



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5319

February Session, 2000

An Act Concerning Education Aid.

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (9) of section 10-262f of the general statutes,
2 as amended by section 2 of public act 99-217, is repealed and the
3 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

4 (9) "Foundation" means (A) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1990,
5 three thousand nine hundred eighteen dollars, (B) for the fiscal year
6 ending June 30, 1991, four thousand one hundred ninety-two dollars,
7 (C) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1992, four thousand four
8 hundred eighty-six dollars, (D) for the fiscal years ending June 30,
9 1993, June 30, 1994, and June 30, 1995, four thousand eight hundred
10 dollars, (E) for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1996, June 30, 1997, and
11 June 30, 1998, five thousand seven hundred eleven dollars, (F) for the
12 fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, five thousand seven hundred seventy-
13 five dollars, [and] (G) for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2000, [and
14 June 30, 2001] to June 30, 2004, inclusive, five thousand eight hundred
15 ninety-one dollars, (H) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, six
16 thousand dollars, and (I) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, and
17 each fiscal year thereafter, the amount for the prior fiscal year
18 increased by the percentage increase, if any, in the most recent
19 calendar year average in the consumer price index for urban
20 consumers.

21 Sec. 2. Subdivision (19) of section 10-262f of the general statutes is
22 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

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

31 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 10-262j of the general statutes is
32 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

33 (b) For the purposes of subsection (a) of this section, the amount of
34 the aid increase paid to a town shall be (1) for the fiscal year ending
35 June 30, 1990, the amount of aid to be paid to the town for the fiscal
36 year ending June 30, 1990, pursuant to section 10-262i, less the base aid
37 for the town, (2) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1991, the amount of
38 aid paid to the town for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1991, pursuant
39 to said section, less the amount of aid paid to the town for the fiscal
40 year ending June 30, 1990, pursuant to said section, (3) for the fiscal
41 year ending June 30, 1992, the amount of aid paid to the town for the
42 fiscal year ending June 30, 1992, pursuant to said section, less the
43 amount of aid paid to the town for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1991,
44 pursuant to said section, (4) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1993, the
45 amount of aid paid to the town for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1993,
46 less the amount of aid paid to the town for the fiscal year ending June
47 30, 1992, pursuant to said section, (5) for the fiscal years ending June
48 30, 1994, and June 30, 1995, the amount of aid paid to the town for the
49 fiscal year pursuant to said section, less the amount of aid paid to the
50 town for the prior fiscal year pursuant to said section, (6) for the fiscal
51 year ending June 30, 1996, the amount paid to the town for the fiscal
52 year ending June 30, 1996, pursuant to said section less base revenue
53 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1995, (7) for the fiscal year ending

54 June 30, 1997, the amount paid to the town for the fiscal year ending
55 June 30, 1997, less the amount paid to the town for the fiscal year
56 ending June 30, 1996, pursuant to said section, (8) for the fiscal year
57 ending June 30, 1998, the amount paid to the town for the fiscal year
58 ending June 30, 1998, less the amount paid to the town for the fiscal
59 year ending June 30, 1997, pursuant to said section, [and] (9) for the
60 fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, the amount paid to the town for the
61 fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, less the amount paid to the town for
62 the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, pursuant to said section, and (10)
63 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, and each fiscal year thereafter,
64 the amount paid to the town for said fiscal year, less the amount paid
65 to the town for the year prior to said fiscal year, provided any amounts
66 paid pursuant to section 7 of public act 99-217 shall be included in the
67 determination of the aid increase paid to the town.

68 Sec. 4. Subdivision (7) of subsection (d) of section 10-262j of the
69 general statutes, as amended by section 6 of public act 99-217, is
70 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

71 (7) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, and each fiscal year
72 thereafter, the regular program expenditures of a town shall be no less
73 than the sum of (A) its minimum expenditure requirement for the
74 fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, (B) its aid increase pursuant to
75 subsection (b) of this section, and (C) [the result obtained by
76 multiplying the difference between the town's resident student count
77 for October 1999, using the data of record as of December 1, 1999, and
78 the town's resident student count for October 1998, using the data of
79 record as of December 1, 1998, by one-half of the foundation] any
80 increase in its grant pursuant to section 10-262h, as amended, for the
81 prior fiscal year.

