



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

**Raised Bill No. 6827**

LCO No. 4122

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:  
(ED)

**AN ACT CONCERNING INTERDISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOL FUNDING, ENROLLMENT AND TRANSPORTATION.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 10-264i of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) A local or regional board of education, regional educational  
4 service center, or cooperative arrangement pursuant to section 10-158a  
5 which transports a child to an interdistrict magnet school program as  
6 defined in section 10-264l, in a town other than the town in which the  
7 child resides shall be eligible pursuant to section 10-264e to receive a  
8 grant for the cost of transporting such child in accordance with this  
9 section. The amount of such grant shall not exceed an amount equal to  
10 the number of such children transported multiplied by (1) one  
11 thousand two hundred dollars for school years commencing prior to  
12 July 1, 2001, (2) two thousand three hundred dollars for the 2001-2002  
13 school year and (3) two thousand five hundred dollars for the 2002-  
14 2003 school year and each school year thereafter. The Department of  
15 Education shall provide such grants within available appropriations.  
16 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent a local or

17 regional board of education, regional educational service center or  
18 cooperative arrangement from receiving reimbursement under section  
19 10-266m for reasonable transportation expenses for which such board,  
20 service center or cooperative arrangement is not reimbursed pursuant  
21 to this section.

22 Sec. 2. Section 10-264i of the general statutes is amended by adding  
23 subsection (e) as follows:

24 (NEW) (e) Each local or regional school district in which an  
25 interdistrict magnet school is located shall provide the same kind of  
26 transportation to its children enrolled in such interdistrict magnet  
27 school as it provides to its children enrolled in other public schools in  
28 such local or regional school district. The parent or guardian of a child  
29 denied the transportation services required to be provided pursuant to  
30 this subsection may appeal such denial in the manner provided in  
31 sections 10-186 and 10-187.

32 Sec. 3. Section 10-264l of the general statutes is repealed and the  
33 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

34 (a) The Department of Education shall, within available  
35 appropriations, establish a grant program to assist local and regional  
36 boards of education, regional educational service centers and  
37 cooperative arrangements pursuant to section 10-158a with the  
38 operation of interdistrict magnet school programs. For the purposes of  
39 this section "an interdistrict magnet school program" means a program  
40 which (1) supports racial, ethnic and economic diversity, (2) offers a  
41 special and high quality curriculum, and (3) requires students who are  
42 enrolled to attend at least half-time. An interdistrict magnet school  
43 program does not include a regional vocational agriculture school, a  
44 regional vocational-technical school or a regional special education  
45 center. [On and after]

46 (b) From July 1, 2000, to June 30, 2005, the governing authority for  
47 each interdistrict magnet school program shall restrict the number of

48 students that may enroll in the program from a participating district to  
49 eighty per cent of the total enrollment of the program. On and after  
50 July 1, 2005, the governing authority for each interdistrict magnet  
51 school program shall (1) restrict the number of students that may  
52 enroll in the program from a participating district to seventy-five per  
53 cent of the total enrollment of the program, and (2) maintain a school  
54 enrollment that is racially, ethnically and economically diverse.

55 [(b)] (c) Applications for interdistrict magnet school program  
56 operating grants awarded pursuant to this section shall be submitted  
57 annually to the Commissioner of Education at such time and in such  
58 manner as the commissioner prescribes. In determining whether an  
59 application shall be approved and funds awarded pursuant to this  
60 section, the commissioner shall consider, but such consideration shall  
61 not be limited to: (1) Whether the program offered by the school is  
62 likely to increase student achievement; (2) whether the program is  
63 likely to reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation; and (3) the  
64 percentage of the student enrollment in the program from each  
65 participating district. [On and after] From July 1, 2000, to June 30, 2005,  
66 the commissioner shall not award a grant to a program if more than  
67 eighty per cent of its total enrollment is from one school district, except  
68 that the commissioner may award a grant for good cause, for any one  
69 year, on behalf of an otherwise eligible magnet school program, if  
70 more than eighty per cent of the total enrollment is from one district.  
71 On and after July 1, 2005, the commissioner shall not award a grant to  
72 a program if more than seventy-five per cent of its total enrollment is  
73 from one school district, except the commissioner may award a grant  
74 for one year to such a program for good cause. The commissioner may  
75 not award a grant pursuant to such exception for a second consecutive  
76 year.

