said section, less the amount of aid paid to the  
546 town for the prior fiscal year pursuant to said section, (6) for the fiscal  
547 year ending June 30, 1996, the amount paid to the town for the fiscal  
548 year ending June 30, 1996, pursuant to said section less base revenue  
549 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1995, (7) for the fiscal year ending  
550 June 30, 1997, the amount paid to the town for the fiscal year ending  
551 June 30, 1997, less the amount paid to the town for the fiscal year  
552 ending June 30, 1996, pursuant to said section, (8) for the fiscal year  
553 ending June 30, 1998, the amount paid to the town for the fiscal year  
554 ending June 30, 1998, less the amount paid to the town for the fiscal  
555 year ending June 30, 1997, pursuant to said section, [and] (9) for the  
556 fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, the amount paid to the town for the  
557 fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, less the amount paid to the town for  
558 the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, pursuant to said section, and (10)  
559 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, and each fiscal year thereafter,  
560 the amount paid to the town for said fiscal year, less the amount paid

561 to the town for the year prior to said fiscal year, provided any amounts  
562 paid pursuant to section 7 of public act 99-217, as amended by this act,  
563 shall be included in the determination of the aid increase paid to the  
564 town.

565 Sec. 15. Subsection (b) of section 10-266aa of the general statutes, as  
566 amended by section 1 of public act 99-289, is repealed and the  
567 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

568 (b) There is established, within available appropriations, a state-  
569 wide interdistrict public school attendance program. The purpose of  
570 the program shall be to: (1) Improve academic achievement; (2) reduce  
571 racial, ethnic and economic isolation or preserve racial and ethnic  
572 balance; and (3) provide a choice of educational programs for students  
573 enrolled in the public schools. The Department of Education shall  
574 provide oversight for the program, including the setting of reasonable  
575 limits for the transportation of students participating in the program,  
576 and may provide for the incremental expansion of the program for the  
577 school year commencing in 2000 for each town required to participate  
578 in the program pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

579 Sec. 16. Subsection (f) of section 10-266aa of the general statutes, as  
580 amended by section 1 of public act 99-5 and section 1 of public act 99-  
581 289, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

582 (f) The Department of Education shall provide grants to regional  
583 educational service centers or local or regional boards of education for  
584 the reasonable cost of transportation for students participating in the  
585 program. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, and each fiscal year  
586 thereafter, the department shall provide such grants within available  
587 appropriations, provided the state-wide average of such grants does  
588 not exceed an amount equal to two thousand one hundred dollars for  
589 each student transported. The regional education service centers shall  
590 provide reasonable transportation services to high school students  
591 who wish to participate in supervised extracurricular activities.

592 Sec. 17. Section 10-266aa of the general statutes, as amended by

593 section 1 of public act 99-5 and section 1 of public act 99-289, is  
594 amended by adding subsection (l) as follows:

595 (NEW) (l) For purposes of the state-wide mastery examinations  
596 under section 10-14n, students participating in the program  
597 established pursuant to this section shall be considered residents of the  
598 school district in which they attend school.

599 Sec. 18. Section 10-266cc of the general statutes, as amended by  
600 section 10 of public act 99-289, is repealed and the following is  
601 substituted in lieu thereof:

602 [For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, the Department of  
603 Education shall award a grant in an amount not to exceed one hundred  
604 thousand dollars to the Hartford school district to assist in the  
605 development of a curriculum and the training of staff for a lighthouse  
606 school.] For the fiscal years ending June 30, 1999, June 30, 2000, and  
607 June 30, 2001, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Department of  
608 Education shall award, within available appropriations, competitive  
609 grants to the Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport school districts to  
610 assist in the development of curricula and the training of staff for  
611 lighthouse schools. Grants for such purpose shall not exceed one  
612 hundred thousand dollars for any individual school in any year and  
613 may be renewed for two additional years in such lesser amounts as the  
614 department determines are reasonable for purposes of implementing  
615 the lighthouse school program at a school. For purposes of this section  
616 and section 10-285a, a "lighthouse school" is an existing public school  
617 or a public school planned prior to July 1, 1997, in a priority school  
618 district that (1) has a specialized curriculum, and (2) is designed to  
619 promote intradistrict and interdistrict public school choice.

620 Sec. 19. Section 7 of public act 99-217 is repealed and the following is  
621 substituted in lieu thereof:

622 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-262h of the general  
623 statutes, as amended by [this act] public act 99-217, for the fiscal [years]  
624 year ending June 30, 2000, [and June 30, 2001,] the education

625 equalization aid grant to the city of Hartford shall be increased by six  
626 million dollars over the amount that the town would otherwise receive  
627 pursuant to said section 10-262h.

628 Sec. 20. The sum of three hundred thousand dollars distributed to  
629 the city of Hartford in section 82 of substitute house bill 5216 of the  
630 current session for one time surplus revenue sharing shall be used for  
631 an operational audit of the Hartford school district.

632 Sec. 21. Subdivision (7) of subsection (d) of section 10-262j of the  
633 general statutes, as amended by section 6 of public act 99-217, is  
634 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

635 (7) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, the regular program  
636 expenditures of a town shall be no less than the sum of (A) its  
637 minimum expenditure requirement for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
638 2000, (B) its aid increase pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and  
639 (C) if the resident student count for October, 1999, is less than the  
640 resident student count for October, 1998, the result obtained by  
641 multiplying the difference between the town's resident student count  
642 for October 1999, using the data of record as of December 1, 1999, and  
643 the town's resident student count for October 1998, using the data of  
644 record as of December 1, 1998, by one-half of the foundation.

645 Sec. 22. Subsection (a) of section 10-19o of the general statutes, as  
646 amended by section 32 of public act 99-1 of the June special session, is  
647 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

648 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall establish a program to  
649 provide grants to youth service bureaus in accordance with this  
650 section. Only youth service bureaus which were eligible to receive  
651 grants pursuant to this section for the fiscal year ending June 30, [1999]  
652 2000, or which applied for a grant by May 15, [1999] 2000, with prior  
653 approval of the town's contribution pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
654 section, shall be eligible for a grant pursuant to this section for any  
655 fiscal year commencing on or after July 1, [1999] 2000. Each such youth  
656 service bureau shall receive a grant of fourteen thousand dollars. The

657 Department of Education may expend an amount not to exceed two  
658 per cent of the amount appropriated for purposes of this section for  
659 administrative expenses. If there are any remaining funds, each such  
660 youth service bureau that was awarded a grant in excess of fifteen  
661 thousand dollars in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1995, shall receive a  
662 percentage of such funds. The percentage shall be determined as  
663 follows: For each such grant in excess of fifteen thousand dollars, the  
664 difference between the amount of the grant awarded to the youth  
665 service bureau for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1995, and fifteen  
666 thousand dollars shall be divided by the difference between the total  
667 amount of the grants awarded to all youth service bureaus that were  
668 awarded grants in excess of fifteen thousand dollars for said fiscal year  
669 and the product of fifteen thousand dollars and the number of such  
670 grants for said fiscal year.

671 Sec. 23. Subsection (c) of section 10-66ee of the general statutes, as  
672 amended by section 6 of public act 99-289, is repealed and the  
673 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

674 (c) (1) The state shall, annually, pay in accordance with this  
675 subsection, to the fiscal authority for a state charter school, [an amount  
676 equal to one hundred ten and three-tenths per cent of the foundation  
677 level pursuant to subdivision (9) of section 10-262f] seven thousand  
678 dollars for each student enrolled in such school. Such payments shall  
679 be made as follows: Twenty-five per cent of the amount not later than  
680 July fifteenth and September fifteenth based on estimated student  
681 enrolment on May first, and twenty-five per cent of the amount not  
682 later than January fifteenth and the remaining amount not later than  
683 April fifteenth, each based on student enrolment on October first. (2) In  
684 the case of a student identified as requiring special education, the  
685 school district in which the student resides shall: (A) Hold the  
686 planning and placement team meeting for such student and shall  
687 invite representatives from the charter school to participate in such  
688 meeting; and (B) pay the state charter school an amount equal to the  
689 difference between the reasonable cost of educating such student and  
690 the sum of the amount received by the state charter school for such

691 student pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection and amounts  
692 received from other state, federal, local or private sources calculated on  
693 a per pupil basis. Such school district shall be eligible for  
694 reimbursement pursuant to section 10-76g. The charter school a  
695 student requiring special education attends shall be responsible for  
696 ensuring that such student receives the services mandated by the  
697 student's individualized education program whether such services are  
698 provided by the charter school or by the school district in which the  
699 student resides.

700 Sec. 24. Section 10a-20a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
701 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

702 (a) The Board of Governors of Higher Education may establish and  
703 administer a fund to be known as the Endowed Chair Investment  
704 Fund. Within the limits of funds available, the board may deposit state  
705 funds for an endowed chair approved under subsection (c) of this  
706 section to an account within said fund in an amount not less than five  
707 hundred thousand dollars.

708 (b) State funds deposited by the board of governors to the Endowed  
709 Chair Investment Fund shall be invested by the State Treasurer.

710 (c) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut and the  
711 Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System may  
712 apply for the establishment of an endowed chair to be supported by a  
713 grant of not less than five hundred thousand and not more than [seven  
714 hundred fifty thousand] one million dollars from the Endowed Chair  
715 Investment Fund and a matching nonstate contribution. Applications  
716 for endowed chairs shall be accepted on October first and April first in  
717 each year in which funds are available. To apply for the state grant, the  
718 board of trustees shall notify the board of governors that it has raised a  
719 matching nonstate contribution and that it is eligible for a grant of state  
720 funds to establish an endowed chair in a specific academic discipline.  
721 The board of trustees shall submit for the board's review and approval  
722 evidence that the chair will be established in a center of excellence, as

723 defined in subsection (b) of section 10a-25h.

724 (d) Following approval of state funding for an endowed chair by the  
725 board of governors, the board of trustees of the institution at which the  
726 chair is established shall select candidates to fill the endowed chair and  
727 shall develop a budget for expenditures associated with the chair.

728 (e) Interest income earned under subsection (b) of this section shall  
729 be deposited to the Endowed Chair Investment Fund and, following  
730 establishment of an endowed chair under subsection (c) of this section  
731 shall be allocated, upon request, to The University of Connecticut or to  
732 the Connecticut State University system, as appropriate, to support the  
733 endowed chair. Nonstate matching contributions shall be held by a  
734 duly established foundation of The University of Connecticut or the  
735 Connecticut State University system and the interest on such  
736 contributions shall be used to support the endowed chair.

