



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Bill No. 1141

LCO No. 3685

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:

SEN. DELUCA, 32nd Dist.

REP. WARD, 86th Dist.

***AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSITIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND
VARIOUS GRANTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 8-265pp of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority shall develop and
4 administer a program of mortgage assistance to certified teachers (1)
5 employed by priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p, (2)
6 employed by [transitional] school districts [pursuant to section 10-
7 263c] that have priority schools, as defined in section 10-16p, as
8 amended by this act, or (3) who teach in a subject matter shortage area
9 pursuant to section 10-8b. Such assistance shall be available to eligible
10 teachers for the purchase of a house as their principal residence,
11 provided, in the case of a teacher employed by a priority [or a
12 transitional school] district, the house is located in such district. In
13 making mortgage assistance available under the program, the
14 authority shall utilize downpayment assistance or any other

15 appropriate housing subsidies. The terms of any mortgage assistance
16 shall allow the mortgagee to realize a reasonable portion of the equity
17 gain upon sale of the mortgaged property.

18 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 17b-749c of the general statutes is
19 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

20 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the
21 Commissioner of Education, shall establish a program, within
22 available appropriations, to provide, on a competitive basis,
23 supplemental quality enhancement grants to providers of child day
24 care services or providers of school readiness programs pursuant to
25 section 10-16p. [and section 10-16u.] Child day care providers and
26 school readiness programs may apply for a supplemental quality
27 enhancement grant at such time and on such form as the
28 Commissioner of Social Services prescribes.

29 Sec. 3. Section 10-16o of the general statutes is repealed and the
30 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

31 The state shall encourage the development of a network of school
32 readiness programs pursuant to sections 10-16p to 10-16r, inclusive,
33 [10-16u] and 17b-749a in order to:

34 (1) Provide open access for children to quality programs that
35 promote the health and safety of children and prepare them for formal
36 schooling;

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

39 (3) Encourage coordination and cooperation among programs and
40 prevent the duplication of services;

41 (4) Recognize the specific service needs and unique resources
42 available to particular municipalities and provide flexibility in the
43 implementation of programs;

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

46 (6) Enhance federally funded school readiness programs;

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

51 (8) Reduce educational costs by decreasing the need for special
52 education services for school age children and to avoid grade
53 repetition;

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

56 (10) Improve the availability and quality of school readiness
57 programs.

58 Sec. 4. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-16p of the general
59 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

60 (a) As used in sections 10-16o to 10-16r, inclusive, [10-16u,] 17b-749a
61 and 17b-749c:

62 (1) "School readiness program" means a nonsectarian program that
63 (A) meets the standards set by the department pursuant to subsection
64 (b) of this section and the requirements of section 10-16q, and (B)
65 provides a developmentally appropriate learning experience of not less
66 than four hundred fifty hours and one hundred eighty days for eligible
67 children, provided, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1998, and June
68 30, 1999, the commissioner may approve programs that provide
69 learning experiences which are for less than said hours and days;

70 (2) "Eligible children" means children three and four years of age
71 and children five years of age who are not eligible to enroll in school

72 pursuant to section 10-15c, or who are eligible to enroll in school and
73 will attend a school readiness program pursuant to section 10-16t;

74 (3) "Priority school" means a school in which forty per cent or more
75 of the lunches served are served to students who are eligible for free or
76 reduced price lunches pursuant to federal law and regulations,
77 excluding such a school located in a priority school district pursuant to
78 section 10-266p or in a former priority school district receiving a grant
79 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section; [and, on and after July 1,
80 2001, excluding such a school in a transitional school district receiving
81 a grant pursuant to section 10-16u;]

82 (4) "Severe need school" means a school in a priority school district
83 pursuant to section 10-266p or in a former priority school district in
84 which forty per cent or more of the lunches served are served to
85 students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches;

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

92 (6) "Approved" means meeting the criteria established by the
93 commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social
94 Services;

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

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

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

98 (b) The Department of Education shall be the lead agency for school
99 readiness. For purposes of this section, [and section 10-16u,] school
100 readiness program providers eligible for funding from the Department