82 Sec. 5. Subsection (f) of section 10-266aa of the general statutes, as
83 amended by section 1 of public act 99-5 and section 1 of public act 99-
84 289, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

85 (f) The Department of Education shall provide grants to regional

86 educational service centers or local or regional boards of education for
87 the reasonable cost of transportation for students participating in the
88 program. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, and each fiscal year
89 thereafter, the department shall provide such grants within available
90 appropriations, provided the state-wide average of such grants does
91 not exceed an amount equal to two thousand one hundred dollars for
92 each student transported. The regional education service centers shall
93 provide reasonable transportation services to high school students
94 who wish to participate in supervised extracurricular activities.

95 Sec. 6. Section 10-266aa of the general statutes, as amended by
96 section 1 of public act 99-5 and section 1 of public act 99-289, is
97 amended by adding subsection (l) as follows:

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

102 Sec. 7. Section 10-266cc of the general statutes, as amended by
103 section 10 of public act 99-289, is repealed and the following is
104 substituted in lieu thereof:

105 [For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, the Department of
106 Education shall award a grant in an amount not to exceed one hundred
107 thousand dollars to the Hartford school district to assist in the
108 development of a curriculum and the training of staff for a lighthouse
109 school.] For the fiscal years ending June 30, 1999, June 30, 2000, and
110 June 30, 2001, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Department of
111 Education shall award, within available appropriations, competitive
112 grants to the Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport school districts to
113 assist in the development of curricula and the training of staff for
114 lighthouse schools. Grants for such purpose shall not exceed one
115 hundred thousand dollars for any individual school in any year and
116 may be renewed for two additional years in such lesser amounts as the
117 department determines are reasonable for purposes of implementing

118 the lighthouse school program at a school. For purposes of this section
119 and section 10-285a, a "lighthouse school" is an existing public school
120 or a public school planned prior to July 1, 1997, in a priority school
121 district that (1) has a specialized curriculum, and (2) is designed to
122 promote intradistrict and interdistrict public school choice.

123 Sec. 8. Section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by section
124 1 of public act 99-230, is repealed and the following is substituted in
125 lieu thereof:

126 (a) As used in sections 10-16o to 10-16r, inclusive, as amended,
127 section 17b-749a and section 17b-749c, as amended:

128 (1) "School readiness program" means a nonsectarian program that
129 (A) meets the standards set by the department pursuant to subsection
130 (b) of this section and the requirements of section 10-16q, as amended,
131 and (B) provides a developmentally appropriate learning experience of
132 not less than four hundred fifty hours and one hundred eighty days
133 for eligible children, provided, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1998,
134 and June 30, 1999, the commissioner may approve programs that
135 provide learning experiences which are for less than said hours and
136 days;

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

142 (3) "Priority school" means a school in which forty per cent or more
143 of the lunches served are served to students who are eligible for free or
144 reduced price lunches pursuant to federal law and regulations,
145 excluding such a school located in a priority school district pursuant to
146 section 10-266p, as amended;

147 (4) "Severe need school" means a school in a priority school district
148 pursuant to section 10-266p, as amended, in which forty per cent or

149 more of the lunches served are served to students who are eligible for
150 free or reduced price lunches;

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

157 (6) "Approved" means meeting the criteria established by the
158 commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social
159 Services;

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

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

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

163 (b) The Department of Education shall be the lead agency for school
164 readiness. School readiness program providers eligible for funding
165 from the Department of Education shall include local and regional
166 boards of education, regional educational service centers, family
167 resource centers and providers of child day care centers, as defined in
168 section 19a-77, Head Start programs, preschool programs and other
169 programs that meet such standards established by the Commissioner
170 of Education. The department shall establish standards for school
171 readiness programs. The standards may include, but need not be
172 limited to, guidelines for staff-child interactions, curriculum content,
173 lesson plans, parent involvement, staff qualifications and training, and
174 administration. The department shall develop age-appropriate
175 developmental skills and goals for children attending such programs.
176 The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioners of Higher
177 Education and Social Services and other appropriate entities, shall
178 develop a continuing education training program for the staff of school
179 readiness programs.

