



General Assembly

Bill No. 7502

*June Special Session,
2001*

LCO No. 9139

Referred to Committee on No Committee

Introduced by:

REP. LYONS, 146th Dist.

SEN. SULLIVAN, 5th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING EXPENDITURES FOR THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

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 is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (9) "Foundation" means (A) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1990,
4 three thousand nine hundred eighteen dollars, (B) for the fiscal year
5 ending June 30, 1991, four thousand one hundred ninety-two dollars,
6 (C) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1992, four thousand four
7 hundred eighty-six dollars, (D) for the fiscal years ending June 30,
8 1993, June 30, 1994, and June 30, 1995, four thousand eight hundred
9 dollars, (E) for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1996, June 30, 1997, and
10 June 30, 1998, five thousand seven hundred eleven dollars, (F) for the
11 fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, five thousand seven hundred seventy-
12 five dollars, and (G) for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2000, [and June
13 30, 2001] to June 30, 2003, inclusive, five thousand eight hundred
14 ninety-one dollars.

15 Sec. 2. Subdivision (28) of section 10-262f of the general statutes is
16 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

17 (28) "Base revenue" for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1995, means
18 the sum of the grant entitlements for the fiscal year ending June 30,
19 1995, of a town pursuant to section 10-262h and subsection (a) of
20 section 10-76g, including its proportional share, based on enrollment,
21 of the revenue paid pursuant to section 10-76g, to the regional district
22 of which the town is a member, and for each fiscal year thereafter
23 means the amount of each town's entitlement pursuant to section 10-
24 262h, as amended by this act, minus its density supplement, as
25 determined pursuant to subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of section 10-
26 262h, as amended by this act, except that for the fiscal year ending June
27 30, 2003, each town's entitlement shall be determined without using
28 the adjustments made to the previous year's grant pursuant to
29 subparagraph (M) of subdivision (6) subsection (a) of section 10-262h,
30 as amended by this act.

31 Sec. 3. Section 10-262f of the general statutes is amended by adding
32 subdivision (32) as follows:

33 (NEW) (32) "Target aid" means the sum of (A) the product of a
34 town's base aid ratio, the foundation level and the town's total need
35 students for the fiscal year prior to the year in which the grant is to be
36 paid, (B) the product of a town's supplemental aid ratio, the
37 foundation level and the sum of the portion of its total need students
38 count described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subdivision (25) of
39 this section for the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the grant
40 is to be paid, and the adjustments to its resident student count
41 described in subdivision (22) of this section relative to length of school
42 year and summer school sessions, and (C) the town's regional bonus.

43 Sec. 4. Subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of section 10-262h of the
44 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
45 thereof:

46 (6) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, and each fiscal year
47 thereafter, a grant in an amount equal to the [sum of (A) the product of
48 a town's base aid ratio, the foundation level and the town's total need
49 students for the fiscal year prior to the year in which the grant is to be
50 paid, (B) the product of a town's supplemental aid ratio, the
51 foundation level and the sum of the portion of its total need students
52 count described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subdivision (25) of
53 section 10-262f for the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the
54 grant is to be paid, and the adjustments to its resident student count
55 described in subdivision (22) of section 10-262f, relative to length of
56 school year and summer school sessions, and (C) the town's regional
57 bonus] amount of its target aid as described in subdivision (32) of
58 section 10-262f, as amended by this act, except that [the] such amount
59 [so determined] shall be [adjusted] capped in accordance with the
60 following: (A) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 1996, June 30, 1997,
61 June 30, 1998, and June 30, 1999, for each town, the maximum
62 percentage increase over its previous year's base revenue shall be the
63 product of five per cent and the ratio of the wealth of the town ranked
64 one hundred fifty-third when all towns are ranked in descending order
65 to each town's wealth, provided no town shall receive an increase
66 greater than five per cent. (B) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2000,
67 June 30, 2001, June 30, 2002, and June 30, 2003, for each town, the
68 maximum percentage increase over its previous year's base revenue
69 shall be the product of six per cent and the ratio of the wealth of the
70 town ranked one hundred fifty-third when all towns are ranked in
71 descending order to each town's wealth, provided no town shall
72 receive an increase greater than six per cent. (C) No such [adjustment
73 shall be made] cap shall be used for the fiscal year ending June 30,
74 2004, or any fiscal year thereafter. (D) For the fiscal year ending June
75 30, 1996, for each town, the maximum percentage reduction from its
76 previous year's base revenue shall be equal to the product of three per
77 cent and the ratio of each town's wealth to the wealth of the town
78 ranked seventeenth when all towns are ranked in descending order,
79 provided no town's grant shall be reduced by more than three per cent.

80 (E) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 1997, June 30, 1998, and June 30,
81 1999, for each town, the maximum percentage reduction from its
82 previous year's base revenue shall be equal to the product of five per
83 cent and the ratio of each town's wealth to the wealth of the town
84 ranked seventeenth when all towns are ranked in descending order,
85 provided no town's grant shall be reduced by more than five per cent.
86 (F) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, and each fiscal year
87 thereafter, no town's grant shall be less than the grant it received for
88 the prior fiscal year. (G) In addition to the amount determined
89 pursuant to this subdivision, a town shall be eligible for a density
90 supplement if the density of the town is greater than the average
91 density of all towns in the state. The density supplement shall be
92 determined by multiplying the density aid ratio of the town by the
93 foundation level and the town's total need students for the prior fiscal
94 year provided, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, and each fiscal
95 year thereafter, no town's density supplement shall be less than the
96 density supplement such town received for the prior fiscal year. (H)
97 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997, the grant determined in
98 accordance with this subdivision for a town ranked one to forty-two
99 when all towns are ranked in descending order according to town
100 wealth shall be further reduced by one and two-hundredths of a per
101 cent and such grant for all other towns shall be further reduced by
102 fifty-six-hundredths of a per cent. (I) For the fiscal year ending June 30,
103 1998, and each fiscal year thereafter, no town whose school district is a
104 priority school district shall receive a grant pursuant to this
105 subdivision in an amount that is less than the amount received under
106 such grant for the prior fiscal year. (J) For the fiscal year ending June
107 30, 2000, and each fiscal year thereafter, no town whose school district
108 is a priority school district shall receive a grant pursuant to this
109 subdivision that provides an amount of aid per resident student that is
110 less than the amount of aid per resident student provided under the
111 grant received for the prior fiscal year. (K) For the fiscal year ending
112 June 30, 1998, and each fiscal year thereafter, no town whose school
113 district is a priority school district shall receive a grant pursuant to this

114 subdivision in an amount that is less than seventy per cent of the sum
115 of (i) the product of a town's base aid ratio, the foundation level and
116 the town's total need students for the fiscal year prior to the year in
117 which the grant is to be paid, (ii) the product of a town's supplemental
118 aid ratio, the foundation level and the sum of the portion of its total
119 need students count described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of
120 subdivision (25) of section 10-262f for the fiscal year prior to the fiscal
121 year in which the grant is to be paid, and the adjustments to its
122 resident student count described in subdivision (22) of said section 10-
123 262f relative to length of school year and summer school sessions, and
124 (iii) the town's regional bonus. (L) For the fiscal year ending June 30,
125 2000, and each fiscal year thereafter, no town whose school district is a
126 transitional school district shall receive a grant pursuant to this
127 subdivision in an amount that is less than forty per cent of the sum of
128 [(I)] (i) the product of a town's base aid ratio, the foundation level and
129 the town's total need students for the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year
130 in which the grant is to be paid, [(II)] (ii) the product of a town's
131 supplemental aid ratio, the foundation level and the sum of the portion
132 of its total need students count described in subparagraphs (B) and (C)
133 of subdivision (25) of section 10-262f for the fiscal year prior to the
134 fiscal year in which the grant is to be paid, and the adjustments to its
135 resident student count described in subdivision (22) of said section
136 10-262f relative to length of school year and summer school sessions,
137 and [(III)] (iii) the town's regional bonus. (M) For the fiscal year ending
138 June 30, 2002, (i) each town whose target aid is capped pursuant to this
139 subdivision shall receive a grant that includes a pro rata share of
140 twenty-five million dollars based on the difference between its target
141 aid and the amount of the grant determined with the cap, and (ii) all
142 towns shall receive a grant that is at least 1.68 per cent greater than the
143 grant they received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001. (N) For the
144 fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, (i) each town whose target aid is
145 capped pursuant to this subdivision shall receive a pro rata share of
146 fifty million dollars based on the difference between its target aid and
147 the amount of the grant determined with the cap, and (ii) each town

148 shall receive a grant that is at least 1.2 per cent more than its base
149 revenue, as defined in subdivision (28) of section 10-262f, as amended
150 by this act.

151 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 10-76g of the general statutes is
152 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

153 (b) Any local or regional board of education which provides special
154 education pursuant to the provisions of sections 10-76a to 10-76g,
155 inclusive, for any exceptional child described in subparagraph (A) of
156 subdivision (5) of section 10-76a, under its jurisdiction, excluding (1)
157 children placed by a state agency for whom a board of education
158 receives payment pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (2) of
159 subsection (e) of section 10-76d, and (2) children who require special
160 education, who reside on state-owned or leased property or in
161 permanent family residences, as defined in section 17a-154, and who
162 are not the educational responsibility of the unified school districts
163 established pursuant to sections 17a-37, 17a-240 and 18-99a, shall be
164 financially responsible for the reasonable costs of special education
165 instruction, as defined in the regulations of the State Board of
166 Education, in an amount equal to (A) for any fiscal year commencing
167 prior to July 1, 2002, five times the average per pupil educational costs
168 of such board of education for the prior fiscal year, determined in
169 accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of section 10-76f, and
170 (B) for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2002, and each fiscal year
171 thereafter, four and one-half times such average per pupil educational
172 costs of such board of education. The State Board of Education shall
173 pay on a current basis any costs in excess of the local or regional
174 boards' basic contribution paid by such board in accordance with the
175 provisions of this subsection. Any amounts paid by the State Board of
176 Education on a current basis pursuant to this subsection shall not be
177 reimbursable in the subsequent year. Application for such grant shall
178 be made by filing with the Department of Education, in such manner
179 as prescribed by the commissioner, annually on or before December
180 first a statement of the cost of providing special education pursuant to

181 this subsection, provided a board of education may submit, not later
182 than February first, claims for additional children or costs not included
183 in the December filing. Payment by the state for such excess costs shall
184 be made to the local or regional board of education as follows:
185 Seventy-five per cent of the cost in February and the balance in April.
186 The amount due each town pursuant to the provisions of this
187 subsection shall be paid to the treasurer of each town entitled to such
188 aid, provided the treasurer shall treat such grant, or a portion of the
189 grant, which relates to special education expenditures incurred in
190 excess of such town's board of education budgeted estimate of such
191 expenditures, as a reduction in expenditures by crediting such
192 expenditure account, rather than town revenue. Such expenditure
193 account shall be so credited no later than thirty days after receipt by
194 the treasurer of necessary documentation from the board of education
195 indicating the amount of such special education expenditures incurred
196 in excess of such town's board of education budgeted estimate of such
197 expenditures.