737 (f) The boards of trustees shall submit annual reports to the board of  
738 governors concerning endowed chair expenditures.

739 Sec. 25. (NEW) The Commissioner of Education shall annually, by  
740 December first, determine subject and geographic areas in which a  
741 teacher shortage exists and shall certify such shortages to the  
742 Connecticut Housing Finance Authority for purposes of section 26 of  
743 this act. In determining teacher shortages, the commissioner shall  
744 consider the following: (1) The number of teacher vacancies in a  
745 particular subject or geographic area; (2) the number of new certificates  
746 in such areas issued by the Department of Education during the  
747 preceding year; and (3) the number and types of classes being taught  
748 by persons whose training is not specific to the field in which they are  
749 teaching.

750 Sec. 26. (NEW) The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority shall  
751 develop and administer a program of mortgage assistance to certified  
752 teachers (1) employed by priority school districts pursuant to section  
753 10-266p of the general statutes, as amended, (2) employed by  
754 transitional school districts pursuant to section 10-263c of the general

755 statutes, as amended, or (3) who teach in a subject matter shortage area  
756 pursuant to section 25 of this act. Such assistance shall be available to  
757 eligible teachers for the purchase of a house as their principal  
758 residence, provided, in the case of a teacher employed by a priority or  
759 a transitional school district, the house is located in such district. In  
760 making mortgage assistance available under the program, the  
761 authority shall utilize downpayment assistance or any other  
762 appropriate housing subsidies. The terms of any mortgage assistance  
763 shall allow the mortgagee to realize a reasonable portion of the equity  
764 gain upon sale of the mortgaged property.

765 Sec. 27. (a) There is established a commission on the teacher and  
766 school administrator shortage and minority recruitment. The  
767 commission shall explore various incentives and credentialing  
768 alternatives to attract and retain teachers and school administrators in  
769 areas of shortages, including minority teachers and minority school  
770 administrators, and to prevent future shortages in certain areas. Such  
771 incentives and alternatives may include, but not be limited to: (1)  
772 Enhancements to the mentoring program for teachers; (2) the waiving  
773 of examination fees pursuant to subsection (e) of section 10-145f of the  
774 general statutes, and certification and endorsement fees pursuant to  
775 subsection (o) of section 10-145b of the general statutes; (3) incentives  
776 for retired teachers who teach on a temporary basis in subject areas or  
777 geographic areas in which a shortage exists, such as possible changes  
778 to the salary limitations for such retired teachers; and (4) changes to  
779 the alternative route to certification program.

780 (b) The commission shall consist of the following members:

781 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
782 one of whom shall represent the National Association for the  
783 Advancement of Colored People and one of whom shall represent the  
784 Connecticut Association of Colleges and Universities for Teacher  
785 Education;

786 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one

787 of whom shall represent the Connecticut Association of Public School  
788 Superintendents and one of whom shall represent a regional  
789 educational service center;

790 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
791 Representatives who shall represent the Connecticut Association of  
792 Urban Superintendents;

793 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate who shall  
794 represent the Connecticut Federation of Educational and Professional  
795 Employees;

796 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
797 Representatives, one of whom shall represent the Connecticut  
798 Education Association and one of whom shall represent the  
799 Connecticut Association of Schools;

800 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of  
801 whom shall represent the Connecticut Association of Boards of  
802 Education and one of whom shall represent the Connecticut  
803 Federation of School Administrators;

804 (7) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the  
805 secretary's designee;

806 (8) The Commissioners of Higher Education and Education, or their  
807 designees;

808 (9) The Executive Director of the Teachers' Retirement Board, or the  
809 executive director's designee; and

810 (10) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
811 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
812 relating to education, or their designees.

813 (c) All appointments to the commission shall be made no later than  
814 August 1, 2000. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing  
815 authority.

816 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
817 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the  
818 commission, from among the members of the commission. Such  
819 chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the commission, which  
820 shall be held no later than September 1, 2000.

821 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
822 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education  
823 shall serve as administrative staff of the commission.

824 (f) Not later than January 1, 2001, the commission shall submit a  
825 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing  
826 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
827 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
828 4a of the general statutes. The commission shall terminate on the date  
829 that it submits such report or January 1, 2001, whichever is earlier.

830 Sec. 28. (NEW) (a) The Connecticut Employment and Training  
831 Commission within the Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall  
832 produce, within available appropriations, a report, including a long-  
833 range strategic plan, for information technology workforce  
834 development, that addresses Connecticut's workforce and research  
835 needs as they relate to information technology and electronic  
836 commerce. The commission shall work with the Commissioners of  
837 Economic and Community Development, Education and Higher  
838 Education and any business-related association or organization that  
839 the commission deems appropriate in creating a planning structure, no  
840 later than July 5, 2000, to develop the plan. The planning structure  
841 shall include representation from the Connecticut Employment and  
842 Training Commission, the General Assembly, the Departments of  
843 Education, Higher Education and Economic and Community  
844 Development, Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, information  
845 technology and software companies, the Connecticut Business and  
846 Industry Association, the Connecticut Economic Resource Center, the  
847 Connecticut Technology Council, The University of Connecticut, the  
848 Connecticut State University System, the community-technical

849 colleges, Charter Oak State College, the Connecticut Distance Learning  
850 Consortium, the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges and  
851 any other representatives including regional and state-wide business  
852 and technology associations the Connecticut Employment and  
853 Training Commission and commissioners deem necessary.

854 (b) The report shall specify: (1) The number and job descriptions of  
855 workers in information technology intensive occupations and the  
856 associated occupational codes for those occupations as identified  
857 through the Standard Occupational Code classification system of the  
858 Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor, (2)  
859 a forecasted assessment of demand by Connecticut employers in those  
860 occupations for two, five and ten years from July 1, 2000, (3) methods  
861 to generate a sufficient number of information technology graduates to  
862 fill identified needs, including, but not limited to, scholarship, school-  
863 to-career and internship programs, (4) methods to effectively link  
864 appropriate and trained graduates to information technology jobs in  
865 this state, including, but not limited to, loan reimbursement programs,  
866 (5) what programmatic and curricular emphasis should be developed  
867 to support the growth of electronic commerce, software and  
868 information technology industries, (6) methods secondary and higher  
869 education and private industry can use to continue to address  
870 information technology workforce needs as they change and evolve  
871 over time, and (7) an assessment of existing state initiatives directed at  
872 improving workforce development in Connecticut's information  
873 technology and software industries and a method for ensuring such  
874 industries are informed, on a continual basis, of these and other  
875 workforce development options as they are implemented.

876 (c) The commission shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of  
877 the general statutes, to the General Assembly and the Governor by  
878 October 16, 2000. The report shall include the specifications of the plan.  
879 The commission may, prior to the completion of the report, release  
880 findings, data, conclusions or other content on an ongoing basis.

881 Sec. 29. (NEW) The Department of Economic and Community

882 Development shall maintain a registry of qualifying electronic  
883 commerce or information technology intensive companies for the  
884 purposes of sections 30 and 31 of this act. An updated registry shall be  
885 made available on the department's web page.

886 Sec. 30. (NEW) (a) There is established a Connecticut information  
887 technology scholarship pilot program administered by the Department  
888 of Higher Education.

889 (b) Within available appropriations, the program shall provide  
890 grants for students entering or enrolling in an information technology  
891 related degree or certification program at any public or independent  
892 institution of higher education in this state. The scholarship shall not  
893 exceed three thousand dollars per student per year. The scholarship  
894 shall not exceed the combined costs of tuition and fees of an institution  
895 at which a recipient is or will be enrolled. The Department of Higher  
896 Education shall develop eligibility requirements for recipients. Such  
897 requirements may include income guidelines. Students shall be eligible  
898 for such scholarships for each year enrolled in an information  
899 technology related degree or certification program for a total of not  
900 more than four years per student. Students may apply for such  
901 scholarships to the Department of Higher Education at such time and  
902 in such manner as the Commissioner of Higher Education prescribes.

903 (c) The Department of Higher Education may accept donations for  
904 such scholarship program.

905 (d) The recipients of scholarships pursuant to this section for the  
906 fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, shall constitute a cohort and  
907 scholarships for succeeding years shall only be available to members of  
908 such cohort.

909 (e) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of this section  
910 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available for  
911 expenditure during the next fiscal year.

912 (f) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, the Department of

913 Higher Education may use up to five per cent of the funds  
914 appropriated for purposes of this section for program administration,  
915 promotion, recruitment and retention activities.

916 Sec. 31. (NEW) (a) There is established an information technology  
917 loan reimbursement pilot program administered by the Department of  
918 Higher Education.

919 (b) Within available appropriations, the program shall provide a  
920 student loan reimbursement grant for persons who (1) attended any  
921 institution of higher education, (2) majored in an information  
922 technology related field, and (3) are newly employed on or after  
923 January 1, 2001, by an electronic commerce or information technology  
924 intensive company, that has registered with or otherwise been  
925 qualified by the Department of Economic and Community  
926 Development pursuant to section 29 of this act, in an information  
927 technology intensive occupation verified by the department and  
928 identified in the strategic plan produced pursuant to section 28 of this  
929 act.

930 (c) Persons who qualify under subsection (b) of this section shall be  
931 reimbursed on an annual basis for qualifying student loan payments in  
932 an amount equal to such loan payments paid by that person during the  
933 previous taxable year but not exceeding two thousand five hundred  
934 dollars for each year of employment and for no more than a total of  
935 two years per person. A person qualifying under subsection (b) of this  
936 section shall only be reimbursed for loan payments made while such  
937 person was employed by a qualifying company. The Department of  
938 Higher Education shall develop eligibility requirements for recipients.  
939 Such requirements may include income guidelines. Persons may apply  
940 for grants to the Department of Higher Education at such time and in  
941 such manner as the Commissioner of Higher Education prescribes.

942 (d) The recipients of reimbursements pursuant to this section for the  
943 fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, shall constitute a cohort and  
944 reimbursements for succeeding years shall only be available for

945 members of such cohort.

946 (e) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of this section  
947 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available for  
948 expenditure during the next fiscal year.

949 (f) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, the Department of  
950 Higher Education may use up to five per cent of the funds  
951 appropriated for purposes of this section for program administration,  
952 promotion and recruitment activities.