101 of Education shall include local and regional boards of education,
102 regional educational service centers, family resource centers and
103 providers of child day care centers, as defined in section 19a-77, Head
104 Start programs, preschool programs and other programs that meet
105 such standards established by the Commissioner of Education. The
106 department shall establish standards for school readiness programs.
107 The standards may include, but need not be limited to, guidelines for
108 staff-child interactions, curriculum content, lesson plans, parent
109 involvement, staff qualifications and training, and administration. The
110 department shall develop age-appropriate developmental skills and
111 goals for children attending such programs. The commissioner, in
112 consultation with the Commissioners of Higher Education and Social
113 Services and other appropriate entities, shall develop a continuing
114 education training program for the staff of school readiness programs.
115 For purposes of this section, on and after July 1, 2003, "staff
116 qualifications" means there is in each classroom an individual who has
117 at least the following: (1) A credential issued by an organization
118 approved by the Commissioner of Education and nine credits or more
119 in early childhood education or child development from an institution
120 of higher education accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher
121 Education or regionally accredited; (2) an associate's degree in early
122 childhood education or child development from such an institution; or
123 (3) a four-year degree in early childhood education or child
124 development from such an institution.

125 Sec. 5. Section 10-16r of the general statutes is repealed and the
126 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

127 (a) A town seeking to apply for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of
128 section 10-16p [or section 10-16u] shall convene a local school
129 readiness council. Any other town may convene such a council. The
130 chief elected official of the town or, in the case of a regional school
131 district, the chief elected officials of the towns in the school district and
132 the superintendent of schools for the school district shall jointly
133 appoint and convene such council. Each school readiness council shall

134 be composed of: (1) The chief elected official, or the official's designee;
135 (2) the superintendent of schools, or a management level staff person
136 as the superintendent's designee; (3) parents; (4) representatives from
137 local programs such as Head Start, family resource centers, nonprofit
138 and for-profit child day care centers, group day care homes,
139 prekindergarten and nursery schools, and family day care home
140 providers; and (5) other representatives from the community who
141 provide services to children. The chief elected official shall designate
142 the chairperson of the school readiness council.

143 (b) The local school readiness council shall: (1) Make
144 recommendations to the chief elected official and the superintendent of
145 schools on issues relating to school readiness, including any
146 applications for grants pursuant to sections 10-16p, [10-16u,] 17b-749a
147 and 17b-749c; (2) foster partnerships among providers of school
148 readiness programs; (3) assist in the identification of the need for
149 school readiness programs and the number of children not being
150 served by such a program; (4) submit biannual reports to the
151 Department of Education on the number and location of school
152 readiness spaces and estimates of future needs; (5) cooperate with the
153 department in any program evaluation and, on and after July 1, 2000,
154 use measures developed pursuant to section 10-16s for purposes of
155 evaluating the effectiveness of school readiness programs; (6) identify
156 existing and prospective resources and services available to children
157 and families; (7) facilitate the coordination of the delivery of services to
158 children and families, including (A) referral procedures, and (B) before
159 and after-school child care for children attending kindergarten
160 programs; (8) exchange information with other councils, the
161 community and organizations serving the needs of children and
162 families; (9) make recommendations to school officials concerning
163 transition from school readiness programs to kindergarten; and (10)
164 encourage public participation.

165 (c) Two or more towns or school districts and appropriate
166 representatives of groups or entities interested in early childhood

167 education in a region may establish a regional school readiness
168 council. If a priority school is located in at least one of such school
169 districts, the regional school readiness council may apply for a grant
170 pursuant to subsection (d) of section 10-16p. The regional school
171 readiness council may perform the duties outlined in subdivisions (2)
172 to (10), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section.