198 Sec. 6. Section 10-155d of the general statutes is repealed and the
199 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

200 (a) The Board of Governors of Higher Education shall encourage
201 and support experimentation and research in the preparation of
202 teachers for public elementary and secondary schools. [and shall
203 continue the study and evaluation conducted pursuant to section 10-
204 324a of the 1965 supplement to the general statutes.] To help fulfill the
205 purposes of this section, the Board of Governors of Higher Education
206 shall appoint an advisory council composed of qualified professionals
207 which shall render assistance and advice to [said] the board. In
208 carrying out its activities pursuant to this section, [said] the board shall
209 consult with the State Board of Education and such other agencies as it
210 deems appropriate to assure coordination of all activities of the state
211 relating to the preparation of teachers for public elementary and
212 secondary schools.

213 (b) The Department of Higher Education, with the approval of the
214 Commissioner of Education, shall expand, within available
215 appropriations, participation in its summer alternate route to
216 certification program and its week-end and evening alternate route to
217 certification program. The department shall expand the week-end and
218 evening program for participants seeking certification in a subject
219 shortage area pursuant to section 10-8b. The department, in
220 collaboration with the Department of Education, shall develop (1)
221 regional alternate route to certification programs targeted to the
222 subject shortage areas and (2) an alternate route to certification
223 program for former teachers whose certificates have expired and who
224 are interested in resuming their teaching careers.

225 Sec. 7. (NEW) The Department of Education, in cooperation with the
226 Department of Higher Education, shall, within available
227 appropriations, (1) establish an accelerated cross endorsement process
228 for each subject shortage area pursuant to section 10-8b of the general
229 statutes, to allow certified teachers to add a new endorsement to their
230 certificates, and (2) establish a program for formerly certified teachers
231 to regain certification.

232 Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 10a-168a of the general statutes is
233 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

234 (b) Within available appropriations, the program shall provide
235 grants to minority students [entering] (1) in teacher education
236 programs [in] for their junior or senior year, or both such years, at any
237 four-year institution of higher education, (2) completing the
238 requirements of such a teacher education program as a graduate
239 student, provided such student received a grant pursuant to this
240 section for one year at the undergraduate level, or (3) enrolled in the
241 alternate route to certification program administered through the
242 Department of Higher Education. No student shall receive a grant
243 under the program for more than two years. Maximum grants shall
244 not exceed five thousand dollars per year. [for two years.] The

245 department shall ensure that at least ten per cent of the grant recipients
246 are minority students who transfer from a Connecticut regional
247 community-technical college.

248 Sec. 9. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-217a of the
249 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
250 thereof:

251 (1) The percentage of the amount paid from local tax revenues for
252 such services reimbursed to a local board of education shall be
253 determined by (A) ranking each town in the state in descending order
254 from one to one hundred sixty-nine according to such town's adjusted
255 equalized net grand list per capita, as defined in section 10-261; (B)
256 based upon such ranking, (i) for reimbursement paid in the fiscal year
257 ending June 30, 1990, a percentage of not less than forty-five nor more
258 than ninety shall be determined for each town on a continuous scale,
259 except that for any town in which the number of children under the
260 temporary family assistance program, as defined in subdivision (17) of
261 section 10-262f, is greater than one per cent of the total population of
262 the town, as defined in subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section 10-
263 261, the percentage shall be not less than eighty, [and] (ii) for
264 reimbursement paid in the fiscal [year] years ending June 30, 1991,
265 [and each fiscal year thereafter] to June 30, 2001, inclusive, a
266 percentage of not less than ten nor more than ninety shall be
267 determined for each town on a continuous scale, except that for any
268 town in which the number of children under the temporary family
269 assistance program, as defined in said subdivision (17) of section 10-
270 262f, is greater than one per cent of the total population of the town, as
271 defined in subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section 10-261, and for
272 any town which has a wealth rank greater than thirty when towns are
273 ranked pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision and which
274 provides such services to greater than one thousand five hundred
275 children who are not residents of the town, the percentage shall be not
276 less than eighty, and (iii) for reimbursement paid in the fiscal years
277 ending June 30, 2002, and June 30, 2003, a percentage of not less than

278 ten nor more than ninety shall be determined for each town on a
279 continuous scale, except that for any town in which the number of
280 children under the temporary family assistance program, as defined in
281 said subdivision (17) of section 10-262f, for the fiscal year ending June
282 30, 1997, was greater than one per cent of the total population of the
283 town, as defined in subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section 10-261
284 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997, and for any town which has a
285 wealth rank greater than thirty when towns are ranked pursuant to
286 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision and which provides such services
287 to greater than one thousand five hundred children who are not
288 residents of the town, the percentage shall be not less than eighty.

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

291 The state shall encourage the development of a network of school
292 readiness programs pursuant to sections 10-16p to 10-16r, inclusive, as
293 amended by this act, 10-16u and 17b-749a in order to:

294 (1) Provide open access for children to quality programs that
295 promote the health and safety of children and prepare them for formal
296 schooling;

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

299 (3) Encourage coordination and cooperation among programs and
300 prevent the duplication of services;

301 (4) Recognize the specific service needs and unique resources
302 available to particular municipalities and provide flexibility in the
303 implementation of programs;

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

306 (6) Enhance federally funded school readiness programs;

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

311 (8) Reduce educational costs by decreasing the need for special
312 education services for school age children and to avoid grade
313 repetition;

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

316 (10) Improve the availability and quality of school readiness
317 programs and their coordination with the services of child care
318 providers.

319 Sec. 11. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 10-16p of the general
320 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

321 (b) The Department of Education shall be the lead agency for school
322 readiness. For purposes of this section and section 10-16u, school
323 readiness program providers eligible for funding from the Department
324 of Education shall include local and regional boards of education,
325 regional educational service centers, family resource centers and
326 providers of child day care centers, as defined in section 19a-77, Head
327 Start programs, preschool programs and other programs that meet
328 such standards established by the Commissioner of Education. The
329 department shall establish standards for school readiness programs.
330 The standards may include, but need not be limited to, guidelines for
331 staff-child interactions, curriculum content, including pre-literacy
332 development, lesson plans, parent involvement, staff qualifications
333 and training, and administration. The department shall develop age-
334 appropriate developmental skills and goals for children attending such
335 programs. The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioners
336 of Higher Education and Social Services and other appropriate entities,
337 shall develop a continuing education training program for the staff of

338 school readiness programs. For purposes of this section, on and after
339 July 1, 2003, "staff qualifications" means there is in each classroom an
340 individual who has at least the following: (1) A credential issued by an
341 organization approved by the Commissioner of Education and nine
342 credits or more in early childhood education or child development
343 from an institution of higher education accredited by the Board of
344 Governors of Higher Education or regionally accredited; (2) an
345 associate's degree in early childhood education or child development
346 from such an institution; or (3) a four-year degree in early childhood
347 education or child development from such an institution.

348 (c) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
349 Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a grant program to
350 provide spaces in accredited or approved school readiness programs
351 for eligible children who reside in priority school districts pursuant to
352 section 10-266p or in former priority school districts as provided in this
353 subsection. Under the program, the grant shall be provided, in
354 accordance with this section, to the town in which such priority school
355 district or former priority school district is located. Eligibility shall be
356 determined for a five-year period based on an applicant's designation
357 as a priority school district for the initial year of application, except
358 that if a school district that receives a grant pursuant to this subsection
359 is no longer designated as a priority school district at the end of such
360 five-year period, such former priority school district shall continue to
361 be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to this subsection. Grant awards
362 shall be made annually contingent upon available funding and a
363 satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town
364 and the superintendent of schools for such priority school district or
365 former priority school district shall submit a plan for the expenditure
366 of grant funds and responses to the local request for proposal process
367 to the Departments of Education and Social Services. The departments
368 shall jointly review such plans and shall each approve the portion of
369 such plan within its jurisdiction for funding. The plan shall: (1) Be
370 developed in consultation with the local or regional school readiness
371 council established pursuant to section 10-16r, as amended by this act;

372 (2) be based on a needs and resource assessment; (3) provide for the
373 issuance of requests for proposals for providers of accredited or
374 approved school readiness programs, provided, after the initial
375 requests for proposals, facilities that have been approved to operate a
376 child care program financed through the Connecticut Health and
377 Education Facilities Authority and have received a commitment for
378 debt service from the Department of Social Services pursuant to
379 section 17b-749i, are exempt from the requirement for issuance of
380 annual requests for proposals; and (4) identify the need for funding
381 pursuant to section 17b-749a in order to extend the hours and days of
382 operation of school readiness programs in order to provide child day
383 care services for children attending such programs.

384 Sec. 12. Subsection (e) of section 10-16p of the general statutes is
385 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

386 (e) (1) Ninety-three per cent of the amount appropriated for
387 purposes of this section shall be used for the grant program pursuant
388 to subsection (c) of this section. Priority school districts and former
389 priority school districts shall receive grants based on their proportional
390 share of the sum of the products obtained by multiplying the average
391 number of enrolled kindergarten students in each priority school
392 district and in each former priority school district for the three years
393 prior to the year the grant is to be paid, by the ratio of the average
394 percentage of free and reduced price meals for all severe need schools
395 in such district to the minimum percentage requirement for severe
396 need school eligibility, provided no such school district shall receive a
397 grant that is less than the grant it received for the prior fiscal year or a
398 grant that is less than one hundred fifty thousand dollars.

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

402 (3) The Department of Education may retain up to five-tenths of one
403 per cent of the amount appropriated for purposes of this section for

404 coordination, program evaluation and administration.

405 (4) If a town that is eligible for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of
406 this section does not submit, by January first, a plan which is
407 subsequently approved for the expenditure of the entire amount of
408 funds for which such town is eligible, the department may use up to
409 [ten] fifty per cent of any amounts such town has not earmarked for
410 expenditure to provide supplemental grants to other towns that are
411 eligible for grants pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

412 Sec. 13. Subsections (g) and (h) of section 10-16p of the general
413 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

414 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, no funds received by
415 a town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-
416 16u shall be used to supplant federal, state or local funding received by
417 such town for early childhood education, provided (1) a town may use
418 the greater of (A) twenty-five thousand dollars, or (B) up to five per
419 cent but no more than fifty thousand dollars of the amount received
420 pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-16u for
421 coordination, program evaluation and administration, and (2) if a town
422 provides twenty-five thousand dollars in local funding for early
423 childhood education coordination, program evaluation and
424 administration, such town may use up to ten per cent but no more
425 than seventy-five thousand dollars of such amount for coordination,
426 program evaluation and administration. Each town that receives a
427 grant pursuant to said subsection (c) or (d) or section 10-16u shall
428 designate a person to be responsible for such coordination, program
429 evaluation and administration and to act as a liaison between the town
430 and the Departments of Education and Social Services. Each school
431 readiness program that receives funds pursuant to this section or
432 section 10-16u shall provide information to the department or the
433 school readiness council, as requested, that is necessary for purposes of
434 any school readiness program evaluation.