77 [(c)] (d) The maximum amount each interdistrict magnet school  
78 program shall be eligible to receive per enrolled student shall be  
79 determined as follows: (1) For each participating district whose magnet  
80 school program enrollment is equal to or less than thirty per cent of the

81 magnet school program total enrollment, ninety per cent of the  
82 foundation as defined in subdivision (7) of section 10-262f; (2) for each  
83 participating district whose magnet school program enrollment is  
84 greater than thirty per cent but less than or equal to sixty per cent of  
85 the magnet school program total enrollment, a percentage between  
86 sixty and ninety per cent of said foundation that is inversely  
87 proportional to the percentage of magnet school program students  
88 from such district; and (3) for each participating district whose magnet  
89 school program enrollment is greater than sixty per cent but less than  
90 or equal to ninety per cent of the magnet school program total  
91 enrollment, a percentage between zero and sixty per cent of said  
92 foundation that is inversely proportional to the percentage of magnet  
93 school program students from such district. The amounts so  
94 determined shall be proportionately adjusted, if necessary, within the  
95 limit of the available appropriation, and in no case shall any grant  
96 pursuant to this section exceed the reasonable operating budget of the  
97 magnet school program, less revenues from other sources. Any magnet  
98 school program operating less than full-time but at least half-time shall  
99 be eligible to receive a grant equal to sixty-five per cent of the grant  
100 amount determined pursuant to this subsection.

101     ~~[(d)]~~ (e) Grants made pursuant to this section shall be paid as  
102 follows: Fifty per cent by September first and the balance by January  
103 first of each fiscal year. The January first payment shall be adjusted to  
104 reflect actual interdistrict magnet school program enrollment as of the  
105 preceding October first, if the actual level of enrollment is lower than  
106 the projected enrollment stated in the approved grant application.

107     ~~[(e)]~~ (f) The Department of Education may retain up to one per cent  
108 of the amount appropriated for purposes of this section for program  
109 evaluation and administration.

110     ~~[(f)]~~ Each local or regional school district in which an interdistrict  
111 magnet school is located shall provide the same kind of transportation  
112 to its children enrolled in such interdistrict magnet school as it

113 provides to its children enrolled in other public schools in such local or  
114 regional school district. The parent or guardian of a child denied the  
115 transportation services required to be provided pursuant to this  
116 subsection may appeal such denial in the manner provided in sections  
117 10-186 and 10-187.]

118 (g) On or before October fifteenth of each year, the Commissioner of  
119 Education shall determine if interdistrict magnet school enrollment is  
120 below the number of students for which funds were appropriated. If  
121 the commissioner determines that the enrollment is below such  
122 number, the additional funds shall not lapse but shall be used by the  
123 commissioner for grants for interdistrict cooperative programs  
124 pursuant to section 10-74d.

125 (h) In the case of a student identified as requiring special education,  
126 the school district in which the student resides shall: (1) Hold the  
127 planning and placement team meeting for such student and shall  
128 invite representatives from the interdistrict magnet school to  
129 participate in such meeting; and (2) pay the interdistrict magnet school  
130 an amount equal to the difference between the reasonable cost of  
131 educating such student and the sum of the amount received by the  
132 interdistrict magnet school for such student pursuant to subsection  
133 [(c)] (d) of this section and amounts received from other state, federal,  
134 local or private sources calculated on a per pupil basis. Such school  
135 district shall be eligible for reimbursement pursuant to section 10-76g.  
136 If a student requiring special education attends an interdistrict magnet  
137 school on a full-time basis, such interdistrict magnet school shall be  
138 responsible for ensuring that such student receives the services  
139 mandated by the student's individualized education program whether  
140 such services are provided by the interdistrict magnet school or by the  
141 school district in which the student resides.

142 Sec. 4. (NEW) In addition to the operating grants provided pursuant  
143 to section 10-264l of the general statutes, as amended by this act, for  
144 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, and each fiscal year thereafter, the

145 Department of Education shall provide, within available  
146 appropriations, a grant in the amount of one hundred thousand dollars  
147 to each interdistrict magnet school.

148 Sec. 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To provide an additional grant of one hundred thousand dollars to each interdistrict magnet school. To increase the amount of grants for interdistrict magnet school transportation. To change the enrollment requirements by lowering the maximum participation level from one district from eighty per cent to seventy-five per cent. To make a technical change.

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