173 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 10-262h of the general statutes is
174 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

175 (a) Each town maintaining public schools according to law shall be
176 entitled to an equalization aid grant as follows:

177 (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1990, a grant in an amount
178 equal to the sum of (A) the town's base aid and (B) twenty-one and
179 one-half per cent of the difference between the town's target grant and
180 its base aid;

181 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1991, a grant in an amount
182 equal to the sum of (A) the town's base aid and (B) forty-five per cent
183 of the difference between the town's target grant and its base aid;

184 (3) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1992, a grant in an amount
185 equal to the sum of (A) the town's base aid plus seventy-one per cent
186 of the difference between the town's target grant aid and its base aid
187 and (B) for towns whose minimum aid or enhancement aid, whichever
188 is applicable, is more than the amount determined pursuant to
189 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, a percentage, determined
190 pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, of the difference
191 between such minimum aid or enhancement aid, whichever is
192 applicable, and the amount determined pursuant to said subparagraph
193 (A). (C) Such percentage shall be determined as follows: (i) Towns
194 whose minimum aid or enhancement aid, whichever is applicable, is
195 more than the amount determined pursuant to said subparagraph (A)
196 shall be ranked in descending order based on the average of the grant
197 mastery percentage of such town, as defined in subdivision (8) of

198 section 10-262f, for the school year prior to the school year in which the
199 grant is to be paid and the ratio of the number of children in such town
200 under the aid to families with dependent children program, as defined
201 in subdivision (14) of said section, to the resident students of such
202 town, as defined in subdivision (19) of said section, for the school year
203 two years prior to the fiscal year in which the grant is to be paid, (ii)
204 based upon such ranking, a percentage of not more than eighty and
205 not less than thirty-eight and two-tenths shall be determined for each
206 town on a continuous scale, except that the percentage for minimum
207 aid towns shall be twenty-five per cent;

208 (4) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1993, a grant in the amount
209 equal to the sum of (A) the product of the town's aid ratio, the
210 foundation level and the town's total need students for the prior school
211 year, and (B) the town's regional bonus, and (C) for any town whose
212 grant is less than the grant it received in the previous fiscal year, the
213 product of such difference and the sum of such town's grant mastery
214 percentage, as defined in subdivision (8) of section 10-262f, for the
215 school year prior to the school year in which the grant is to be paid and
216 the ratio of the number of children in such town under the aid to
217 families with dependent children program, as defined in subdivision
218 (14) of said section 10-262f, to the resident students of such town, as
219 defined in subdivision (19) of said section 10-262f, for the school year
220 two years prior to the fiscal year in which the grant is to be paid,
221 except such sum shall be adjusted to the greater amount as follows: (i)
222 If such sum is forty or more it shall be multiplied by two, (ii) for towns
223 whose rank when all towns are ranked in ascending order from one to
224 one hundred sixty-nine based on equalized mill rate is greater than
225 eighty-five, such sum shall be fifty and (iii) for towns which received
226 payments pursuant to section 32-9s, during the fiscal year ending June
227 30, 1992, such sum shall be fifty, and (D) provided no town shall
228 receive a grant greater than one hundred four and thirty-five
229 hundredths per cent of its previous year's grant;

230 (5) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 1994, and June 30, 1995, a

231 grant in an amount equal to the sum of (A) the product of the town's
232 aid ratio, the foundation level and the town's total need students for
233 the prior fiscal year, and (B) the town's regional bonus, except that no
234 town shall receive a grant smaller than the grant it received in the
235 previous fiscal year;

236 (6) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, and each fiscal year
237 thereafter, a grant in an amount equal to the sum of (A) the product of
238 a town's base aid ratio, the foundation level and the town's total need
239 students for the fiscal year prior to the year in which the grant is to be
240 paid, (B) the product of a town's supplemental aid ratio, the
241 foundation level and the sum of the portion of its total need students
242 count described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subdivision (25) of
243 section 10-262f for the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the
244 grant is to be paid, and the adjustments to its resident student count
245 described in subdivision (22) of section 10-262f, relative to length of
246 school year and summer school sessions, and (C) the town's regional
247 bonus, except that the amount so determined shall be adjusted in
248 accordance with the following: For the fiscal years ending June 30,
249 1996, June 30, 1997, June 30, 1998, and June 30, 1999, for each town, the
250 maximum percentage increase over its previous year's base revenue
251 shall be the product of five per cent and the ratio of the wealth of the
252 town ranked one hundred fifty-third when all towns are ranked in
253 descending order to each town's wealth, provided no town shall
254 receive an increase greater than five per cent. For the fiscal years
255 ending June 30, 2000, June 30, 2001, June 30, 2002, and June 30, 2003,
256 for each town, the maximum percentage increase over its previous
257 year's base revenue shall be the product of six per cent and the ratio of
258 the wealth of the town ranked one hundred fifty-third when all towns
259 are ranked in descending order to each town's wealth, provided no
260 town shall receive an increase greater than six per cent. No such
261 adjustment shall be made for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004, or
262 any fiscal year thereafter. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, for
263 each town, the maximum percentage reduction from its previous
264 year's base revenue shall be equal to the product of three per cent and