435 [(h) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 1998, June 30, 1999, June 30,

436 2000, and June 30, 2001, grants pursuant to this section]

437 (h) For the first three years a town receives grants pursuant to this
438 section, such grants may be used, with the approval of the
439 commissioner, to prepare a facility or staff for operating a school
440 readiness program and shall be adjusted based on the number of days
441 of operation of a school readiness program if a shorter term of
442 operation is approved by the commissioner.

443 Sec. 14. Subsection (a) of section 10-16q of the general statutes is
444 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

445 (a) Each school readiness program shall include: (1) A plan for
446 collaboration with other community programs and services, including
447 public libraries, and for coordination of resources in order to facilitate
448 full-day and year-round child care and education programs for
449 children of working parents and parents in education or training
450 programs; (2) parent involvement, parenting education and outreach;
451 (3) (A) record-keeping policies that require documentation of the name
452 and address of each child's doctor, primary care provider and health
453 insurance company and information on whether the child is
454 immunized and has had health screens pursuant to the federal Early
455 and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program
456 under 42 USC 1396d, and (B) referrals for health services, including
457 referrals for appropriate immunizations and screenings; (4) a plan for
458 the incorporation of appropriate pre-literacy practices and teacher
459 training in such practices; (5) nutrition services; [(5)] (6) referrals to
460 family literacy programs that incorporate adult basic education and
461 provide for the promotion of literacy through access to public library
462 services; [(6)] (7) admission policies that promote enrollment of
463 children from different racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds and
464 from other communities; [(7)] (8) a plan of transition for participating
465 children from the school readiness program to kindergarten and
466 provide for the transfer of records from the program to the
467 kindergarten program; [(8)] (9) a plan for professional development for

468 staff, [~~9~~] including, but not limited to, training (A) in pre-literacy
469 skills development, and (B) designed to assure respect for racial and
470 ethnic diversity; ~~(10)~~ a sliding fee scale for families participating in the
471 program pursuant to section 17b-749d; and ~~[(10)]~~ (11) an annual
472 evaluation of the effectiveness of the program. On and after July 1,
473 2000, school readiness programs shall use the assessment measures
474 developed pursuant to section 10-16s in conducting their annual
475 evaluations.

476 Sec. 15. Subsection (a) of section 10-16p of the general statutes is
477 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

478 (a) A town seeking to apply for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of
479 section 10-16p, as amended by this act, or section 10-16u shall convene
480 a local school readiness council or shall establish a regional school
481 readiness council pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. Any other
482 town may convene such a council. The chief elected official of the town
483 or, in the case of a regional school district, the chief elected officials of
484 the towns in the school district and the superintendent of schools for
485 the school district shall jointly appoint and convene such council. Each
486 school readiness council shall be composed of: (1) The chief elected
487 official, or the official's designee; (2) the superintendent of schools, or a
488 management level staff person as the superintendent's designee; (3)
489 parents; (4) representatives from local programs such as Head Start,
490 family resource centers, nonprofit and for-profit child day care centers,
491 group day care homes, prekindergarten and nursery schools, and
492 family day care home providers; and (5) other representatives from the
493 community who provide services to children. The chief elected official
494 shall designate the chairperson of the school readiness council.

495 Sec. 16. Subsection (c) of section 17b-749c of the general statutes is
496 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

497 (c) The grants shall be used to:

498 (1) Help providers who are not accredited by the National

499 Association for the Education of Young Children to obtain such
500 accreditation;

501 (2) Help directors and administrators to obtain training;

502 [(2)] (3) Provide comprehensive services, such as enhanced access to
503 health care, a health consultant, nutrition, family support services,
504 parent education, literacy and parental involvement, and community
505 and home outreach programs; and provide information concerning
506 access when needed to a speech and language therapist;

507 [(3)] (4) Purchase educational equipment;

508 [(4)] (5) Provide scholarships for training to obtain a child
509 development associate certificate;

510 [(5)] (6) Provide training for persons who are mentor teachers, as
511 defined in federal regulations for the Head Start program, and provide
512 a family service coordinator or a family service worker as such
513 positions are defined in such federal regulations;

514 [(6)] (7) Repair fire, health and safety problems in existing facilities
515 and conduct minor remodeling to comply with the Americans with
516 Disabilities Act; train child care providers on injury and illness
517 prevention; and achieve compliance with national safety standards;

518 [(7)] (8) Create a supportive network with family day care homes;

519 [(8)] (9) Provide for educational consultation and staff development;

520 [(9)] (10) Provide for program quality assurance personnel;

521 [(10)] (11) Provide technical assistance services to enable providers
522 to develop child care facilities pursuant to sections 17b-749g, 17b-749h
523 and 17b-749i; [and] or

524 [(11)] (12) Establish a single point of entry system.

525 Sec. 17. Section 10-221l of the general statutes is repealed and the
526 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

527 The Department of Education shall develop, within available
528 appropriations, a State-Wide Early Reading Success Institute for
529 educators based on the review completed by the Early Reading Success
530 Panel pursuant to section 10-221j and the assessments conducted
531 pursuant to section 10-221k. The institute shall commence operation in
532 the 2000-2001 school year. The institute shall use training curriculum
533 that incorporates comprehensive instruction in reading as determined
534 by the Early Reading Success Panel pursuant to section 10-221j, to
535 include, but not be limited to: (1) Instructional strategies that can be
536 adapted for each student's needs; (2) early screening and ongoing
537 assessment to determine which individual students need additional
538 instruction; (3) teaching of oral language competencies, including
539 phonological awareness, vocabulary, listening comprehension and
540 grammatical skills; (4) systematic teaching of word identification skills
541 including phonics instruction and instruction in phonemic awareness;
542 and (5) teaching of comprehension competencies, including the use of
543 context to infer meaning.

544 Sec. 18. Section 10-221m of the general statutes is repealed and the
545 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

546 (a) On or before July 1, 2001, each local or regional board of
547 education for a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p
548 shall develop and implement a three-year in-service reading
549 instruction training plan for the professional development of the
550 district's school librarians, elementary school principals and not less
551 than seventy per cent of its teachers in grades kindergarten to three,
552 inclusive, provided spaces are available at the State-Wide Early
553 Reading Success Institute for such training. [The]

554 (b) On or before October 1, 2001, each local or regional board of
555 education for a priority school district shall revise the plan developed
556 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and implement such revised

557 plan. The revised plan shall provide for a five-year school-based in-
558 service reading instruction training program for the professional
559 development of each elementary school's librarian, principal, reading
560 specialist, special education teachers, speech and language specialists
561 and classroom teachers in grades kindergarten to three, inclusive. Such
562 plan shall [be consistent with the model for instruction] (1) utilize the
563 school-based training model developed by the State-Wide Early
564 Reading Success Institute pursuant to section 10-221l, as amended by
565 this act, and (2) require the board of education to appoint a new or
566 existing employee to serve as a school-based content specialist
567 coordinator. The local or regional board of education may use funds
568 received by the school district pursuant to section 10-265f for teacher
569 training based on the plan.

570 Sec. 19. The Department of Education shall (1) oversee the
571 development of the curricula for the Early Reading Success Institute
572 pursuant to section 10-221l of the general statutes, as amended by this
573 act, and establish necessary qualifications for persons providing
574 teacher training; (2) develop recommendations to align the standards
575 for reading competencies required under subsection (b) of section 10-
576 221i of the general statutes, with the Early Reading Success Panel's
577 research pursuant to section 10-221j of the general statutes; (3)
578 delineate the knowledge and skills necessary to obtain certification as
579 an elementary education teacher and as a reading specialist; and (4)
580 examine the curriculum module designs and implementation of
581 teacher training based on the report of the Early Reading Success
582 Panel. The Commissioner of Education shall report, in accordance with
583 section 11-4a of the general statutes, on such actions to the joint
584 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
585 matters relating to education by February 1, 2002.

586 Sec. 20. (NEW) The Department of Education shall contract, within
587 available appropriations, for an independent evaluation of the early
588 reading success teacher training and curriculum modules as delineated
589 in sections 10-221j to 10-221m, inclusive, of the general statutes, as

590 amended by this act.

591 Sec. 21. Section 10-265f of the general statutes is repealed and the
592 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

593 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall establish, within available
594 appropriations, an early reading success grant program to assist local
595 and regional boards of education for priority school districts and
596 school districts in which priority elementary schools are located in: (1)
597 Establishing full-day kindergarten programs; (2) reducing class size in
598 grades kindergarten to three, inclusive, to not more than eighteen
599 students; and (3) establishing intensive early intervention reading
600 programs, including after-school and summer programs, for students
601 identified as being at risk of failing to learn to read by the end of first
602 grade and students in grades one to three, inclusive, who are reading
603 below grade level. Eligibility for grants pursuant to this section shall be
604 determined for a five-year period based on a school district's
605 designation as a priority school district or as a school district in which
606 a priority elementary school is located for the initial year of
607 application. In order to receive a grant, an eligible board of education
608 shall submit a plan for the expenditure of grant funds, in accordance
609 with this section, to the Department of Education, at such time and in
610 such manner as the commissioner prescribes. An eligible school district
611 may receive a grant for one or more purposes pursuant to subdivisions
612 (1) to (3), inclusive, of this subsection, provided at least fifty per cent of
613 any grant funds received by such school district are used for programs
614 pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection. If the commissioner
615 determines the school district is addressing the issue of early reading
616 intervention sufficiently, the commissioner may allow the school
617 district to set aside a smaller percentage of the funds received pursuant
618 to this section for such programs.

619 (b) (1) In the case of proposals for full-day kindergarten programs,
620 the plan shall include: (A) Information on the number of full-day
621 kindergarten classes that will be offered initially and the number of

622 children to be enrolled in such classes; (B) how the board anticipates
623 expanding the number of full-day kindergarten programs in future
624 school years; (C) the number of additional teachers needed and any
625 additional equipment needed for purposes of such programs; (D) a
626 description of any proposed school building project that is related to
627 the need for additional space for full-day kindergarten programs,
628 including an analysis of the different options available to meet such
629 need, such as relocatable classrooms, the division of existing
630 classrooms, an addition to a building or new construction; (E)
631 information on the curriculum for the full-day kindergarten program
632 pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection; (F) information on
633 coordination between the full-day kindergarten program and school
634 readiness programs for the purpose of providing (i) information
635 concerning transition from preschool to kindergarten, including the
636 child's preschool records, and (ii) before and after school child care for
637 children attending the full-day kindergarten program; and (G) any
638 additional information the commissioner deems relevant.

639 (2) A full-day kindergarten program that receives funding pursuant
640 to this subsection shall: (A) Include language development and
641 appropriate reading readiness experiences; (B) provide for the
642 assessment of a student's progress; (C) include a professional
643 development component in the teaching of reading and reading
644 readiness and assessment of reading competency for kindergarten
645 teachers; [and] (D) provide for parental involvement; and (E) refer
646 eligible children who do not have health insurance to the HUSKY
647 program.