953 Sec. 32. (NEW) The Commissioner of Economic and Community  
954 Development shall assist in the development of a partnership between  
955 organizations, including, but not limited to, registered or otherwise  
956 qualified electronic commerce or information technology intensive  
957 companies, nonprofit organizations, business associations, state  
958 agencies or other nonprofit organizations, business associations, state  
959 agencies or other public or private entities as designated by the  
960 commissioner to develop a cooperative internship program for  
961 students attending institutions of higher education in this state or  
962 another state who are majoring in information technology related  
963 fields and promotion and recruitment activities that are designed to  
964 increase the number of information technology workers in the state.

965 Sec. 33. (NEW) (a) There is established a Commission for  
966 Educational Technology, within the Department of Information  
967 Technology, for administrative purposes only. The commission shall  
968 consist of: (1) The Chief Information Officer of the Department of  
969 Information Technology, or the Chief Information Officer's designee,  
970 the Commissioners of Education and Higher Education, or their  
971 designees, the State Librarian, or the State Librarian's designee, the  
972 chairperson of the Department of Public Utility Control, or the  
973 chairperson's designee, the chief executive officers of the constituent  
974 units of the state system of higher education, or their designees, (2) one  
975 member each representing the Connecticut Conference of Independent  
976 Colleges, the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, the

977 Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, the  
978 Connecticut Educators Computer Association, and the Connecticut  
979 Library Association, (3) a secondary school teacher designated by  
980 Connecticut Education Association and an elementary school teacher  
981 designated by the Connecticut Federation of Educational and  
982 Professional Employees, and (4) four members who represent business  
983 and have expertise in information technology, one each appointed by  
984 the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the speaker of the House of  
985 Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate. The  
986 Lieutenant Governor shall convene the first meeting of the commission  
987 on or before September 1, 2000.

988 (b) The commission shall elect a chairperson from among its  
989 members. Subject to the provisions of chapter 67 of the general  
990 statutes, and within available appropriations, the commission may  
991 appoint an executive director and such other employees as may be  
992 necessary for the discharge of the duties of the commission.

993 (c) The commission shall:

994 (1) Be the principal educational technology policy advisor for state  
995 government;

996 (2) Develop, oversee and direct the attainment of state-wide  
997 technology goals including:

998 (A) Connecting all institutions of higher education, libraries, public  
999 elementary and secondary schools, regional educational service centers  
1000 and other parties through a state-wide high speed, flexible network  
1001 that will allow for video, voice and data transmission.

1002 (B) Wiring all school classrooms and connecting them to the Internet  
1003 and to the state-wide high speed network through wired, wireless, or  
1004 any other digital transmission technology providing high speed  
1005 connectivity.

1006 (C) Providing access for all public libraries and libraries at

1007 institutions of higher education to a core set of on-line full text  
1008 resources and to the ability to purchase collaboratively for other  
1009 collections in order to maximize buying power.

1010 (D) Ensuring, in cooperation with the State Board of Education,  
1011 competency in computing skills by the sixth grade for all students.

1012 (E) Ensuring competency in specific computing skills and the  
1013 integration of technology into the curriculum for all public school  
1014 teachers.

1015 (F) Ensuring that institutions of higher education offer a wide range  
1016 of course and degree programs via the Internet and through other  
1017 synchronous and asynchronous methods.

1018 (3) Coordinate the activities of all state agencies, educational  
1019 institutions and other parties involved in the creation and  
1020 management of a reliable and secure network that will offer  
1021 connectivity and allow for the transmission of video, voice and data  
1022 transmission to every library, school, regional educational service  
1023 center and institution of higher education;

1024 (4) Be the liaison between the Governor and the General Assembly  
1025 and local, state and federal organizations and entities with respect to  
1026 educational technology matters;

1027 (5) Develop and maintain a long-range plan and make related  
1028 recommendations for the coordination of educational technology. The  
1029 plan shall (A) establish clear goals and a strategy for using  
1030 telecommunications and information technology to improve  
1031 education, (B) include a professional development strategy to ensure  
1032 that teachers and faculty know how to use the new technologies to  
1033 improve education, (C) include an assessment of the  
1034 telecommunications, hardware, software and other services that will  
1035 be needed to improve education, and (D) include an evaluation  
1036 process that monitors progress towards the specified goals;

1037 (6) Measure the availability and usage of Internet access sites  
1038 available to the public, including, but not limited to, those maintained  
1039 by state and local government agencies, libraries, schools, institutions  
1040 of higher education, nonprofit organizations, businesses and other  
1041 organizations and recommend strategies for reducing the disparities in  
1042 Internet accessibility and usage across the state and among all  
1043 potential users;

1044 (7) Establish methods and procedures to ensure the maximum  
1045 involvement of members of the public, educators, librarians,  
1046 representatives of higher education, the legislature and local officials  
1047 in educational technology matters and organize, as necessary, advisory  
1048 boards consisting of individuals with expertise in a particular  
1049 discipline significant to the work of the commission;

1050 (8) On or before January 1, 2001, and annually thereafter, the  
1051 commission shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the  
1052 general statutes, on its activities, progress made in the attainment of  
1053 the state-wide technology goals as outlined in the long-range plan and  
1054 any recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General  
1055 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and  
1056 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, the State Board of  
1057 Education, and the Board of Governors of Higher Education. The  
1058 report shall include recommendations for adjustments to the funding  
1059 formula for grants pursuant to section 40 of this act if there are school  
1060 districts that are at a disadvantage in terms of wiring their schools and  
1061 the use of technology in their schools;

1062 (9) Enter into such contractual agreements, in accordance with  
1063 established procedures, as may be necessary to carry out the  
1064 provisions of this section;

1065 (10) Take any other action necessary to carry out the provisions of  
1066 this section.

1067 (d) The Commission for Educational Technology may request any  
1068 office, department, board, commission or other agency of the state to

1069 supply such reports, information and assistance as may be necessary  
1070 or appropriate in order to carry out its duties and requirements.

1071 (e) For purposes of this section, educational technology shall  
1072 include, but not be limited to: (1) Computer-assisted instruction; (2)  
1073 information retrieval and data transfer; (3) telecommunications related  
1074 to voice, data and video transmission of instruction related materials  
1075 and courses; (4) the development and acquisition of educational  
1076 software; and (5) the instructional uses of the Internet and other  
1077 technologies.

1078 Sec. 34. (NEW) There is established an Educational Technology  
1079 Fund. The Commission on Educational Technology shall deposit in  
1080 said fund any private donation, bequest or devise made to it to assist  
1081 in the attainment of the state-wide technology goals established  
1082 pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of section 33 of this act.  
1083 Said fund is intended to be in addition to those resources that are  
1084 appropriated by the state for technology purposes. The commission  
1085 shall use the resources of the fund for activities related to the  
1086 attainment of such goals.

1087 Sec. 35. (NEW) (a) The Commission for Educational Technology  
1088 shall develop, with the advice and assistance of the State Board of  
1089 Education, the Board of Governors of Higher Education and the  
1090 Department of Information Technology, a five-year plan for the  
1091 implementation of the Connecticut Education Network to provide  
1092 state-of-the-art, high-speed, reliable Internet access and video, voice  
1093 and data transmissions that electronically link all educational  
1094 institutions in the state, including public and independent institutions  
1095 of higher education, the state's libraries and all elementary, middle and  
1096 secondary schools and other institutions including businesses, job  
1097 centers and community organizations. The plan shall include the  
1098 establishment of a Connecticut Digital Library as a component of the  
1099 Connecticut Education Network to ensure on-line access by all  
1100 students and citizens to essential library and information resources.  
1101 The State Library, in conjunction with the Department of Higher

1102 Education, shall administer the Connecticut Digital Library. The  
1103 Connecticut Digital Library shall provide access to available on-line  
1104 electronic full-text databases, a state-wide electronic catalog and  
1105 interlibrary loan system and the electronic and physical delivery of  
1106 library resources. The Connecticut Digital Library shall include  
1107 elements specifically designed to meet the educational and research  
1108 needs of the general public, higher education students and faculty and  
1109 elementary and secondary school students and teachers.

1110 (b) The commission shall oversee the preparation and submission of  
1111 a state-wide application to the federal Universal Service Fund to  
1112 enhance connectivity to the Connecticut Education Network, maximize  
1113 participation and grant attainment rates, and reduce overly  
1114 burdensome administrative requirements which discourage local  
1115 involvement. The commission shall prepare a feasibility report which  
1116 sets forth (1) a review of how and under what circumstances other  
1117 states have successfully submitted state-wide applications to the  
1118 Universal Service Fund, (2) an analysis of what should specifically be  
1119 incorporated into this state's application, and (3) an outline of  
1120 necessary actions to be taken by the commission for completion of a  
1121 state-wide Universal Service Fund application. The commission shall  
1122 work, in consultation with the Departments of Education, Higher  
1123 Education and the regional educational service centers on the  
1124 feasibility report. No later than March 31, 2001, and for every  
1125 subsequent universal service funding cycle, the commission shall  
1126 submit a state-wide application for universal service funds.

1127 Sec. 36. (NEW) (a) The Department of Information Technology, in  
1128 consultation with the Department of Education, shall provide (1)  
1129 technical assistance to local and regional boards of education and  
1130 regional vocational-technical schools to expand their educational  
1131 technology capabilities, including, but not limited to, wiring, Internet  
1132 connectivity and technical support, and (2) opportunities for such  
1133 boards of education and schools to purchase under state-wide  
1134 contracts.

1135 (b) The department shall report, annually, in accordance with  
1136 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of  
1137 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
1138 education on the assistance provided pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
1139 section.

1140 Sec. 37. Two per cent of the amount appropriated to the Department  
1141 of Information Technology for Connecticut education technology  
1142 initiatives, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
1143 2000, pursuant to substitute house bill 5216 of the current session may  
1144 be used by the department for purposes of subsection (b) of section 33  
1145 of this act and for section 36 of this act.

1146 Sec. 38. (NEW) The Department of Information Technology, after  
1147 consultation with the Commission for Educational Technology and the  
1148 State Board of Education, shall develop minimum and model  
1149 technology standards, including wiring, wireless and connectivity  
1150 standards, for school construction projects under chapter 173 of the  
1151 general statutes, and for the grant program established pursuant to  
1152 section 41 of this act.