180 (c) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
181 Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a grant program to
182 provide spaces in accredited or approved school readiness programs
183 for eligible children who reside in priority school districts pursuant to
184 section 10-266p, as amended. Under the program, the grant shall be
185 provided, in accordance with this section, to the town in which such
186 priority school district is located. Eligibility shall be determined for a
187 five-year period based on an applicant's designation as a priority
188 school district for the initial year of application. Grant awards shall be
189 made annually contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory
190 annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town and the
191 superintendent of schools for such priority school district shall submit
192 a 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 approved to operate a child care
202 program financed through the Connecticut Health and Education
203 Facilities Authority and who have received a commitment for debt
204 service from the Department of Social Services pursuant to section 17b-
205 749i, as amended, are exempt from the requirement for issuance of
206 annual requests for proposals; and (4) identify the need for funding
207 pursuant to section 17b-749a in order to extend the hours and days of
208 operation of school readiness programs in order to provide child day
209 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. A town or regional school readiness
229 council awarded a grant pursuant to this subsection shall use the funds
230 to purchase spaces for such children from providers of accredited or
231 approved school readiness programs.

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

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

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

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

254 (f) Any school readiness program that receives funds pursuant to
255 this section shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national
256 origin, gender, religion or disability. For purposes of this section, a
257 nonsectarian program means any public or private school readiness
258 program that is not violative of the Establishment Clause of the
259 Constitution of the State of Connecticut or the Establishment Clause of
260 the Constitution of the United States of America.

261 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, no funds received by
262 a town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section shall be used to
263 supplant federal, state or local funding received by such town for early
264 childhood education, provided (1) a town may use up to five per cent
265 but no more than fifty thousand dollars of the amount received
266 pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section for coordination,
267 program evaluation and administration, and (2) if a town provides
268 twenty-five thousand dollars in local funding for early childhood
269 education coordination, program evaluation and administration, such
270 town may use up to ten per cent but no more than seventy-five
271 thousand dollars of such amount for coordination, program evaluation
272 and administration. Each town that receives a grant pursuant to said
273 subsection (c) or (d) shall designate a person to be responsible for such
274 coordination, program evaluation and administration and to act as a
275 liaison between the town and the Departments of Education and Social
276 Services. Each school readiness program that receives funds pursuant
277 to this section shall provide information to the department or the
278 school readiness council, as requested, that is necessary for purposes of
279 any school readiness program evaluation.

280 (h) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 1998, June 30, 1999, and June
281 30, 2000, grants pursuant to this section may be used to prepare a
282 facility or staff for operating a school readiness program and shall be
283 adjusted based on the number of days of operation of a school
284 readiness program if a shorter term of operation is approved by the
285 commissioner.

286 (i) A town may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible
287 children who reside in such town at an accredited or approved school
288 readiness program located in another town. A regional school
289 readiness council may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible
290 children who reside in the region covered by the council at an
291 accredited or approved school readiness program located outside such
292 region.

293 [(j) Children enrolled in school readiness programs funded pursuant
294 to this section shall not be counted as resident students for purposes of
295 subdivision (22) of section 10-262f.]

296 Sec. 9. The sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars is
297 appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Education,
298 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000. Such funds shall not lapse and
299 shall be available for expenditure during the fiscal year ending June 30,
300 2001, for the Open Choice Program. Such funds shall be used for
301 supplemental grants to receiving school districts that accept twenty-
302 five or more out-of-district students on a pro rata basis, per out-of-
303 district student.

304 Sec. 10. This act shall take effect from its passage, except that
305 sections 1 to 8, inclusive, shall take effect July 1, 2000.

ED Committee Vote: Yea 30 Nay 0 JFS C/R APP