648 (c) (1) In the case of proposals for the reduction of class size in
649 grades kindergarten to three, inclusive, to not more than eighteen
650 students the plan shall include: (A) A time frame for achieving such
651 reduction in class size; (B) information on the class size in such grades
652 at each school at the time of application for the grant and the number
653 of classes to be reduced in size with grant funds; (C) the number of
654 additional teachers needed and any additional equipment needed; (D)

655 a description of any proposed school building project related to the
656 need for additional space for smaller classes, including an analysis of
657 the different options available to meet such need such as relocatable
658 classrooms, the division of existing classrooms, an addition to a
659 building or new construction; (E) an estimate of the costs associated
660 with implementation of the plan; and (F) any additional information
661 the commissioner deems relevant.

662 (2) If a school district accepts funds pursuant to this subsection,
663 such school district shall limit the class size of classes in which core
664 curriculum is taught in grades kindergarten to three, inclusive, in
665 accordance with its plan to eighteen or less students, provided
666 students who enroll after October first in any school year are not
667 included for purposes of such count.

668 (d) In the case of proposals for intensive early intervention reading
669 programs including after-school and summer programs, the plan shall:
670 (1) [Provide] Incorporate the competencies required for early reading
671 success, critical indicators for teacher intervention and the components
672 of a high quality early reading success curriculum in accordance with
673 the findings of the Early Reading Success Panel delineated in section
674 10-221i, as amended by this act; (2) provide for a period of time each
675 day of individualized or small group instruction for each student; ~~[(2)]~~
676 ~~(3)~~ provide for monitoring of students and follow-up in subsequent
677 grades, documentation of continuous classroom observation of
678 student's reading behaviors and establishment of performance
679 indicators aligned with the state-wide mastery examinations under
680 chapter 163c, the findings of the Early Reading Success Panel pursuant
681 to section 10-221j and other methodologies for assessing reading
682 competencies established by the department pursuant to section 10-
683 221i; ~~[(3)]~~ (4) include a professional development component for
684 teachers in grades kindergarten to three, inclusive, that emphasizes the
685 teaching of reading and reading readiness and assessment of reading
686 competency based on the findings of the Early Reading Success Panel
687 pursuant to section 10-221j; [(4)] (5) provide for parental involvement

688 and ensure that parents have access to information on strategies that
689 may be used at home to improve prereading or reading skills; [(5)] (6)
690 provide for data collection and program evaluation; and [(6)] (7) any
691 additional information the commissioner deems relevant.

692 (e) (1) The pilot programs established pursuant to section 10-265j
693 shall be funded from the amount appropriated for purposes of this
694 section. The department shall use ninety per cent of the remaining
695 funds appropriated for purposes of this section for grants to priority
696 school districts. Priority school districts shall receive grants based on
697 their proportional share of the sum of the products obtained by
698 multiplying the number of enrolled kindergarten students in each
699 priority school district for the year prior to the year the grant is to be
700 paid, by the ratio of the average percentage of free and reduced price
701 meals for all severe need schools in such district to the minimum
702 percentage requirement for severe need school eligibility. (2) The
703 department shall use nine per cent of such remaining funds for
704 competitive grants to school districts in which a priority elementary
705 school is located. In awarding grants to school districts in which
706 priority elementary schools are located, the department shall consider
707 the town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f, of
708 the town in which the school district is located, or in the case of
709 regional school districts, the towns which comprise the regional school
710 district. Grants received by school districts in which priority
711 elementary schools are located shall not exceed one hundred thousand
712 dollars and shall be used for the appropriate purpose at the priority
713 elementary school. (3) The department may retain up to one per cent of
714 such remaining funds for coordination, program evaluation and
715 administration.

716 (f) No funds received pursuant to this section shall be used to
717 supplant federal, state or local funding to the local or regional boards
718 of education for programs for grades kindergarten to three, inclusive.

719 (g) Expenditure reports shall be filed with the department as

720 requested by the commissioner. School districts shall refund (1) any
721 unexpended amounts at the close of the program for which the grant is
722 awarded, and (2) any amounts not expended in accordance with the
723 approved grant application.

724 Sec. 22. Subsection (b) of section 10-265g of the general statutes is
725 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

726 (b) For each school year commencing on or after July 1, 1999, each
727 local and regional board of education for a priority school district shall
728 require the schools under its jurisdiction to evaluate the reading level
729 of students enrolled in grades one to three, inclusive, in the middle of
730 the school year and at the end of the school year. A student shall be
731 determined to be substantially deficient in reading based on measures
732 established by the State Board of Education. Each school shall provide
733 a reading program for such students that incorporates the
734 competencies required for early reading success and effective reading
735 instruction as delineated in section 10-2211, as amended by this act. If a
736 student is determined to be substantially deficient in reading based on:
737 (1) The middle of the year evaluation, the school shall notify the
738 parents or guardian of the student of such result; and (2) the end of the
739 year evaluation, the school shall develop a personal reading plan for
740 such student. The personal reading plan shall include measures to
741 improve the student's reading level, such as tutoring, a transitional
742 class, or a summer reading program as described in subsection (d) of
743 section 10-265f. Promotion of such student from grade to grade shall be
744 based on documented progress in achieving the goals of the personal
745 reading plan or demonstrated reading proficiency. If a decision is
746 made to promote a student who is substantially deficient in reading
747 from third to fourth grade, the school principal shall provide written
748 justification for such promotion to the superintendent of schools. A
749 personal reading plan that incorporates the competencies required for
750 early reading success and effective reading instruction as delineated in
751 section 10-2211, as amended by this act, shall be maintained for a
752 student who is substantially deficient in reading until the student

753 achieves a satisfactory level of proficiency.

754 Sec. 23. Section 10-265k of the general statutes is repealed and the
755 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

756 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall conduct, within available
757 appropriations, a longitudinal study that examines the educational
758 progress of children both during and following participation in early
759 reading success grant programs pursuant to section 10-265f, as
760 amended by this act.

761 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall report, in accordance with
762 section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
763 having cognizance of matters relating to education on the longitudinal
764 study by January 1, [2001] 2002.

765 Sec. 24. Subsection (h) of section 10-285a of the general statutes is
766 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

767 (h) Subject to the provisions of section 10-285d, if an elementary
768 school building project for a school in a priority school district or for a
769 priority school is necessary in order to offer a full-day kindergarten
770 program or to reduce class size pursuant to section 10-265f, as
771 amended by this act, the percentage determined pursuant to this
772 section shall be increased by [five] ten percentage points for the
773 portion of the building used primarily for such full-day kindergarten
774 program or such reduced size classes.

775 Sec. 25. The Commissioners of Education and Higher Education shall,
776 within available appropriations, provide for a study of teacher education
777 programs at institutions of higher education that provide coursework in
778 reading instruction. The commissioners shall evaluate higher education
779 reading programs and how such programs are implementing the report
780 of the Early Reading Success Panel pursuant to section 10-221j of the
781 general statutes. On or before January 1, 2002, the commissioners shall
782 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general

783 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
784 cognizance of matters relating to education on the results of such study,
785 including any recommendations for revisions to such programs.

786 Sec. 26. Section 10-66aa of the general statutes is repealed and the
787 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

788 As used in sections 10-66aa to 10-66ff, inclusive, as amended by this
789 act, and section 28 of this act.

790 (1) "Charter school" means a public, nonsectarian school which is
791 (A) established under a charter granted pursuant to section 10-66bb, as
792 amended by this act, (B) organized as a nonprofit entity under state
793 law, (C) a public agency for purposes of the Freedom of Information
794 Act, as defined in section 1-200, and (D) operated independently of any
795 local or regional board of education in accordance with the terms of its
796 charter and the provisions of sections 10-66aa to 10-66ff, inclusive, as
797 amended by this act, provided no member or employee of a governing
798 council of a charter school shall have a personal or financial interest in
799 the assets, real or personal, of the school;

800 (2) "Local charter school" means a public school or part of a public
801 school that is converted into a charter school and is approved by the
802 local or regional board of education of the school district in which it is
803 located and by the State Board of Education pursuant to subsection (e)
804 of section 10-66bb; and

805 (3) "State charter school" means a new public school approved by
806 the State Board of Education pursuant to subsection (f) of section 10-
807 66bb.

808 Sec. 27. Section 10-66ee of the general statutes is repealed and the
809 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

810 (a) For the purposes of education equalization aid under section 10-
811 262h a student enrolled (1) in a local charter school shall be considered
812 a student enrolled in the school district in which such student resides,

813 and (2) in a state charter school shall not be considered a student
814 enrolled in the school district in which such student resides.

815 (b) The local board of education of the school district in which a
816 student enrolled in a local charter school resides shall pay, annually, in
817 accordance with its charter, to the fiscal authority for the charter school
818 for each such student the amount specified in its charter, including the
819 reasonable special education costs of students requiring special
820 education. The board of education shall be eligible for reimbursement
821 for such special education costs pursuant to section 10-76g.

822 (c) (1) The state shall, annually, pay in accordance with this
823 subsection, to the fiscal authority for a state charter school, seven
824 thousand dollars for each student enrolled in such school. Such
825 payments shall be made as follows: Twenty-five per cent of the
826 amount not later than July fifteenth and September fifteenth based on
827 estimated student enrollment on May first, and twenty-five per cent of
828 the amount not later than January fifteenth and the remaining amount
829 not later than April fifteenth, each based on student enrollment on
830 October first. (2) In the case of a student identified as requiring special
831 education, the school district in which the student resides shall: (A)
832 Hold the planning and placement team meeting for such student and
833 shall invite representatives from the charter school to participate in
834 such meeting; and (B) pay the state charter school, on a quarterly basis,
835 an amount equal to the difference between the reasonable cost of
836 educating such student and the sum of the amount received by the
837 state charter school for such student pursuant to subdivision (1) of this
838 subsection and amounts received from other state, federal, local or
839 private sources calculated on a per pupil basis. Such school district
840 shall be eligible for reimbursement pursuant to section 10-76g. The
841 charter school a student requiring special education attends shall be
842 responsible for ensuring that such student receives the services
843 mandated by the student's individualized education program whether
844 such services are provided by the charter school or by the school
845 district in which the student resides.

846 (d) On or before October fifteenth of the fiscal years beginning July
847 1, 2001, and July 1, 2002, the Commissioner of Education shall
848 determine if the enrollment in the program for the fiscal year is below
849 the number of students for which funds were appropriated. If the
850 commissioner determines that the enrollment is below such number,
851 the additional funds shall not lapse but shall be used by the
852 commissioner for (1) grants for interdistrict cooperative programs
853 pursuant to section 10-74d, as amended by this act, (2) grants for open
854 choice programs pursuant to section 10-266aa, as amended by this act,
855 or (3) grants for interdistrict magnet schools pursuant to section 10-
856 264l.

857 [(d)] (e) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes to the
858 contrary, if at the end of a fiscal year amounts received by a state
859 charter school, pursuant to subdivision (1) of [this] subsection (c) of
860 this section, are unexpended, the charter school (1) may use, for the
861 expenses of the charter school for the following fiscal year, up to ten
862 per cent of such amounts, and (2) may (A) create a reserve fund to
863 finance a specific capital or equipment purchase or another specified
864 project as may be approved by the commissioner, and (B) deposit into
865 such fund up to five per cent of such amounts.