1153 Sec. 39. Section 10-145d of the general statutes is amended by  
1154 adding subsection (e) as follows:

1155 (NEW) (e) The State Board of Education shall adopt regulations, in  
1156 accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to provide  
1157 standards for the certification of computer science teachers. Such  
1158 regulations shall make provision for certification requirements to be  
1159 met by either (1) completion of prescribed courses of study, or (2) such  
1160 other experience as the state board shall deem appropriate.

1161 Sec. 40. (NEW) The Board for State Academic Awards shall  
1162 establish, within available appropriations, innovative on-line teacher  
1163 and higher education faculty training programs on the integration of  
1164 technology into the public school curriculum and courses at public  
1165 institutions of higher education in order to improve student learning.  
1166 On and after July 1, 2001, the training program established for public

1167 school teachers shall be consistent with the standards developed  
1168 pursuant to section 42 of this act.

1169       Sec. 41. (NEW) (a) The Department of Education shall administer,  
1170 within available appropriations, a program to assist local and regional  
1171 school districts to improve the use of information technology in their  
1172 schools. Under the program, the department shall provide grants to  
1173 local and regional boards of education and may provide other forms of  
1174 assistance such as the provision of purchasing under state-wide  
1175 contracts with the Department of Information Technology. Grant  
1176 funds may be used for: (1) Wiring and connectivity, (2) the purchase or  
1177 leasing of computers, and (3) interactive software and the purchase  
1178 and installation of software filters.

1179       (b) Local and regional boards of education shall apply to the  
1180 department for grants at such time and in such manner as the  
1181 Commissioner of Education prescribes. In order to be eligible for a  
1182 grant, a local or regional board of education shall: (1) Have a  
1183 technology plan that was developed or updated during the two-year  
1184 period preceding the date of application for grant funds and, once the  
1185 Commission for Educational Technology develops the long-range plan  
1186 required pursuant to subdivision (5) of subsection (c) of section 33 of  
1187 this act, the local technology plan shall be consistent with such long-  
1188 range plan, (2) provide that each school and superintendent's office be  
1189 able to communicate with the Department of Education using the  
1190 Internet, (3) present evidence that it has applied or will apply for a  
1191 grant from the federal Universal Service Fund, and (4) submit a plan  
1192 for the expenditure of grant funds in accordance with subsection (c) of  
1193 this section.

1194       (c) The plan for the expenditure of grant funds shall: (1) Establish  
1195 clear goals and a strategy for using telecommunications and  
1196 information technology to improve education, (2) include a  
1197 professional development strategy to ensure that teachers know how  
1198 to use the new technologies to improve education, (3) include an  
1199 assessment of the telecommunication services, hardware, software and

1200 other services that will be needed to improve education, (4) provide for  
1201 a sufficient budget to acquire and maintain the hardware, software,  
1202 professional development and other services that will be needed to  
1203 implement the strategy for improved education, (5) include an  
1204 evaluation process that enables the school to monitor progress towards  
1205 the specified goals and make adjustments in response to new  
1206 developments and opportunities as they arise. The plan developed  
1207 pursuant to this subsection shall be submitted to the department with  
1208 the grant application.

1209 (d) (1) Each school district shall be eligible to receive a minimum  
1210 grant under the program in the amount of ten thousand dollars and  
1211 such minimum grant may be increased for certain school districts  
1212 pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection. (2) The department shall  
1213 use (A) one hundred thousand dollars of the amount appropriated for  
1214 purposes of this section for the vocational-technical schools for wiring  
1215 and other technology initiatives at such schools, and (B) fifty thousand  
1216 dollars of the amount appropriated for purposes of this section for  
1217 technology grants to state charter schools. The amount of the grant  
1218 each state charter school receives shall be based on the number of  
1219 students enrolled in the school. (3) The department may retain up to  
1220 one per cent of the amount appropriated for purposes of this section  
1221 for coordination, program evaluation and administration. (4) Any  
1222 remaining appropriated funds shall be used to increase the grants to  
1223 (A) priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p of the general  
1224 statutes, as amended, (B) transitional school districts pursuant to  
1225 section 10-263c of the general statutes, as amended, and (C) school  
1226 districts in towns ranked from one to eighty-five when all towns are  
1227 ranked in descending order from one to one hundred sixty-nine based  
1228 on town wealth, as defined in section 10-262f of the general statutes, as  
1229 amended. Each such school district shall receive an amount based on  
1230 the ratio of the number of resident students, as defined in said section  
1231 10-262f, in such school district to the total number of resident students  
1232 in all such school districts.

1233 (e) Each school district that participates in an interdistrict magnet

1234 school or in an endowed academy shall provide funds from the grant it  
1235 receives pursuant to this section to such interdistrict magnet school or  
1236 endowed academy in an amount equal to the per student amount of  
1237 such grant multiplied by the number of students from such district  
1238 enrolled in the interdistrict magnet school or endowed academy.

1239 (f) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of this section  
1240 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available for  
1241 expenditure during the next fiscal year.

1242 (g) No funds received pursuant to this section shall be used to  
1243 supplant federal, state or local funding to the local or regional board of  
1244 education for technology.

1245 (h) Expenditure reports shall be filed with the Department of  
1246 Education as requested by the commissioner. School districts shall  
1247 refund (1) any unexpended amounts at the close of the program for  
1248 which the grant was awarded, and (2) any amounts not expended in  
1249 accordance with the approved grant application.

1250 Sec. 42. (NEW) The Commission for Educational Technology, in  
1251 cooperation with the Department of Education, shall develop, by July  
1252 1, 2001, and shall update every two years thereafter: (1) A state-wide  
1253 standard for teacher and administrator competency in the use of  
1254 technology for instructional purposes, and (2) a state-wide plan to  
1255 assist teachers and administrators to achieve the standard. The  
1256 commission shall assess the resources necessary to achieve such goal.  
1257 The commission shall submit the plan to the General Assembly.

1258 Sec. 43. (NEW) The Department of Education shall establish, within  
1259 available appropriations, a competitive grant program to fund  
1260 innovative teacher training programs on the integration of technology  
1261 into the public school curriculum in order to improve student learning.  
1262 On and after July 1, 2001, such training programs shall be consistent  
1263 with the standards developed pursuant to section 42 of this act.

1264 Sec. 44. (NEW) (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt grade

1265 kindergarten to grade twelve, inclusive, computer technology  
1266 competency standards for students by July 1, 2001. Information on the  
1267 standards shall be included in the report required pursuant to  
1268 subsection (b) of this section.

1269 (b) On or before July 1, 2001, and biennially thereafter, the  
1270 Commissioner of Education shall report, in accordance with section 11-  
1271 4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the  
1272 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education  
1273 on the status of educational technology in the public schools. The  
1274 report shall include information on the level of funding needed to  
1275 assure that the technology needs in the areas of infrastructure  
1276 improvements, educator professional development, curriculum  
1277 development and student competency development are met.

1278 Sec. 45. (NEW) The State Library, in consultation with the  
1279 Commission for Educational Technology, within available  
1280 appropriations, shall contract, through a request for proposal process,  
1281 for the development of a Connecticut Parent Technology Academy.  
1282 The academy shall be host network for the development of increased  
1283 opportunities for parents of elementary, middle and secondary school  
1284 students to learn about and demonstrate their knowledge of  
1285 information technologies. The academy shall: (1) Identify existing  
1286 programs and best practices for the delivery of information technology  
1287 training for parents, (2) coordinate the development of curriculum  
1288 models to be used to train parents in the use of information  
1289 technologies, and (3) seek business, philanthropic, community and  
1290 educational partners to expand training locations and learning options  
1291 for parents. The Commission for Educational Technology shall work in  
1292 collaboration with the academy to negotiate vendor discounts for  
1293 computer purchases and upgrades and low interest bank loans for  
1294 such purchases for parents who successfully complete an information  
1295 technology training program.

1296 Sec. 46. (NEW) The Department of Education shall develop and  
1297 maintain, within available appropriations, a centralized web-based site

1298 for use by educators in posting and sharing suggested grade-specific  
1299 or topic-specific lesson plans, curriculum resources and technology  
1300 resource opportunities, as well as best practices on the use of  
1301 technology in instruction.

1302 Sec. 47. Subdivision (1) of section 4d-30 of the general statutes is  
1303 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1304 (1) "Contract" means a contract for state agency information system  
1305 or telecommunication system facilities, equipment or services, which is  
1306 awarded pursuant to this chapter or subsection (e) of section 1-205,  
1307 subsection (c) of section 1-211, subsection (b) of section 1-212, section 4-  
1308 5, [subsection (a) of section 10-4e,] subsection (a) of section 10a-151b, as  
1309 amended, subsection (a) of section 19a-110 or subsection (b) of section  
1310 32-6i.

1311 Sec. 48. Section 4d-47 of the general statutes, as amended by section  
1312 7 of public act 99-161, is repealed and the following is substituted in  
1313 lieu thereof:

1314 With respect to any state employee whose position is eliminated or  
1315 who is laid off as a result of any contract or amendment to a contract  
1316 which is subject to the provisions of this chapter and subsection (e) of  
1317 section 1-205, subsection (c) of section 1-211, subsection (b) of section  
1318 1-212, as amended, section 4-5, 4a-50, 4a-51, subsection (b) of section  
1319 4a-57, as amended, [subsection (a) of section 10-4e,] subsection (a) of  
1320 section 10a-151b, as amended, subsection (a) of section 19a-110 or  
1321 subsection (b) of section 32-6i, or any subcontract for work under such  
1322 contract or amendment, (1) the contractor shall hire the employee,  
1323 upon application by the employee, unless the employee is hired by a  
1324 subcontractor of the contractor, or (2) the employee may transfer to  
1325 any vacant position in state service for which he is qualified, to the  
1326 extent allowed under the provisions of existing collectively bargained  
1327 agreements and the general statutes. If the contractor or any such  
1328 subcontractor hires any such state employee and does not provide the  
1329 employee with fringe benefits which are equivalent to, or greater than,

1330 the fringe benefits that the employee would have received in state  
1331 service, the state shall, for two years after the employee terminates  
1332 from state service, provide to the employee either (A) the same benefits  
1333 that he received from the state or (B) compensation in an amount  
1334 which represents the difference in the value of the fringe benefits that  
1335 he received when in state service and the fringe benefits that he  
1336 receives from the contractor or subcontractor.