866 [(e)] (f) The local or regional board of education of the school district
867 in which the charter school is located shall provide transportation
868 services for students of the charter school who reside in such school
869 district pursuant to section 10-273a unless the charter school makes
870 other arrangements for such transportation. Any local or regional
871 board of education may provide transportation services to a student
872 attending a charter school outside of the district in which the student
873 resides and, if it elects to provide such transportation, shall be
874 reimbursed pursuant to section 10-266m for the reasonable costs of
875 such transportation. Any local or regional board of education
876 providing transportation services under this subsection may suspend
877 such services in accordance with the provisions of section 10-233c. The
878 parent or guardian of any student denied the transportation services

879 required to be provided pursuant to this subsection may appeal such
880 denial in the manner provided in sections 10-186 and 10-187.

881 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) Charter schools shall be eligible to the same extent as boards
882 of education for any grant for special education, competitive state
883 grants and grants pursuant to sections 10-17g and 10-266w.

884 ~~[(g)]~~ (h) If the commissioner finds that any charter school uses a
885 grant under this section for a purpose that is inconsistent with the
886 provisions of this part, the commissioner may require repayment of
887 such grant to the state.

888 ~~[(h)]~~ (i) Charter schools shall receive, in accordance with federal law
889 and regulations, any federal funds available for the education of any
890 pupils attending public schools.

891 ~~[(i)]~~ (j) The governing council of a charter school may (1) contract or
892 enter into other agreements for purposes of administrative or other
893 support services, transportation, plant services or leasing facilities or
894 equipment, and (2) receive and expend private funds or public funds,
895 including funds from local or regional boards of education and funds
896 received by local charter schools for out-of-district students, for school
897 purposes.

898 Sec. 28. (NEW) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2002, and June
899 30, 2003, the Commissioner of Education shall establish, within
900 available appropriations and bond authorizations, a grant program to
901 assist state charter schools in financing (1) school building projects, as
902 defined in section 10-282 of the general statutes, (2) general
903 improvements to school buildings, as defined in subsection (a) of
904 section 10-265h of the general statutes, and (3) repayment of debt
905 incurred for prior school building projects. Eligibility for such grants
906 shall be limited to state charter schools whose charters were renewed
907 in the prior fiscal year pursuant to subsection (g) of section 10-66bb of
908 the general statutes. The governing authority of such state charter
909 schools may apply for such grants to the Department of Education at

910 such time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes. Each
911 state charter school may receive no more than one grant under this
912 section and no grant under this section shall exceed five hundred
913 thousand dollars.

914 Sec. 29. Section 10-266aa of the general statutes is repealed and the
915 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

916 (a) As used in this section:

917 (1) "Receiving district" means any school district that accepts
918 students under the program established pursuant to this section; and

919 (2) "Sending district" means any school district that sends students it
920 would otherwise be legally responsible for educating to another school
921 district under the program; and

922 (3) "Minority students" means students who are "pupils of racial
923 minorities", as defined in section 10-226a.

924 (b) There is established, within available appropriations, [a state-
925 wide] an interdistrict public school attendance program. The purpose
926 of the program shall be to: (1) Improve academic achievement; (2)
927 reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation or preserve racial and
928 ethnic balance; and (3) provide a choice of educational programs for
929 students enrolled in the public schools. The Department of Education
930 shall provide oversight for the program, including the setting of
931 reasonable limits for the transportation of students participating in the
932 program, and may provide for the incremental expansion of the
933 program for the school year commencing in 2000 for each town
934 required to participate in the program pursuant to subsection (c) of
935 this section.

936 (c) The program shall be phased in as provided in this subsection.
937 [(1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, the Department of
938 Education shall provide grants in the amount of fifty thousand dollars
939 each to the regional educational service centers for the Hartford, New

940 Haven and Bridgeport regions to assist school districts in planning for
941 the operation of the program. (2)] (1) For the school year commencing
942 in 1998, and for each school year thereafter, the program shall be in
943 operation in the Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport regions. The
944 Hartford program shall operate as a continuation of the program
945 described in section 10-266j. Students who reside in Hartford, New
946 Haven or Bridgeport may attend school in another school district in
947 the region and students who reside in such other school districts may
948 attend school in Hartford, New Haven or Bridgeport, provided,
949 beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, the proportion of students
950 who are not minority students to the total number of students leaving
951 Hartford, Bridgeport or New Haven to participate in the program shall
952 not be greater than the proportion of students who were not minority
953 students in the prior school year to the total number of students
954 enrolled in Hartford, Bridgeport or New Haven in the prior school
955 year. The regional educational service center operating the program
956 shall make program participation decisions in accordance with the
957 requirements of this subdivision. (2) For the school year commencing
958 in 2000, and for each school year thereafter, the program shall be in
959 operation in New London, provided beginning with the 2001-2002
960 school year, the proportion of students who are not minority students
961 to the total number of students leaving New London to participate in
962 the program shall not be greater than the proportion of students who
963 were not minority students in the prior year to the total number of
964 students enrolled in New London in the prior school year. The
965 regional educational service center operating the program shall make
966 program participation decisions in accordance with this subdivision.
967 (3) The Department of Education may provide, within available
968 appropriations, grants for the fiscal [years ending June 30, 1999, and
969 June 30, 2000] year ending June 30, 2003, to the remaining regional
970 educational service centers to assist school districts in planning for [the
971 expansion of the program to] a voluntary program of student
972 enrollment in every priority school district, pursuant to section 10-
973 266p, [in the state. (3) For the school year commencing in 2000, and for

974 each school year thereafter, the program shall be in operation in New
975 Britain, New London, Waterbury and Windham. (4)] which is
976 interested in participating in accordance with this subdivision. For the
977 school year commencing in [2001] 2003, and for each school year
978 thereafter, the voluntary enrollment program [shall] may be in
979 operation in every priority school district in the state. Students from
980 other school districts in the area of a priority school district, as
981 determined by the regional educational service center pursuant to
982 subsection (d) of this section, may attend school in the priority school
983 district, [and students from the priority school district may attend
984 school in any school district in such area in accordance with the
985 provisions of this section, including the purposes specified in
986 subsection (b) of this section] provided such students bring racial,
987 ethnic and economic diversity to the priority school district and do not
988 increase the racial, ethnic and economic isolation in the priority school
989 district.

990 (d) School districts which received students from New London
991 under the program during the 2000-2001 school year shall allow such
992 students to attend school in the district until they graduate from high
993 school. The attendance of such students in such program shall not be
994 supported by grants pursuant to subsections (f) and (g) of this section
995 but shall be supported, in the same amounts as provided for in said
996 subsections, by interdistrict cooperative grants pursuant to section 10-
997 74d, as amended by this act, to the regional educational service centers
998 operating such programs.

999 [(d)] (e) Once the program is in operation in the region served by a
1000 regional educational service center pursuant to subsection (c) of this
1001 section, the Department of Education shall provide [, annually, a grant
1002 in the amount of one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars] an
1003 annual grant to such a regional educational service center to assist
1004 school districts in its area in administering the program and to provide
1005 staff to assist students participating in the program to make the
1006 transition to a new school and to act as a liaison between the parents of

1007 such students and the new school district. Each regional educational
1008 service center shall determine which school districts in its area are
1009 located close enough to a priority school district to make participation
1010 in the program feasible in terms of student transportation pursuant to
1011 subsection (e) of this section, provided any student participating in the
1012 program prior to July 1, 1999, shall be allowed to continue to attend the
1013 same school such student attended prior to said date in the receiving
1014 district until the student completes the highest grade in such school.
1015 Each regional educational service center shall convene, annually, a
1016 meeting of representatives of such school districts in order for such
1017 school districts to report, by March thirty-first, the number of spaces
1018 available for the following school year for out-of-district students
1019 under the program. Annually, each regional educational service center
1020 shall provide a count of such spaces to the Department of Education by
1021 April fifteenth. If there are more students who seek to attend school in
1022 a receiving district than there are spaces available, the regional
1023 educational service center shall assist the school district in determining
1024 attendance by the use of a lottery or lotteries designed to preserve or
1025 increase racial, ethnic and economic diversity, except that the regional
1026 educational service center shall give preference to siblings and to
1027 students who would otherwise attend a school that has lost its
1028 accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.
1029 The admission policies shall be consistent with section 10-15c and this
1030 section. No receiving district shall recruit students under the program
1031 for athletic or extracurricular purposes. Each receiving district shall
1032 allow out-of-district students it accepts to attend school in the district
1033 until they graduate from high school.

1034 [(e)] (f) The Department of Education shall provide grants to
1035 regional educational service centers or local or regional boards of
1036 education for the reasonable cost of transportation for students
1037 participating in the program. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000,
1038 and each fiscal year thereafter, the department shall provide such
1039 grants within available appropriations, provided the state-wide
1040 average of such grants does not exceed an amount equal to two

1041 thousand one hundred dollars for each student transported. The
1042 regional educational service centers shall provide reasonable
1043 transportation services to high school students who wish to participate
1044 in supervised extracurricular activities. For purposes of this section,
1045 the number of students transported shall be determined on September
1046 first of each fiscal year.

1047 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) The Department of Education shall provide, within available
1048 appropriations, an annual grant to the local or regional board of
1049 education for each receiving district in an amount not to exceed two
1050 thousand dollars for each out-of-district student who attends school in
1051 the receiving district under the program. Each town which receives
1052 funds pursuant to this subsection shall make such funds available to its
1053 local or regional board of education in supplement to any other local
1054 appropriation, other state or federal grant or other revenue to which
1055 the local or regional board of education is entitled.

1056 ~~[(g)]~~ (h) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, each
1057 sending district and each receiving district shall divide the number of
1058 children participating in the program who reside in such district or
1059 attend school in such district by two for purposes of the counts for
1060 subdivision (22) of section 10-262f and subdivision (2) of subsection (a)
1061 of section 10-261.

1062 ~~[(h)]~~ (i) In the case of an out-of-district student who requires special
1063 education and related services, the sending district shall pay the
1064 receiving district an amount equal to the difference between the
1065 reasonable cost of providing such special education and related
1066 services to such student and the amount received by the receiving
1067 district pursuant to ~~[subdivision (f)]~~ subsection (g) of this section and
1068 in the case of students participating pursuant to subsection (d) of this
1069 section, the per pupil amount received pursuant to section 10-74d as
1070 amended by this act. The sending district shall be eligible for
1071 reimbursement pursuant to section 10-76g.

1072 ~~[(i)]~~ (j) Nothing in this section shall prohibit school districts from

1073 charging tuition to other school districts that do not have a high school
1074 pursuant to section 10-33.

1075 [(j)] (k) On or before October fifteenth of each year, the
1076 Commissioner of Education shall determine if the enrollment in the
1077 program pursuant to subsection (c) of this section for the fiscal year is
1078 below the number of students for which funds were appropriated. If
1079 the commissioner determines that the enrollment is below such
1080 number, the additional funds shall not lapse but shall be used by the
1081 commissioner in accordance with this subsection. (1) Any amount up
1082 to three hundred fifty thousand dollars of such nonlapsing funds shall
1083 be used for supplemental grants to receiving districts on a pro rata
1084 basis for each out-of-district student in the program pursuant to
1085 subsection (c) of this section who attends the same school in the
1086 receiving district as at least nine other such out-of-district students, not
1087 to exceed one thousand dollars per student. (2) Any remaining
1088 nonlapsing funds shall be used for interdistrict cooperative grants
1089 pursuant to section 10-74d.

1090 [(k)] (l) For purposes of the state-wide mastery examinations under
1091 section 10-14n, students participating in the program established
1092 pursuant to this section shall be considered residents of the school
1093 district in which they attend school.

1094 Sec. 30. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-74d of the general
1095 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1096 (a) The Department of Education shall, within available
1097 appropriations and after payments made pursuant to section 10-266j
1098 and for purposes of subsection (d) of 10-266aa, as amended by this act,
1099 maintain a competitive grant program for the purpose of assisting local
1100 and regional boards of education and regional educational service
1101 centers with the establishment and operation of interdistrict
1102 cooperative programs, including programs pursuant to section
1103 10-266bb, and lighthouse schools, as defined in section 10-266cc, but
1104 excluding interdistrict magnet school programs for which a local or

1105 regional board of education or a regional educational service center
1106 receives funds pursuant to section 10-264h or 10-264l.

1107 (b) To be eligible for a grant under this section, each application
1108 shall be submitted pursuant to a cooperative arrangement on behalf of
1109 two or more local or regional boards of education, by a regional
1110 educational service center solely or pursuant to a cooperative
1111 arrangement with one or more local or regional boards of education,
1112 or, in the case of a lighthouse school, by a local or regional board of
1113 education or regional educational service center. Applications shall be
1114 submitted annually to the Commissioner of Education at such times
1115 and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes. [In] Except for
1116 applications for grants in accordance with subsection (d) of section 10-
1117 266aa, as amended by this act, in determining whether an application
1118 shall be approved and funds awarded pursuant to this section, the
1119 commissioner shall consider, but such consideration shall not be
1120 limited to, the following factors: (1) The specific objectives and
1121 description of the proposed program; (2) the cost; (3) the number of
1122 school districts and students that will benefit, provided on and after
1123 July 1, 1998, the commissioner shall not award a grant for a program,
1124 other than a lighthouse school, in which more than eighty per cent of
1125 the students are from one school district; (4) the relative wealth of the
1126 participating school districts; and (5) whether the proposed program is
1127 likely to (A) increase student achievement, and (B) reduce racial, ethnic
1128 and economic isolation.

1129 Sec. 31. Section 10-66j of the general statutes is amended by adding
1130 subsection (e) as follows:

1131 (NEW) (e) Each regional educational service center shall support
1132 regional efforts to recruit and retain minority educators and to support
1133 the collection and analysis of data on school district efforts to reduce
1134 racial, ethnic and economic isolation.

1135 Sec. 32. (NEW) (a) The Department of Education shall establish,
1136 within available appropriations, a competitive safe learning grant

1137 program to assist school districts in (1) developing a school
1138 environment where children learn in safety without fear of physical or
1139 verbal harm or intimidation, (2) activities that encourage respect for
1140 each student, (3) decreasing early youth aggression, (4) establishing
1141 student conflict and intervention policies and strategies, (5) eliminating
1142 bullying behaviors among students, (6) extending safe school
1143 environment programs to extra curricular activities, (7) after school
1144 programs as described in subsection (c) of section 10-223c of the
1145 general statutes, and (8) the development of crisis and violence
1146 prevention policies and strategies which make school environments
1147 safe. Each local and regional board of education may apply for a grant
1148 at such time and in such manner as the Commissioner of Education
1149 prescribes.

1150 (b) The department may accept private donations for purposes of
1151 the program provided such donations shall in no way limit the scope
1152 of program grants pursuant to this section.

1153 (c) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of this section
1154 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available for
1155 expenditure during the next fiscal year for similar programs.

1156 Sec. 33. Subsection (a) of section 10-266p of the general statutes is
1157 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1158 (a) The State Board of Education shall administer a priority school
1159 district grant program to assist certain school districts to improve
1160 student achievement and enhance educational opportunities. The
1161 grant program shall include the priority school district portions of the
1162 grant programs established pursuant to sections 10-16p, as amended
1163 by this act, 10-265f, as amended by this act, 10-265m, as amended by
1164 this act, and 10-266t. The grant program and its component parts shall
1165 be for school districts in (1) the eight towns in the state with the largest
1166 population, based on the most recent federal decennial census, (2)
1167 towns which rank for the first fiscal year of each biennium from one to
1168 eleven when all towns are ranked in descending order from one to one

1169 hundred sixty-nine based on the number of children under the
1170 temporary family assistance program, as defined in subdivision (17) of
1171 section 10-262f, plus the mastery count of the town, as defined in
1172 subdivision (9) of said section, and (3) towns which rank for the first
1173 fiscal year of each biennium one to eleven when all towns are ranked
1174 in descending order from one to one hundred sixty-nine based on the
1175 ratio of the number of children under the temporary family assistance
1176 program as so defined to the resident students of such town, as
1177 defined in subdivision (19) of said section, plus the grant mastery
1178 percentage of the town, as defined in subdivision (8) of said section.
1179 The State Board of Education shall utilize the categorical grant
1180 program established under this section and sections 10-266q and 10-
1181 266r and other educational resources of the state to work cooperatively
1182 with such school districts during any school year to improve their
1183 educational programs or to provide early childhood education or early
1184 reading intervention programs. The component parts of the grant shall
1185 be allocated according to the provisions of sections 10-16p, as amended
1186 by this act, 10-265f, as amended by this act, 10-265m, as amended by
1187 this act, and 10-266t. Subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of
1188 section 10-276a, the State Board of Education shall allocate one million
1189 dollars to each of the eight towns described in subdivision (1) of this
1190 subsection and five hundred thousand dollars to each of the towns
1191 described in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection, except the
1192 towns described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not receive
1193 any additional allocation if they are also described in subdivision (2) or
1194 (3) of this subsection.

1195 Sec. 34. Any additional funds received pursuant to the Educational
1196 Cost Sharing Grant for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2002, and June
1197 30, 2003, and any funds appropriated for Supplemental Education Aid
1198 in section 1 of house bill 7501 of the current session shall be used for
1199 local education purposes provided that up to one hundred thousand
1200 dollars of any amount received by the city of Hartford shall be used by
1201 the city to contract to provide for training in the duties of membership
1202 on a board of education. Fifty thousand dollars of such amount shall

1203 not lapse on June 30, 2002, but shall be available for expenditure
1204 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003.

1205 Sec. 35. (a) If YMCA day care programs have a preschool
1206 component and receive grants-in-aid from the Department of Social
1207 Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, for capital projects for
1208 the expansion of their facilities are not accredited by the National
1209 Association for the Education of Young Children, such programs shall
1210 develop a plan for achieving such accreditation. On or before June 30,
1211 2002, such programs shall report on their accreditation status to the
1212 Department of Social Services.

1213 (b) If YMCA day care programs do not have a preschool component
1214 and receive grants-in-aid from the Department of Social Services for
1215 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, for capital projects for the
1216 expansion of their facilities, such programs shall develop a plan for
1217 achieving accreditation by an organization approved by the
1218 Department of Social Services. On or before June 30, 2002, such
1219 programs shall report on their accreditation status to the Department
1220 of Social Services.

1221 Sec. 36. Section 10-223b of the general statutes is repealed and the
1222 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1223 (a) On or before October 1, 1999, and [biennially] on or before
1224 February 1, 2003, and every three years thereafter, the State Board of
1225 Education shall prepare a list of elementary and middle schools, by
1226 school district, that are in need of improvement based on student
1227 performance and performance trends on the state-wide mastery
1228 examinations pursuant to section 10-14n. The Department of Education
1229 shall notify each local and regional board of education of the schools in
1230 its district that are on the list and, if more than one school in a school
1231 district is on the list, the department shall advise the local or regional
1232 board of education on which of such schools are most in need of
1233 improvement.

1234 (b) On or before January 1, 2000, and ~~[biennially]~~ on or before April
1235 1, 2003, and every three years thereafter, each local and regional board
1236 of education that has a school on the list, through its superintendent of
1237 schools, shall meet with the Commissioner of Education, or the
1238 commissioner's designee, to discuss the process for improving school
1239 performance described in subsection (c) of this section. The
1240 commissioner shall require the local or regional board of education to
1241 undergo such process for such school, except that if more than one
1242 school in the school district is on the list, the local or regional board of
1243 education shall prioritize the schools on the list and develop a
1244 timetable for such schools to undergo such process. Such timetable and
1245 list shall be approved by the commissioner.

1246 (c) The local or regional board of education shall require the school
1247 to ~~[: (1) Develop]~~ develop an improvement plan ~~[,]~~ and ~~[(2)]~~ take the
1248 steps necessary to become accredited by the New England Association
1249 of Schools and Colleges. The improvement plan shall be submitted to
1250 the Department of Education and the local or regional board of
1251 education. ~~[for its approval and, upon such approval,]~~ The local or
1252 regional board of education shall approve the plan before it is
1253 implemented. Upon such approval, the plan shall be implemented
1254 beginning the following school year. The improvement plan ~~(1)~~ may
1255 provide for site-based management of the school, ~~(2)~~ shall include
1256 criteria for use in measuring progress, and ~~(3)~~ shall be developed in
1257 consultation with the school's principal, teachers and the parents of
1258 students attending the school. The Department of Education shall
1259 provide technical assistance to the school on the development of the
1260 plan and shall provide comments on the plan to the local or regional
1261 board of education prior to the board's approval of the plan. The local
1262 or regional board of education shall provide assistance to the school to
1263 improve its operation under the plan and to obtain accreditation. The
1264 commissioner may require the local or regional board of education to
1265 reallocate federal and state categorical assistance provided to the
1266 school district to implement the plan.

1267 (d) The local or regional board of education shall monitor progress
1268 made by the school under the improvement plan. If two years after the
1269 date of approval of the improvement plan, the board of education
1270 finds that the school has not made sufficient progress, the board of
1271 education shall develop a plan for such school that requires the board
1272 to take one or more of the following actions in order to improve
1273 student achievement: (1) Close and reconstitute the school, (2)
1274 restructure the school in terms of the grades included or the programs
1275 offered, or both, (3) provide for site-based management of the school,
1276 and (4) allow students in the attendance area of the school to attend
1277 other public schools in the school district. The local or regional board
1278 of education may include in such plan a provision for the transfer of
1279 employees in conjunction with any such action. The local or regional
1280 board of education shall submit its plan to the commissioner for
1281 approval and, upon such approval, shall implement the plan.