1337 Sec. 49. Section 4d-48 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1338 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1339 No contract or subcontract for state agency information system or  
1340 telecommunication system facilities, equipment or services may be  
1341 awarded to any business entity or individual pursuant to this chapter  
1342 or subsection (e) of section 1-205, subsection (c) of section 1-211,  
1343 subsection (b) of section 1-212, as amended, section 4-5, [subsection (a)  
1344 of section 10-4e,] subsection (a) of section 10a-151b, as amended,  
1345 subsection (a) of section 19a-110 or subsection (b) of section 32-6i if  
1346 such business entity or individual previously had a contract with the  
1347 state or a state agency to provide information system or  
1348 telecommunication system facilities, equipment or services and such  
1349 prior contract was finally terminated by the state or a state agency  
1350 within the previous five years for the reason that such business entity  
1351 or individual failed to perform or otherwise breached a material  
1352 obligation of the contract related to information system or  
1353 telecommunication system facilities, equipment or services. If the  
1354 termination of any such previous contract is contested in an arbitration  
1355 or judicial proceeding, the termination shall not be final until the  
1356 conclusion of such arbitration or judicial proceeding. If the fact-finder  
1357 determines, or a settlement stipulates, that the contractor failed to  
1358 perform or otherwise breached a material obligation of the contract  
1359 related to information system or telecommunication system facilities,  
1360 equipment or services, any award of a contract pursuant to said  
1361 chapter or sections during the pendency of such arbitration or  
1362 proceeding shall be rescinded and the bar provided in this section shall  
1363 apply to such business entity or individual.

1364 Sec. 50. Subsection (a) of section 10-4h of the general statutes is  
1365 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1366 (a) The state Department of Education, in consultation with the  
1367 [committee established pursuant to section 10-4e] Commission for  
1368 Educational Technology, shall establish a competitive grant program,  
1369 within the limit of the bond authorization for purposes of this section,  
1370 to assist (1) local and regional school districts, (2) regional educational  
1371 service centers, (3) cooperative arrangements among one or more  
1372 boards of education, and (4) endowed academies approved pursuant  
1373 to section 10-34 that are eligible for school building project grants  
1374 pursuant to chapter 173, to upgrade or install wiring, including  
1375 electrical wiring, cable or other distribution systems and infrastructure  
1376 improvements to support telecommunications and other information  
1377 transmission equipment to be used for educational purposes.

1378 Sec. 51. Subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 16-331 of the  
1379 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
1380 thereof:

1381 (2) Under special circumstances, the department in its discretion,  
1382 may issue, renew or transfer a franchise for a term of not more than  
1383 fifteen years if the franchisee has committed itself, as outlined in the  
1384 franchise agreement, to provide or maintain technologically advanced  
1385 equipment, facilities and systems, as determined by the department, to  
1386 enhance and promote technologically advanced educational  
1387 programming [, including the programming specified in subsection (b)  
1388 of section 10-4e,] and to comply with specific quality of service  
1389 standards, including, but not limited to, the time between installation  
1390 and repair following a subscriber request, the response time to  
1391 consumer complaints and the quality of the operator's customer  
1392 service policies and practices.

1393 Sec. 52. Subdivision (5) of subsection (d) of section 16-331 of the  
1394 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
1395 thereof:

1396 (5) The department shall adopt regulations in accordance with  
1397 chapter 54, establishing procedures and standards for the renewal of  
1398 certificates issued to community antenna television companies. Such  
1399 regulations shall, without limitation, (A) incorporate the provisions of  
1400 the Communications Act of 1934, 47 USC 546, (B) require the  
1401 department to consult with the advisory council for the franchise area  
1402 served by the certificate holder before making a decision concerning  
1403 the renewal of the certificate, (C) require any holder of a certificate  
1404 which is not renewed by the department to continue to operate the  
1405 franchise for one year after the end of its term or until a successor is  
1406 chosen and ready to assume control of the franchise, whichever is  
1407 sooner, (D) establish standards for the content of notices sent to cable  
1408 subscribers concerning public hearings for franchise renewal  
1409 proceedings which standards shall include, without limitation, the  
1410 requirements specified in subdivision (6) of this subsection, (E)  
1411 establish standards to ensure that the costs and expenses of a  
1412 municipality constructing, purchasing or operating a community  
1413 antenna television company are accurately attributed to such company  
1414 and (F) establish quality standards for the instructional and  
1415 educational channels. The department shall adopt regulations  
1416 pursuant to this subdivision in conjunction with the [educational  
1417 technology committee, established pursuant to section 10-4e]  
1418 Commission for Educational Technology.

1419 Sec. 53. Subsection (a) of section 16-333h of the general statutes is  
1420 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1421 (a) Each community antenna television company, as defined in  
1422 section 16-1, as amended, shall, not later than the date it extends  
1423 energized trunk and feeder to all areas within its franchise territory in  
1424 which there are at least twenty-five prospective subscribers per aerial  
1425 plant mile of extension and fifty prospective subscribers per  
1426 underground plant mile of extension, extend such trunk and feeder to  
1427 public and private elementary and secondary schools in such franchise  
1428 areas and offer one instructional television channel as part of its basic  
1429 service. Each such company may utilize such instructional television

1430 channel for noninstructional television programming during any time  
1431 when the channel is not needed for instructional programming. No  
1432 such company shall be required to offer the instructional television  
1433 channel on or after July 1, 1995, unless the [joint committee on  
1434 educational technology, established under section 10-4e,] Commission  
1435 for Educational Technology certifies to the Department of Public  
1436 Utility Control that educational agencies in the company's franchise  
1437 area have utilized the instructional television channel to provide,  
1438 during the school year, an average of not less than twenty hours per  
1439 week of credit and noncredit instructional programming,  
1440 programming supporting school curricula and programming for  
1441 professional development.

1442 Sec. 54. The Department of Information Technology shall transfer  
1443 the sum of ten million dollars appropriated to the Department of  
1444 Information Technology, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year  
1445 ending June 30, 2000, pursuant to substitute house bill 5216 of the  
1446 current session, to the Department of Education for purposes of the  
1447 grant program established pursuant to section 41 of this act.

1448 Sec. 55. (NEW) As used in this section and section 56 of this act:

1449 (1) "Corporation" means Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated as  
1450 created under section 32-35 of the general statutes; and

1451 (2) "Eligible participant" means a member of the faculty or a  
1452 researcher engaged in applied research and development at any  
1453 Connecticut college or university that agrees to participate in a high  
1454 technology research and development program established by the  
1455 corporation.

1456 Sec. 56. (NEW) (a) There is established a high technology research  
1457 and development program to be administered by the corporation for  
1458 the purpose of promoting collaboration between businesses and  
1459 colleges and universities in this state in advanced materials, aerospace,  
1460 bioscience, energy and environmental systems, information  
1461 technology, applied optics, microelectronics and other high technology

1462 fields. The corporation may accept applications to the program from  
1463 eligible participants in a form and manner prescribed by the  
1464 corporation.

1465 (b) In approving any application the corporation shall assess the  
1466 collaborative nature of the proposal as well as scientific and economic  
1467 factors, including, but not limited to, the following:

1468 (1) The formal participation in the proposal by businesses actively  
1469 engaged in the commercial use of advanced materials, aerospace,  
1470 bioscience, energy and environmental systems, information  
1471 technology, applied optics, microelectronics and other high technology  
1472 fields;

1473 (2) The likelihood that a proposal will result in the development or  
1474 commercialization of high technology products or processes in this  
1475 state; and

1476 (3) The likelihood that a proposal will result in long-term,  
1477 sustainable economic growth for this state.

1478 (c) The corporation shall provide financial aid, as defined in  
1479 subdivision (4) of section 32-34 of the general statutes, to eligible  
1480 participants whose proposals have been approved by the corporation  
1481 as provided in subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

1482 (d) The corporation may establish other programs, including  
1483 financial programs, in order to attract and retain residents with  
1484 postsecondary education in science, engineering, mathematics and  
1485 other disciplines that are essential or advisable to the development and  
1486 application of technology.

1487 Sec. 57. Subsection (a) of section 32-265 of the general statutes is  
1488 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1489 (a) As used in this section: (1) "Authority" means the Connecticut  
1490 Development Authority, and (2) "financial institution" means [a] an  
1491 eligible financial institution, as defined in [section 36a-755] subsection

1492 (e) of section 32-23d, which is approved by the authority to participate  
1493 in the program established by this section.

1494 Sec. 58. Section 32-346 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1495 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1496 The corporation shall establish a "Connecticut technology  
1497 partnership assistance program revolving account". Any and all  
1498 references in any general statutes, procedure or legal document to the  
1499 "phase III assistance program revolving account" shall, on and after  
1500 July 1, 1995, be deemed to refer to the "Connecticut technology  
1501 partnership assistance program revolving account". The account shall  
1502 be used for the purpose of providing financial assistance under section  
1503 32-345 and financial aid under section 56 of this act.

1504 Sec. 59. Section 10-183t of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1505 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1506 (a) The board shall offer one or more health benefit plans to any  
1507 member receiving retirement benefits or a disability allowance from  
1508 the system, [and] to the spouse or surviving spouse of such member,  
1509 and to a disabled dependent of such member if there is no spouse or  
1510 surviving spouse, provided such member, spouse or surviving spouse,  
1511 or disabled dependent is eligible for Medicare Part A hospital  
1512 insurance. The board may offer one or more basic plans, [at no cost,]  
1513 the cost of which to any such member, [and] to the spouse or surviving  
1514 spouse of such member and to a disabled dependent of such member if  
1515 there is no spouse or surviving spouse, shall be twenty-five per cent of  
1516 the basic plan's premium equivalent, and one or more optional plans,  
1517 provided such member, spouse, [or] surviving spouse or disabled  
1518 dependent shall pay twenty-five per cent of the basic plan's premium  
1519 equivalent plus the difference in cost between any such basic plans and  
1520 any such optional plans. The board shall designate those plans which  
1521 are basic and those plans which are optional for the purpose of  
1522 determining such cost and the amount to be charged or withheld from  
1523 benefit payments for such [optional plan coverage] plans. The

1524 surviving spouse of a member, or a disabled dependent of a member if  
1525 there is no surviving spouse, shall not be ineligible for participation in  
1526 any such plan solely because such surviving spouse or such disabled  
1527 dependent is not receiving benefits from the system. [On and after July  
1528 1, 1998, the board shall pay the full cost of health insurance for any  
1529 member, spouse or surviving spouse participating in a basic health  
1530 insurance plan offered pursuant to this subsection.] With respect to  
1531 any person participating in any such plan, the state shall appropriate  
1532 to the board twenty-five per cent of the cost of such basic plan or plans,  
1533 or twenty-five per cent of the cost of the rate in effect during the fiscal  
1534 year ending June 30, 1998, whichever is greater.

1535 (b) Any member who is receiving retirement benefits or a disability  
1536 allowance from the system, [or] the spouse or surviving spouse of such  
1537 member, or a disabled dependent of such member if there is no spouse  
1538 or surviving spouse, and who is not participating in Medicare Part A  
1539 hospital insurance, may fully participate in any or all group health  
1540 insurance plans maintained for active teachers by such member's last  
1541 employing board of education, or by the state in the case of a member  
1542 who was employed by the state, upon payment to such board of  
1543 education or to the state, as applicable, by such member, spouse or  
1544 surviving spouse, or disabled dependent, of the premium charged for  
1545 his form of coverage. Such premium shall be no greater than that  
1546 charged for the same form of coverage for active teachers. The  
1547 surviving spouse or disabled dependent shall not be ineligible for  
1548 participation in any such plan solely because such surviving spouse or  
1549 disabled dependent is not receiving benefits from the system. No  
1550 person shall be ineligible for participation in such plans for failure to  
1551 enroll in such plans at the time the member's retirement benefit or  
1552 disability allowance became effective. Nothing in this subsection shall  
1553 be construed to impair or alter the provisions of any collective  
1554 bargaining agreement relating to the payment by a board of education  
1555 of group health insurance premiums on behalf of any member  
1556 receiving benefits from the system. Prior to the cancellation of  
1557 coverage for any member, spouse or surviving spouse for failure to

1558 pay the required premiums or cost due, the board of education or the  
1559 state, if applicable, shall notify the Teachers' Retirement Board of its  
1560 intention to cancel such coverage at least thirty days prior to the date  
1561 of cancellation. [absent] Absent any contractual provisions to the  
1562 contrary, the payments made pursuant to subsection (c) of this section  
1563 shall be first applied to any cost borne by the member, spouse or  
1564 surviving spouse participating in any such plan. As used in this  
1565 subsection, "last employing board of education" means the board of  
1566 education with which such member filed his initial application for  
1567 retirement, and "health insurance plans" means hospital, medical,  
1568 major medical, dental, prescription drug or auditory benefit plans that  
1569 are available to active teachers.

1570 (c) On and after July 1, [1998] 2000, the board shall pay [an amount  
1571 equal to the cost of a basic health insurance plan] a subsidy equal to  
1572 the subsidy paid in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, to the board of  
1573 education or to the state, if applicable, on behalf of any member who is  
1574 receiving retirement benefits or a disability allowance from the system,  
1575 or the spouse [or] surviving spouse of such member, or a disabled  
1576 dependent of such member if there is no spouse or surviving spouse,  
1577 who is participating in a health insurance plan maintained by a board  
1578 of education or by the state, if applicable. Such payment shall not [be  
1579 less than the rate which was in effect during the fiscal year ending June  
1580 30, 1998, and shall not] exceed the actual cost of such insurance. With  
1581 respect to any person participating in any such plan pursuant to  
1582 subsection (b) of this section, the state shall appropriate to the board  
1583 twenty-five per cent of the cost of [such basic plan or plans, or twenty-  
1584 five per cent of the cost of the rate in effect during the fiscal year  
1585 ending June 30, 1998, whichever is greater] the subsidy. No payment to  
1586 a board of education pursuant to this subsection may be used to  
1587 reduce the amount of any premium payment on behalf of any such  
1588 member, spouse or surviving spouse, or disabled dependent, made by  
1589 such board pursuant to any agreement in effect on July 1, 1990.

1590 (d) The Treasurer shall establish a separate retired teachers' health  
1591 insurance premium account within the Teachers' Retirement Fund.

1592 Commencing July 1, 1989, and annually thereafter all one per cent  
1593 contributions withheld under this chapter in excess of five hundred  
1594 thousand dollars shall, upon deposit in the Teachers' Retirement Fund,  
1595 be credited to such account. Interest derived from the investment of  
1596 funds in the account shall be credited to the account. Funds in the  
1597 account shall be used for payments to boards of education pursuant to  
1598 subsection (c) of this section and for payment of premiums on behalf of  
1599 members or surviving spouses of members participating in one or  
1600 more health insurance plans pursuant to subsection (a) of this section  
1601 in an amount equal to the difference between the amount paid  
1602 pursuant to said subsection (a) and the amount paid pursuant to  
1603 subsection (c) of this section. If, during any fiscal year, there are  
1604 insufficient funds in the account for the purposes of all such payments,  
1605 the General Assembly shall appropriate sufficient funds to the account  
1606 for such purpose.

1607 Sec. 60. (NEW) Any retired member who (1) has attained the age of  
1608 sixty-five, (2) is not eligible for Medicare Part A, (3) is not receiving a  
1609 spousal subsidy, (4) has twenty-five years or more of full-time service,  
1610 and (5) is receiving a monthly benefit of less than fifteen hundred  
1611 dollars as of July 1, 2000, shall receive a subsidy equal to twice the  
1612 amount that would otherwise be payable on such member's behalf to  
1613 the board of education pursuant to section 10-183t of the general  
1614 statutes, as amended by this act.

1615 Sec. 61. (NEW) Any member who began receiving disability benefits  
1616 October 1, 1977, under the provisions of subsection (d) of section 10-  
1617 166 of the general statutes and who elected to receive benefits in  
1618 accordance with the former provisions of subsection (c) of section 10-  
1619 164-7 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies in effect June  
1620 30, 1978, may elect to receive such benefits readjusted under the  
1621 provisions of subsection (b) or (c) of section 10-183j of the general  
1622 statutes, provided such member provides written notice of such  
1623 election to the Teachers' Retirement Board not later than ninety days  
1624 following January 1, 2001.

1625       Sec. 62. (a) There is established a task force to study the teachers'  
1626 retirement health insurance system.

1627       (b) The task force shall consist of the following members: (1) The  
1628 chairperson of the Teachers' Retirement Board, the Secretary of the  
1629 Office of Policy and Management, the Commissioner of Education, the  
1630 Insurance Commissioner, the State Comptroller, or their designees;  
1631 and (2) four public members one each appointed by the speaker of the  
1632 House of Representatives and the minority leader of the Senate who  
1633 shall be experienced in the management of large health insurance  
1634 plans, one each appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate  
1635 and the minority leader of the House of Representatives who shall be  
1636 representatives of the plan participants.

1637       (c) All appointments to the task force shall be made no later than  
1638 sixty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be  
1639 filled by the appointing authority.

1640       (d) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the  
1641 secretary's designee, shall serve as chairperson of the task force and  
1642 shall convene the task force not later than July 15, 2000.

1643       (e) The task force shall conduct an independent study of the health  
1644 insurance benefits offered by the Teachers' Retirement Board and the  
1645 funding of the teachers' retirement health insurance program in order  
1646 to make recommendations concerning: (1) The long-term solvency of  
1647 the fund; (2) the method of funding for the municipal subsidy and the  
1648 state plans; (3) the expected future levels of cost to the state, active  
1649 teachers and retired teachers covered by the system; (4) the level of  
1650 benefits that should be offered by the system; and (5) the impact of an  
1651 aging teacher population on the system's ability to provide these  
1652 benefits in the future.

1653       (f) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to  
1654 the Governor and the General Assembly not later than December 15,  
1655 2000, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
1656 statutes.

1657 Sec. 63. Section 10-183b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1658 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1659 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1660 (1) "Actuarial reserve basis" means a basis under which the  
1661 liabilities of the retirement system are determined under acceptable  
1662 actuarial methods and under which assets are accumulated under a  
1663 program designed to achieve a proper balance between the  
1664 accumulated assets and the liabilities of the system.

1665 (2) "Amortization of unfunded liabilities" means a systematic  
1666 program of annual payments determined as a level per cent of  
1667 expected member annual salaries in lieu of a lump sum payment.

1668 (3) "Annual salary" means the annual salary rate for service as a  
1669 Connecticut teacher during a school year but not including unused  
1670 sick leave, unused vacation, terminal pay, coaching or extra duty  
1671 assignments, unless compensation for coaching or extra duty  
1672 assignment was included in salary for which contributions were made  
1673 prior to July 1, 1971. In no event shall annual salary include amounts  
1674 determined by the board to be included for the purpose of inflating the  
1675 member's average annual salary. The inclusion in annual salary of  
1676 amounts paid to the member, in lieu of payment by the employer for  
1677 the cost of benefits, insurance, or individual retirement arrangements  
1678 which in prior years had been paid by the employer and not included  
1679 in the member's annual salary, shall be prima facie evidence that such  
1680 amounts are included for the purpose of inflating the member's  
1681 average annual salary. Annual salary shall not include payments the  
1682 timing of which may be directed by the member. Annual salary shall  
1683 not include payments to a superintendent pursuant to an individual  
1684 contract between such superintendent and a board of education, of  
1685 amounts which are not included in base salary. Annual salary shall  
1686 include amounts paid to the member during a sabbatical leave during  
1687 which mandatory contributions were remitted, provided such member  
1688 returned to full-time teaching for at least five full years following the

1689 completion of such leave.

1690 (4) "Average annual salary" means the average annual salary  
1691 received during the three years of highest salary.

1692 (5) "Board" means the Teachers' Retirement Board.

1693 (6) "Child" means a natural child, an adopted child, or a stepchild of  
1694 a deceased member who has been a stepchild for at least one year  
1695 immediately prior to the date on which the member died. A child is a  
1696 "dependent child" of a deceased member if at the time of the member's  
1697 death (A) the member was living with the child or providing or  
1698 obligated to provide, by agreement or court order, a reasonable  
1699 portion of the support of the child and (B) the child (i) is unmarried  
1700 and has not attained age eighteen or (ii) is disabled and such disability  
1701 began prior to the child attaining age eighteen.

1702 (7) "Contributions" mean amounts withheld pursuant to this chapter  
1703 and paid to the board by an employer from compensation payable to a  
1704 member. "Mandatory contributions" are contributions required to be  
1705 withheld under this chapter and consist of "six per cent contributions"  
1706 and "one per cent contributions". "Voluntary contributions" are  
1707 contributions by a member authorized to be withheld under section  
1708 10-183i.