1282 Sec. 37. Section 10-223c of the general statutes is repealed and the
1283 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1284 (a) [For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, the] The Commissioner
1285 of Education shall provide grants, within available appropriations, to
1286 local and regional boards of education that have one or more schools
1287 in need of improvement on the most recent list prepared pursuant to
1288 section 10-223b. Eligible boards of education shall use grant funds for
1289 costs related to the implementation of improvement plans for such
1290 schools, partnership programs between such schools and public
1291 libraries in the school district and actions necessary for such schools to
1292 become accredited by the New England Association of Schools and
1293 Colleges. An eligible board of education shall submit a plan for the
1294 expenditure of grant funds, in accordance with subsection (b) of this
1295 section, to the Department of Education, at such time and in such
1296 manner as the commissioner prescribes.

1297 (b) The plan for the expenditure of grant funds shall be approved by
1298 the department, after consultation with the State Librarian for

1299 purposes of the partnership programs, and shall include: (1) Methods
1300 and school-based programs identified pursuant to section 10-223d that
1301 address the specific subject areas, by grade level, in which students
1302 attending the school were most deficient on the state-wide mastery
1303 examinations pursuant to section 10-14n, [and] (2) actions that are
1304 necessary for the school to be accredited, and (3) partnership programs
1305 with public libraries in the school district that are designed to improve
1306 family literacy and parent involvement. The plan may include a
1307 quality after school program.

1308 (c) A quality after school program shall include: (1) Criteria for
1309 student participation in the program; (2) leisure activities that facilitate
1310 social and cognitive development; (3) safe indoor and outdoor
1311 environments; (4) trained staff skilled in child development; (5) specific
1312 strategies and interventions for children with demonstrated academic
1313 weaknesses to improve academic performance and reduce social
1314 promotion; (6) family involvement and an assessment of
1315 transportation needs for families to utilize the program; and (7)
1316 program evaluation.

1317 (d) Each board of education receiving a grant pursuant to this
1318 section shall set aside an amount equal to at least ten per cent of the
1319 grant for partnership programs with public libraries in the school
1320 district.

1321 (e) The Department of Education may retain up to one per cent of
1322 the amount appropriated for purposes of this section for coordination,
1323 program evaluation and administration.

1324 (f) No funds received pursuant to this section shall be used to
1325 supplant federal, state or local funding to the local or regional board of
1326 education for such schools.

1327 (g) Expenditure reports shall be filed with the Department of
1328 Education as requested by the commissioner. School districts shall
1329 refund (1) any unexpended amounts at the close of the program for

1330 which the grant was awarded, and (2) any amounts not expended in
1331 accordance with the approved grant application.

1332 (h) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, the Hartford school
1333 district shall not receive grants pursuant to this section but shall use a
1334 portion of the supplemental aid provided in section 35 of special act
1335 00-13 to implement improvement plans and partnership programs in
1336 accordance with this section.

1337 Sec. 38. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (3) of
1338 subsection (a) of section 10-283 of the general statutes, if the town of
1339 Plainfield does not use Plainfield High School as a public school for ten
1340 years after the date of completion of the project for code violation and
1341 heating, ventilation and air conditioning, the town shall not be
1342 required to make a refund to the state, provided the building is
1343 redirected for public use.

1344 Sec. 39. Subdivision (5) of subsection (e) of section 10-76d of the
1345 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1346 thereof:

1347 (5) Application for the grant to be paid by the state for costs in
1348 excess of the local or regional board of education's basic contribution
1349 shall be made by such board of education by filing with the State
1350 Board of Education, in such manner as prescribed by the
1351 Commissioner of Education, annually on or before December first a
1352 statement of the cost of providing special education, as defined in
1353 subdivision (2) of this subsection, for a child of the board placed by a
1354 state agency in accordance with the provisions of said subdivision or,
1355 where appropriate, a statement of the cost of providing educational
1356 services other than special educational services pursuant to the
1357 provisions of subsection (b) of section 10-253, provided a board of
1358 education may submit, not later than [February] March first, claims for
1359 additional children or costs not included in the December filing.
1360 Payment by the state for such excess costs shall be made to the local or
1361 regional board of education as follows: Seventy-five per cent of the

1362 cost in February and the balance in [April] May. The amount due each
1363 town pursuant to the provisions of this subsection and the amount due
1364 to each town as tuition from other towns pursuant to this section shall
1365 be paid to the treasurer of each town entitled to such aid, provided the
1366 treasurer shall treat such grant or tuition received, or a portion of such
1367 grant or tuition, which relates to special education expenditures
1368 incurred pursuant to subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection in
1369 excess of such board's budgeted estimate of such expenditures, as a
1370 reduction in expenditures by crediting such expenditure account,
1371 rather than town revenue. The state shall notify the local or regional
1372 board of education when payments are made to the treasurer of the
1373 town pursuant to this subdivision.

1374 Sec. 40. Section 10a-169b of the general statutes is repealed and the
1375 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1376 (a) There is established an information technology loan
1377 reimbursement pilot program administered by the Department of
1378 Higher Education.

1379 (b) Within available appropriations, the program shall provide a
1380 student loan reimbursement grant for persons who meet the eligibility
1381 requirements for the information technology scholarship program
1382 pursuant to section 10a-169a, and (1) attended [any] an institution of
1383 higher education in this state, (2) majored in an information
1384 technology related field, and (3) are newly employed on or after
1385 January 1, 2001, by [an electronic commerce or information technology
1386 intensive company, that has registered with or otherwise been
1387 qualified by the Department of Economic and Community
1388 Development pursuant to section 32-8a in an information technology
1389 intensive occupation verified by the department and identified in the
1390 strategic plan produced pursuant to section 31-11aa] a company in this
1391 state in an information technology related position.

1392 (c) Persons who qualify under subsection (b) of this section and
1393 meet any additional requirements established by the Department of

1394 Higher Education pursuant to this subsection shall be reimbursed on
1395 an annual basis for qualifying student [loan payments in an amount
1396 equal to such loan payments paid by that person during the previous
1397 taxable year but not exceeding] loans. Such reimbursement shall not
1398 exceed two thousand five hundred dollars for each year of
1399 employment and for no more than a total of two years per person. A
1400 person qualifying under subsection (b) of this section shall only be
1401 reimbursed [for loan payments made while such person was] if such
1402 person is employed by a qualifying company at the time of application
1403 for loan reimbursement pursuant to this section. The Department of
1404 Higher Education [shall] may develop additional eligibility
1405 requirements for recipients. Such requirements may include income
1406 guidelines. Persons may apply for grants to the Department of Higher
1407 Education at such time and in such manner as the Commissioner of
1408 Higher Education prescribes.

1409 (d) The recipients of reimbursements pursuant to this section for the
1410 fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, shall constitute a cohort and
1411 reimbursements for succeeding years shall only be available for
1412 members of such cohort.

1413 (e) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of this section
1414 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available for
1415 expenditure during the next fiscal year.

1416 (f) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, the Department of
1417 Higher Education may use up to five per cent of the funds
1418 appropriated for purposes of this section for program administration,
1419 promotion and recruitment activities.

1420 Sec. 41. Subsection (c) of section 10-1831 of the general statutes is
1421 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1422 (c) In carrying out its duties, the board may employ a secretary and
1423 such clerical and other assistance as may be necessary. Their salaries
1424 shall be paid by said board with the approval of the Secretary of the

1425 Office of Policy and Management. Said board shall employ the services
1426 of one or more actuaries, each of which shall be an individual or firm
1427 having on its staff a fellow of the society of actuaries, to carry out the
1428 actuarial duties of this section and sections 10-183b, 10-183r, and 10-
1429 183z and for such related purposes as the board deems advisable. The
1430 cost of such services shall be charged to the funds provided for in
1431 section 10-183r. Said board shall arrange for such actuary to prepare an
1432 actuarial valuation of the assets and liabilities of the system as of June
1433 30, 1980, and at least once every two years thereafter. On the basis of
1434 reasonable actuarial assumptions approved by the board, such actuary
1435 shall determine the normal cost required to meet the actuarial cost of
1436 current service and the unfunded accrued liability. Commencing
1437 December 1, 2002, such valuation shall be completed prior to
1438 December first biennially. Said board shall adopt all needed actuarial
1439 tables and may adopt regulations and rules not inconsistent with this
1440 chapter, including regulations and rules for payment of purchased
1441 service credits and repayment of previously withdrawn accumulated
1442 contributions. Said board shall establish such funds as are necessary
1443 for the management of the system. The board may enter into such
1444 contractual agreements, in accordance with established procedures, as
1445 may be necessary for the discharge of its duties.

1446 Sec. 42. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 10-276a of the general
1447 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1448 (b) (1) For the first fiscal year following the fiscal year such school
1449 district received its final priority school district grant, in an amount
1450 equal to the difference between (A) the amount of such final grant, and
1451 (B) an amount equal to twenty-five per cent of the difference between
1452 (i) the amount of such final grant, and (ii) the greater of two hundred
1453 fifty thousand dollars or the amount of the grants received by
1454 transitional school districts pursuant to section 10-263c. (2) For the
1455 second fiscal year following the fiscal year such school district received
1456 its final priority school district grant, in an amount equal to the
1457 difference between (A) the amount of such final grant, and (B) an

1458 amount equal to fifty per cent of the difference between (i) the amount
1459 of such final grant, and (ii) the greater of two hundred fifty thousand
1460 dollars or the amount of the grants received by transitional school
1461 districts pursuant to section 10-263c. (3) For the third fiscal year
1462 following the fiscal year such school district received its final priority
1463 school district grant, in an amount equal to the difference between (A)
1464 the amount of such final grant, and (B) an amount equal to seventy-
1465 five per cent of the difference between (i) the amount of such final
1466 grant, and (ii) the greater of two hundred fifty thousand dollars or the
1467 amount of the grants received by transitional school districts pursuant
1468 to section 10-263c.

1469 (c) Commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, [2002] 2004, if a
1470 school district that was not eligible to receive a priority school district
1471 grant pursuant to subsection (a) of said section 10-266p, for the prior
1472 fiscal year becomes eligible to receive such a grant, the amount of the
1473 grant such town receives pursuant to said section for the first year of
1474 such eligibility shall be reduced by fifty per cent.

1475 Sec. 43. Subsection (a) of section 10-263c of the general statutes is
1476 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1477 (a) The State Board of Education, within available appropriations,
1478 shall administer a transitional school district grant program in
1479 accordance with this section. Subject to the provisions of subsection (b)
1480 of section 10-263d, each school district that does not receive a grant
1481 pursuant to section 10-266p or section 10-276a and is in a town which
1482 ranks one to twenty-one, inclusive, when towns are ranked in
1483 accordance with subdivision (2) or (3) of subsection (a) of said section
1484 10-266p shall be eligible for a transitional school district grant of two
1485 hundred fifty thousand dollars. The local board of education for such
1486 school district shall apply for such grant at such time and in such
1487 manner as the Commissioner of Education prescribes.

1488 Sec. 44. Section 10-262n of the general statutes is repealed and the
1489 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

1490 (a) The Department of Education shall administer, within available
1491 appropriations, a program to assist local and regional school districts
1492 to improve the use of information technology in their schools. Under
1493 the program, the department shall provide grants to local and regional
1494 boards of education and may provide other forms of assistance such as
1495 the provision of purchasing under state-wide contracts with the
1496 Department of Information Technology. Grant funds may be used for:
1497 (1) Wiring and connectivity, (2) the purchase or leasing of computers,
1498 and (3) interactive software and the purchase and installation of
1499 software filters.

1500 (b) Local and regional boards of education shall apply to the
1501 department for grants at such time and in such manner as the
1502 Commissioner of Education prescribes. In order to be eligible for a
1503 grant, a local or regional board of education shall: (1) Have a
1504 technology plan that was developed or updated during the two-year
1505 period preceding the date of application for grant funds and, once the
1506 Commission for Educational Technology develops the long-range plan
1507 required pursuant to subdivision (5) of subsection (c) of section 4d-80,
1508 the local technology plan shall be consistent with such long-range
1509 plan, (2) provide that each school and superintendent's office be able to
1510 communicate with the Department of Education using the Internet, (3)
1511 present evidence that it has applied or will apply for a grant from the
1512 federal Universal Service Fund, and (4) submit a plan for the
1513 expenditure of grant funds in accordance with subsection (c) of this
1514 section.

1515 (c) The plan for the expenditure of grant funds shall: (1) Establish
1516 clear goals and a strategy for using telecommunications and
1517 information technology to improve education, (2) include a
1518 professional development strategy to ensure that teachers know how
1519 to use the new technologies to improve education, (3) include an
1520 assessment of the telecommunication services, hardware, software and
1521 other services that will be needed to improve education, (4) provide for
1522 a sufficient budget to acquire and maintain the hardware, software,

1523 professional development and other services that will be needed to
1524 implement the strategy for improved education, (5) include an
1525 evaluation process that enables the school to monitor progress towards
1526 the specified goals and make adjustments in response to new
1527 developments and opportunities as they arise. The plan developed
1528 pursuant to this subsection shall be submitted to the department with
1529 the grant application.

1530 (d) (1) Each school district shall be eligible to receive a minimum
1531 grant under the program [in the amount of ten thousand dollars and
1532 such] as follows: (A) Each school district in towns ranked from one to
1533 one hundred thirteen, inclusive, when all towns are ranked in
1534 ascending order from one to one hundred sixty-nine based on town
1535 wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f, shall be
1536 eligible to receive a minimum grant in the amount of thirty thousand
1537 dollars, and (B) each school district in towns ranked from one hundred
1538 fourteen to one hundred sixty-nine, inclusive, when all towns are
1539 ranked in ascending order from one to one hundred sixty-nine based
1540 on town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f, shall
1541 be eligible to receive a minimum grant under the program in the
1542 amount of fifteen thousand dollars. Such minimum grant may be
1543 increased for certain school districts pursuant to subdivision (4) of this
1544 subsection. (2) The department shall use (A) one hundred thousand
1545 dollars of the amount appropriated for purposes of this section for the
1546 vocational-technical schools for wiring and other technology initiatives
1547 at such schools, and (B) fifty thousand dollars of the amount
1548 appropriated for purposes of this section for technology grants to state
1549 charter schools. The amount of the grant each state charter school
1550 receives shall be based on the number of students enrolled in the
1551 school. (3) The department may retain up to one per cent of the
1552 amount appropriated for purposes of this section for coordination,
1553 program evaluation and administration. (4) Any remaining
1554 appropriated funds shall be used to increase the grants to (A) priority
1555 school districts pursuant to section 10-266p, (B) transitional school
1556 districts pursuant to section 10-263c, and (C) school districts in towns

1557 ranked from one to eighty-five, inclusive, when all towns are ranked in
1558 ascending order from one to one hundred sixty-nine based on town
1559 wealth, as defined in section 10-262f. Each such school district shall
1560 receive an amount based on the ratio of the number of resident
1561 students, as defined in said section 10-262f, in such school district to
1562 the total number of resident students in all such school districts.

1563 (e) Each school district that participates in an interdistrict magnet
1564 school or in an endowed academy shall provide funds from the grant it
1565 receives pursuant to this section to such interdistrict magnet school or
1566 endowed academy in an amount equal to the per student amount of
1567 such grant multiplied by the number of students from such district
1568 enrolled in the interdistrict magnet school or endowed academy.

1569 (f) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of this section
1570 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available for
1571 expenditure during the next fiscal year.

1572 (g) No funds received pursuant to this section shall be used to
1573 supplant federal, state or local funding to the local or regional board of
1574 education for technology.

1575 (h) Expenditure reports shall be filed with the Department of
1576 Education as requested by the commissioner. School districts shall
1577 refund (1) any unexpended amounts at the close of the program for
1578 which the grant was awarded, and (2) any amounts not expended in
1579 accordance with the approved grant application.

1580 Sec. 45. (a) The appropriation in subsection (a) of section 1 of house
1581 bill 7501 of the current session to the Department of Education, for
1582 Priority School Districts, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, is
1583 decreased from \$83,894,569 to \$82,274,351 and the appropriation in
1584 subsection (a) of section 11 of said house bill 7501 to said department,
1585 for Priority School Districts, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, is
1586 decreased from \$83,242,509 to \$81,622,258.

1587 (b) The appropriation in subsection (a) of section 1 of house bill 7501
1588 of the current session to the Department of Education, for Early
1589 Childhood Programs, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, is
1590 increased from \$2,806,047 to \$2,816,547 and the appropriation in
1591 subsection (a) of section 11 of said house bill 7501 to said department,
1592 for Early Childhood Programs, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003,
1593 is increased from \$2,806,535 to \$2,817,035.

1594 (c) The appropriation in subsection (a) of section 1 of house bill 7501
1595 of the current session to the Department of Education, for Early
1596 Reading Success, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, is increased
1597 from \$705,544 to \$2,235,544 and the appropriation in subsection (a) of
1598 section 11 of said house bill 7501 to said department, for Early Reading
1599 Success, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, is increased from
1600 \$706,461 to \$2,236,461.

1601 (d) The sum of \$79,718 is appropriated to the Department of
1602 Education, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30,
1603 2002, for extended school hours and support programs.

1604 (e) The sum of \$79,751 is appropriated to the Department of
1605 Education, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30,
1606 2003, for extended school hours and support programs.

1607 Sec. 46. (a) Of the amount appropriated in section 1 of house bill
1608 7501 of the current session to the Department of Education, for Priority
1609 School Districts, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002: (1) \$37,419,838
1610 shall be used for the purposes of School Readiness grants pursuant to
1611 section 10-16p of the general statutes; (2) \$18,319,897 shall be used for
1612 the purposes of programs pursuant to section 10-265f of the general
1613 statutes, as amended by this act; (3) \$3,108,991 shall be used for the
1614 purposes of Extended Day School Hour programs pursuant to section
1615 10-266t of the general statutes; (4) \$2,700,000 shall be used for the
1616 purpose of programs pursuant to section 10-265m of the general
1617 statutes, as amended by this act; and (5) \$20,725,625 shall be available
1618 for the purposes of Priority School District grants pursuant to section

1619 10-266p of the general statutes.

1620 (b) Of the amount appropriated in section 11 of house bill 7501 of
1621 the current session to the Department of Education, for Priority School
1622 Districts, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003: (1) \$37,426,317 shall
1623 be used for the purposes of School Readiness grants pursuant to
1624 section 10-16p of the general statutes; (2) \$18,328,147 shall be used for
1625 the purposes of programs pursuant to section 10-265f of the general
1626 statutes, as amended by this act; (3) \$3,110,294 shall be used for the
1627 purposes of Extended Day School Hour programs pursuant to section
1628 10-266t of the general statutes; (4) \$2,700,000 shall be used for the
1629 purposes of programs pursuant to section 10-265m of the general
1630 statutes, as amended by this act; and (5) \$20,057,500 shall be available
1631 for the purposes of Priority School District grants pursuant to section
1632 10-266p of the general statutes.

1633 Sec. 47. Section 73 of house bill 7501 of the current session is
1634 amended to read as follows:

1635 Notwithstanding the provisions of [section] sections 10-263c and 10-
1636 264d of the general statutes, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2002,
1637 and June 30, 2003, the appropriation in sections 1 and 11 of house bill
1638 7501 of the current session, for Transitional School Districts, shall be
1639 divided equally [between] among the transitional school district towns
1640 [that] under said section 10-263c and the former transitional school
1641 district towns that are eligible to receive transitional school district
1642 phase-out grants under said section 10-264d, which towns receive less
1643 than \$250,000 in additional funding in the educational cost sharing
1644 grant due to the phase-out of the cap.

1645 Sec. 48. The funds appropriated to the Department of Education in
1646 subsection (a) of section 47 of house bill 7501 of the current session, for
1647 RESC Based Magnet Schools, shall, on or before October 1, 2001, be
1648 used to provide a supplemental grant to regional educational service
1649 centers operating full time or part-time magnet schools as follows: (1)
1650 The sum of not less than \$600,000 for each such magnet school

1651 operating for the first time during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002,
1652 and initially enrolling more than one hundred full-time equivalent
1653 students; (2) the sum of not less than \$250,000 for each such magnet
1654 school operating under the jurisdiction of a regional educational
1655 service center for the first time or expanded to a new school location
1656 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001; and (3) such sums as the
1657 Commissioner of Education shall otherwise determine for magnet
1658 schools operating during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002.

1659 Sec. 49. The sum of two hundred thousand dollars appropriated to
1660 the Department of Higher Education in subsection (a) of section 1 of
1661 house bill 7501 of the current session, for Education and Health
1662 Initiatives, shall be used as a grant for expansion of the summer
1663 alternative route for certification for teacher program.

1664 Sec. 50. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-262j of the
1665 general statutes, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2002, and June 30,
1666 2003, one-half of any savings realized in such fiscal year from contract
1667 negotiations with the teachers of the city of Waterbury shall be exempt
1668 from the requirements of said section 10-262j provided (1) overall
1669 expenditures are increased from the prior fiscal year, and (2) the
1670 remaining half of any such savings are retained by the Waterbury
1671 Board of Education for expenditure for classroom supplies and other
1672 nonpersonnel education costs.

1673 Sec. 51. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 10-67 to 10-73b,
1674 inclusive, of the general statutes, for the fiscal years ending June 30,
1675 2002, and June 30, 2003, the WACE Technical Training Center in
1676 Waterbury shall be eligible to spend up to \$300,000 of funding received
1677 under the Adult Education Grant pursuant to said sections 10-67 to 10-
1678 73b, inclusive, for technical training.

1679 Sec. 52. The sum of \$200,000 appropriated to the Department of
1680 Information Technology in subsection (a) of section 47 of house bill
1681 7501 of the current session, for CT Technology Initiatives, shall be
1682 transferred to the Department of Education for the purpose of

1683 establishing a competitive grant for local and regional school districts
1684 for basic technology purposes to facilitate communications for the
1685 fiscal year ending June 30, 2002.

1686 Sec. 53. Section 34 of public act 99-1 of the June special session and
1687 subsection (z) of section 47 of house bill 7501 of the current session are
1688 repealed.

1689 Sec. 54. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.