1709 (8) "Credited interest" means interest at the rate from time to time  
1710 fixed by the board which shall be substantially that earned by the  
1711 funds of the system. Such interest shall be [compounded annually on  
1712 the last day of June] applied to a member's account based on the  
1713 balance as of the previous June thirtieth. Credited interest shall be  
1714 assessed on any mandatory contributions which were due but not  
1715 remitted prior to the close of the school year for which salary was paid.

1716 (9) "Current service" means service rendered in the current fiscal  
1717 year.

1718 (10) "Dependent former spouse" means a former spouse of a

1719 deceased member who (A) has in his or her care a dependent child of  
1720 the deceased member; and (B) was receiving, or was entitled to receive,  
1721 from the deceased member at the time of the death of the deceased  
1722 member, at least one-half of his or her support; and (C) has not  
1723 remarried; and (D) is the parent of the child or adopted the child while  
1724 married to the member and before the child attained age eighteen or,  
1725 while married to the member, both of them adopted the child before  
1726 the child attained age eighteen.

1727 (11) "Dependent parent" means a parent of a deceased member who  
1728 (A) has reached the age of sixty-five; and (B) has not married after the  
1729 death of the member; and (C) was receiving at least one-half of his or  
1730 her support from the member at the time of the member's death and  
1731 files proof of such support within two years of the date of the  
1732 member's death; and (D) is not receiving, or entitled to a federal or  
1733 state old age benefit based on the parent's own earnings, equal to or  
1734 greater than the amount the parent would be entitled to as a  
1735 dependent parent under this chapter. A "parent of a deceased member"  
1736 is (A) the mother or father of a deceased member; or (B) a stepparent of  
1737 a deceased member by a marriage entered into before the member  
1738 attained age sixteen; or (C) an adopting parent of a deceased member  
1739 who adopted the deceased member before the member attained age  
1740 sixteen.

1741 (12) "Designated beneficiary" means a person designated on a form  
1742 prescribed by the board by a member to receive amounts which  
1743 become payable under this chapter as the result of the member's death  
1744 whether before or after retirement. If a designated beneficiary is not  
1745 living at the time of the death of a member, the amounts that would  
1746 have been payable to the designated beneficiary shall be paid to the  
1747 member's estate.

1748 (13) "Disabled" means inability to engage in any substantial gainful  
1749 activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental  
1750 impairment which can be expected to result in death or to be of long-  
1751 continued and indefinite duration, except that during the first twenty-

1752 four months that a member is receiving a disability allowance,  
1753 "disabled" means the inability to perform the usual duties of his  
1754 occupation by reason of any such impairment.

1755 (14) "Employer" means an elected school committee, a board of  
1756 education, the State Board of Education, the board of governors or any  
1757 of its constituent units, the governing body of the Children's Center,  
1758 the E. O. Smith School and any other activity, institution or school  
1759 employing members.

1760 (15) "Formal leave of absence" means any absence from active  
1761 service in the public schools of Connecticut formally granted by a  
1762 member's employer as evidenced by contemporary records of the  
1763 employer, provided in the case of an absence due to illness, medical or  
1764 other evidence of such illness may, at the discretion of the Teachers'  
1765 Retirement Board, be accepted in lieu of evidence of the formal  
1766 granting of a leave.

1767 (16) "Formal application of retirement" means the member's  
1768 application, birth certificate or notarized statement supported by other  
1769 evidence satisfactory to the board, in lieu thereof, records of service  
1770 when required by the board to determine a salary rate or years of  
1771 creditable service, [legal teacher's certificate,] statement of payment  
1772 plan and, in the case of an application for a disability benefit, a  
1773 physician's statement of health.

1774 (17) "Funding" means the accumulation of assets in advance of the  
1775 payment of retirement allowances in accordance with a definite  
1776 actuarial program.

1777 (18) "Member" means any Connecticut teacher employed for an  
1778 average of at least one-half of each school day, except that no teacher  
1779 who under any provision of the general statutes elects not to  
1780 participate in the system shall be a member unless and until the  
1781 teacher elects to participate in the system. Members teaching in a  
1782 nonpublic school classified as a public school by the board under the  
1783 provisions of this section may continue as members as long as they

1784 continue as teachers in such school even if the school ceases to be so  
1785 classified. A former teacher who has not withdrawn his or her  
1786 accumulated contributions shall be an "inactive member". A member  
1787 who, during the period of a formal leave of absence granted by his or  
1788 her employer, but not exceeding an aggregate of ten school months,  
1789 continues to make mandatory contributions to the board, retains his or  
1790 her status as an active member.

1791 (19) "Normal cost" means the amount of contribution which the  
1792 state is required to make into the retirement fund in order to meet the  
1793 actuarial cost of current service.

1794 (20) "Public school" means any day school conducted within or  
1795 without this state under the orders and superintendence of a duly  
1796 elected school committee, a board of education, the State Board of  
1797 Education, the board of governors or any of its constituent units, the E.  
1798 O. Smith School, the Children's Center, joint activities of boards of  
1799 education authorized by subsection (b) of section 10-158a and any  
1800 institution supported by the state at which teachers are employed or  
1801 any incorporated secondary school not under the orders and  
1802 superintendence of a duly elected school committee or board of  
1803 education but located in a town not maintaining a high school and  
1804 providing free tuition to pupils of the town in which it is located, and  
1805 which has been approved by the State Board of Education under the  
1806 provisions of part II of chapter 164, provided that such institution or  
1807 such secondary school is classified as a public school by the retirement  
1808 board.

1809 (21) "Retirement allowance" means payments for life derived from  
1810 member contributions, including credited interest, and contributions  
1811 from the state.

1812 (22) "School year" means the twelve months ending on June thirtieth  
1813 of each year.

1814 (23) "Surviving spouse" means a widow or widower of a deceased  
1815 member who (A) was living with the member at the time of the

1816 member's death, or receiving, or entitled by court order or agreement  
1817 to receive, regular support payments from the member and (B) has not  
1818 remarried.

1819 (24) "Survivors" means a surviving spouse, a dependent former  
1820 spouse, a dependent child and a dependent parent.

1821 (25) "System" means the Connecticut teachers' retirement system.

1822 (26) "Teacher" means (1) any teacher, permanent substitute teacher,  
1823 principal, assistant principal, supervisor, assistant superintendent or  
1824 superintendent employed by the public schools in a professional  
1825 capacity while possessing a certificate or permit issued by the State  
1826 Board of Education, provided on and after July 1, 1975, such certificate  
1827 shall be for the position in which the person is then employed, (2)  
1828 certified personnel who provide health and welfare services for  
1829 children in nonprofit schools, as provided in section 10-217a, under an  
1830 oral or written agreement, (3) any person who is engaged in teaching  
1831 or supervising schools for adults if the annual salary paid for such  
1832 service is equal to or greater than the minimum salary paid for a  
1833 regular, full-time teaching position in the day schools in the town  
1834 where such service is rendered, and (4) a member of the professional  
1835 staff of the State Board of Education or of the Board of Governors of  
1836 Higher Education or any of its constituent units. A "permanent  
1837 substitute teacher" is one who serves as such for at least ten months  
1838 during any school year.

1839 (27) "Unfunded liability" means the actuarially determined value of  
1840 the liability for service before the date of the actuarial valuation less  
1841 the accumulated assets in the retirement fund.

1842 Sec. 64. Subsection (c) of section 10-183j of the general statutes is  
1843 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1844 (c) A coparticipant's option may be elected in which the member  
1845 receives an actuarially reduced benefit as provided in subsection (d) of  
1846 this section and upon such member's death, one-third, one-half, two-

1847 thirds, three-fourths or all of such amount is paid to such member's  
1848 designated beneficiary for life. With respect to any benefits which  
1849 become effective on or after January 1, 2001, if twenty-five per cent of  
1850 the aggregate benefits paid to the member or such member's  
1851 designated beneficiary are, upon the death of such member or such  
1852 designated beneficiary, less than such member's accumulated  
1853 contributions plus credited interest, the estate of such member or such  
1854 designated beneficiary, as appropriate, shall be paid a lump sum  
1855 amount equal to the difference between such aggregate benefits paid  
1856 and such accumulated contributions plus credited interest.

1857 Sec. 65. Subsection (b) of section 10-183n of the general statutes is  
1858 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1859 (b) Each local treasurer or other person having custody of amounts  
1860 deducted under this chapter by an employer shall transmit and report  
1861 such amounts to the board so that they are received by said board no  
1862 later than the [last] fifth business day of the following month. On and  
1863 after July 1, 2001, all such amounts shall be transmitted via electronic  
1864 transfer of funds. Such amounts shall at all times be the property of the  
1865 system and while in the custody of such local treasurer or other person  
1866 such person is a fiduciary with respect to such amounts and shall  
1867 discharge his responsibilities solely for the benefit of the system. Said  
1868 board shall be entitled to receive from an employer interest at the rate  
1869 of nine per cent per year from the due date on all amounts deducted  
1870 by such employer and not received by said board [within one calendar  
1871 month of the due date for the receipt of such amounts] by the fifth  
1872 business day of the following month. Interest at the rate of nine per  
1873 cent per year shall be compounded annually on the interest assessed  
1874 from the date payment is received to the date the interest assessment is  
1875 paid. Such interest shall be treated as an amount earned by assets of  
1876 the system.

1877 Sec. 66. Section 10-183ii of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1878 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1879 The Teachers' Retirement Board shall mail retirement benefit checks  
1880 [not later than three business days] on the next to last business day  
1881 prior to the date on which such checks are payable. Any member  
1882 whose retirement benefits become effective on or after January 1, 2001,  
1883 shall be required to have the monthly benefit payment electronically  
1884 transmitted to the financial entity of such member's choice. The board  
1885 shall transmit such benefit payment on the last business day of each  
1886 month.

1887 Sec. 67. Subsection (g) of section 10-183g of the general statutes is  
1888 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1889 (g) A member's complete formal application for retirement, if sent  
1890 by mail, shall be deemed to have been filed with the board on the date  
1891 such application is postmarked. No benefit computed under  
1892 subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section and under subsections  
1893 (a) to (g), inclusive, of section 10-183aa shall become effective until the  
1894 end of the calendar month of the filing by the member with the board  
1895 of a complete formal application for retirement. Such benefit shall  
1896 accrue from the first day of the month following such calendar month  
1897 and payment of such benefit in equal monthly instalments shall  
1898 commence on the last day of the month in which such benefit begins to  
1899 accrue. Upon a finding that extenuating circumstances relating to the  
1900 health of a member caused a delay in the filing of the member's  
1901 complete formal application, and such application is filed on or after  
1902 July 1, 1986, the board may deem such application to have been filed  
1903 up to three months earlier than the actual date of the filing. Upon a  
1904 finding that extenuating circumstances related to the health of a  
1905 member caused a delay in the filing of an election pursuant to  
1906 subsection (g) of section 10-183aa, and such election is filed on or after  
1907 July 1, 1986, the board may deem such election to have been filed as of  
1908 the date such member's benefits would otherwise have been converted  
1909 to a normal retirement allowance, provided such member's disability  
1910 allowance became effective on or before November 1, 1976, and such  
1911 member attained the age of sixty on or after August 1, 1984.

1912       Sec. 68. Section 10-66j of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1913 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1914       (a) The State Board of Education shall encourage the formation of a  
1915 state-wide system of regional educational service centers and shall  
1916 adopt regulations with respect to standards for review and approval of  
1917 regional education service centers in accordance with sections 10-66a  
1918 and 10-66h.

1919       [(b) The board of a regional educational service center may annually  
1920 apply to the State Board of Education for and shall thereafter receive a  
1921 grant in the amount of eighty-five thousand dollars.

1922       (c) If in any fiscal year, the funds appropriated for purposes of  
1923 sections 10-66a, 10-66c, 10-66f to 10-66i, inclusive, 10-66m and this  
1924 section exceed the amount necessary to provide grants in accordance  
1925 with subsection (b) of this section, the applicant board of a regional  
1926 educational service center shall receive an additional grant in an  
1927 amount equal to the product obtained by multiplying the  
1928 appropriation available for the purpose of this subsection by the ratio  
1929 which the sum of state aid pursuant to section 10-262h for member  
1930 boards of education of the center bears to the sum of such state aid for  
1931 all such boards state-wide. Each regional educational service center  
1932 shall annually expend any funds appropriated in excess of three  
1933 hundred twenty-five thousand dollars under this subsection to assist  
1934 local and regional boards of education in implementing the  
1935 educational goals and objectives specifically identified by the State  
1936 Board of Education.

1937       (d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, and for each fiscal year  
1938 thereafter, each regional educational service center shall be entitled to  
1939 a grant in the following amount:

T1	CREC	\$263,762
T2	EDUCATION CONNECTION	90,000
T3	CES	209,393
T4	ACES	219,292

T5	LEARN	81,623
T6	EASTCONN	299,161]

1940 (b) Each regional educational service center shall receive an annual  
 1941 grant equal to the sum of the following:

1942 (1) An amount equal to fifty per cent of the total amount  
 1943 appropriated for purposes of this section divided by six;

1944 (2) An amount equal to twenty-five per cent of such appropriation  
 1945 multiplied by the ratio of the number of its member boards of  
 1946 education to the total number of member boards of education state-  
 1947 wide; and

1948 (3) An amount equal to twenty-five per cent of such appropriation  
 1949 multiplied by the ratio of the sum of state aid pursuant to section 10-  
 1950 262h for all of its member boards of education to the total amount of  
 1951 state aid pursuant to section 10-262h state-wide.

1952 (c) Each regional educational service center shall annually expend at  
 1953 least six and one-quarter per cent of the amount received pursuant to  
 1954 this section to assist local and regional boards of education  
 1955 implementing the educational goals and objectives specifically  
 1956 identified by the State Board of Education.

1957 (d) Within the available appropriation, no regional educational  
 1958 service center shall receive less aid pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
 1959 section than it received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999.  
 1960 Amounts determined for regional educational service centers pursuant  
 1961 to subsection (b) of this section in excess of the amounts received for  
 1962 the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, shall be reduced proportionately  
 1963 to implement such provision if necessary.

1964 Sec. 69. Section 10-221a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
 1965 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1966 [Commencing with classes graduating in 1988, and for each

1967 graduating class thereafter,]

1968       (a) For classes graduating from 1988 to 2003, inclusive, no local or  
1969 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from  
1970 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not  
1971 satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than  
1972 four of which shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics,  
1973 not fewer than three in social studies, not fewer than two in science,  
1974 not fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and not fewer  
1975 than one in physical education.

1976       (b) Commencing with classes graduating in 2004, and for each  
1977 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education  
1978 shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a  
1979 diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily completed a  
1980 minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than four of which shall be in  
1981 English, not fewer than three in mathematics, not fewer than three in  
1982 social studies, including at least a one-half credit course on civics and  
1983 American government, not fewer than two in science, not fewer than  
1984 one in the arts or vocational education and not fewer than one in  
1985 physical education.

1986       (c) Any student who presents a certificate from a physician stating  
1987 that, in the opinion of the physician, participation in physical  
1988 education is medically contraindicated because of the physical  
1989 condition of such student, shall be excused from the physical  
1990 education requirement, provided the credit for physical education may  
1991 be fulfilled by an elective.

1992       (d) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of the  
1993 local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of the  
1994 curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject matter  
1995 of the specified course requirements. The local or regional board of  
1996 education may permit a student to graduate during a period of  
1997 expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the  
1998 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to

1999 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student  
2000 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when  
2001 the planning and placement team for such student determines the  
2002 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, a  
2003 credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute  
2004 class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or  
2005 part of a credit toward high school graduation earned at an institution  
2006 accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally  
2007 accredited.

2008 (e) Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive,  
2009 shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that a local or regional  
2010 board of education may grant a student credit (1) toward meeting a  
2011 specified course requirement upon the successful completion in grade  
2012 seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of which corresponds  
2013 directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in  
2014 grades nine to twelve, inclusive; or (2) toward meeting the high school  
2015 graduation requirement upon the successful completion of coursework  
2016 at an institution accredited by the Department of Higher Education or  
2017 regionally accredited. One three-credit semester course, or its  
2018 equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-half credit for  
2019 purposes of this section.

2020 (f) A local or regional board of education may offer one-half credit  
2021 in community service which, if satisfactorily completed, shall qualify  
2022 for high school graduation credit pursuant to this section, provided  
2023 such community service is supervised by a certified school  
2024 administrator or teacher and consists of not less than fifty hours of  
2025 actual service that may be performed at times when school is not  
2026 regularly in session and not less than ten hours of related classroom  
2027 instruction. For purposes of this section, community service does not  
2028 include partisan political activities. The State Board of Education shall  
2029 assist local and regional boards of education in meeting the  
2030 requirements of this section.

2031 Sec. 70. The State Fire Marshal and the Commissioner of Higher

2032 Education shall jointly study the need for a change to the State Fire  
2033 Code for college dormitories. They shall survey public and  
2034 independent institutions of higher education to determine the number  
2035 of dormitories that do not have automatic fire extinguishing systems.  
2036 The State Fire Marshal and the commissioner shall report, in  
2037 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the study,  
2038 including any recommendations for changes to the code and an  
2039 implementation schedule for such changes, to the joint standing  
2040 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
2041 relating to education and public safety by January 1, 2001.

2042 Sec. 71. Subsection (i) of section 5-259 of the general statutes, as  
2043 amended by section 3 of public act 99-124, is repealed and the  
2044 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

2045 (i) The Comptroller may provide for coverage of municipal  
2046 employees under the plan or plans procured under subsection (a) of  
2047 this section, provided: (1) Participation by each municipal employer  
2048 shall be on a voluntary basis; (2) where an employee organization  
2049 represents employees in a municipality, participation in a plan or plans  
2050 to be procured under subsection (a) of this section shall be by mutual  
2051 agreement of the municipal employer and the employee organization  
2052 only and neither party may submit the issue of participation to binding  
2053 arbitration except by mutual agreement; (3) no group of employees  
2054 shall be refused entry into the plan by reason of past or future health  
2055 care costs or claim experience; (4) rates paid by the state for its  
2056 employees under subsection (a) of this section are not adversely  
2057 affected by this subsection; (5) administrative costs to the plan or plans  
2058 provided under this subsection shall be paid by the participating  
2059 municipality at no additional cost to the state; and (6) participation in  
2060 the plan or plans in an amount determined by the state shall be for the  
2061 duration of the period of the plan or plans, or for such other period as  
2062 mutually agreed by the municipality and the Comptroller. For the  
2063 purposes of this subsection, "municipality" means any town, city,  
2064 borough, school district, taxing district, fire district, district department  
2065 of health, probate district, housing authority, regional work force

2066 development board established under section 31-3k, as amended, flood  
2067 commission or authority established by special act, regional planning  
2068 agency, [or] transit district formed under chapter 103a or the  
2069 Children's Center established by public act 69-571.

2070 Sec. 72. Up to thirty-seven thousand four hundred dollars of the  
2071 amount appropriated to the Department of Education for the fiscal  
2072 year ending June 30, 2000, for other expenses shall not lapse and shall  
2073 be available for expenditure during the fiscal year ending June 30,  
2074 2001, for a grant to the Aspirations for Higher Precollegiate Learning  
2075 Program in New Haven.

2076 Sec. 73. On or before October 15, 2000, the State Board of Education  
2077 shall provide a one-time supplemental grant to each regional  
2078 educational service center operating one or more interdistrict magnet  
2079 schools as follows: (1) The sum of seven hundred fifty thousand  
2080 dollars for each such magnet school operating under the jurisdiction of  
2081 a regional educational service center for the first time or expanding to  
2082 a new school location during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001; (2)  
2083 the sum of three hundred twenty-five thousand dollars for each such  
2084 magnet school continuing to operate under the jurisdiction of a  
2085 regional educational service center for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
2086 2001; and (3) the sum of two hundred thousand dollars for related  
2087 support services provided by each such regional educational service  
2088 center.

2089 Sec. 74. Section 10-4e of the general statutes is repealed.

2090 Sec. 75. This act shall take effect from its passage except that sections  
2091 1 to 19, inclusive, 21, 23 to 36, inclusive, 38 to 53, inclusive, 55 to 61,  
2092 inclusive, 63 to 69, inclusive, 71, 73 and 74 shall take effect July 1,  
2093 2000."