265 the ratio of each town's wealth to the wealth of the town ranked
266 seventeenth when all towns are ranked in descending order, provided
267 no town's grant shall be reduced by more than three per cent. For the
268 fiscal years ending June 30, 1997, June 30, 1998, and June 30, 1999, for
269 each town, the maximum percentage reduction from its previous
270 year's base revenue shall be equal to the product of five per cent and
271 the ratio of each town's wealth to the wealth of the town ranked
272 seventeenth when all towns are ranked in descending order, provided
273 no town's grant shall be reduced by more than five per cent. For the
274 fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, and each fiscal year thereafter, no
275 town's grant shall be less than the grant it received for the prior fiscal
276 year. In addition to the amount determined pursuant to this
277 subdivision, a town shall be eligible for a density supplement if the
278 density of the town is greater than the average density of all towns in
279 the state. The density supplement shall be determined by multiplying
280 the density aid ratio of the town by the foundation level and the town's
281 total need students for the prior fiscal year provided, for the fiscal year
282 ending June 30, 2000, and each fiscal year thereafter, no town's density
283 supplement shall be less than the density supplement such town
284 received for the prior fiscal year. For the fiscal year ending June 30,
285 1997, the grant determined in accordance with this subdivision for a
286 town ranked one to forty-two when all towns are ranked in
287 descending order according to town wealth shall be further reduced by
288 one and two-hundredths of a per cent and such grant for all other
289 towns shall be further reduced by fifty-six-hundredths of a per cent.
290 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, and each fiscal year thereafter,
291 no town whose school district is a priority school district shall receive a
292 grant pursuant to this subdivision in an amount that is less than the
293 amount received under such grant for the prior fiscal year. For the
294 fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, and each fiscal year thereafter, no
295 town whose school district is a priority school district shall receive a
296 grant pursuant to this subdivision that provides an amount of aid per
297 resident student that is less than the amount of aid per resident
298 student provided under the grant received for the prior fiscal year. For

299 the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, and each fiscal year thereafter, no
300 town whose school district is a priority school district shall receive a
301 grant pursuant to this subdivision in an amount that is less than
302 seventy per cent of the sum of (i) the product of a town's base aid ratio,
303 the foundation level and the town's total need students for the fiscal
304 year prior to the year in which the grant is to be paid, (ii) the product
305 of a town's supplemental aid ratio, the foundation level and the sum of
306 the portion of its total need students count described in subparagraphs
307 (B) and (C) of subdivision (25) of section 10-262f for the fiscal year
308 prior to the fiscal year in which the grant is to be paid, and the
309 adjustments to its resident student count described in subdivision (22)
310 of said section 10-262f relative to length of school year and summer
311 school sessions, and (iii) the town's regional bonus; [. For the fiscal year
312 ending June 30, 2000, and each fiscal year thereafter, no town whose
313 school district is a transitional school district shall receive a grant
314 pursuant to this subdivision in an amount that is less than forty per
315 cent of the sum of (I) the product of a town's base aid ratio, the
316 foundation level and the town's total need students for the fiscal year
317 prior to the fiscal year in which the grant is to be paid, (II) the product
318 of a town's supplemental aid ratio, the foundation level and the sum of
319 the portion of its total need students count described in subparagraphs
320 (B) and (C) of subdivision (25) of section 10-262f for the fiscal year
321 prior to the fiscal year in which the grant is to be paid, and the
322 adjustments to its resident student count described in subdivision (22)
323 of said section 10-262f relative to length of school year and summer
324 school sessions, and (III) the town's regional bonus;]

325 (7) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, for towns that used an
326 accrual method of accounting for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1995,
327 the portion of the grant received pursuant to subdivision (6) of this
328 subsection which is considered to be a reimbursement for special
329 education expenses incurred in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1995,
330 shall be equal to the ratio of the amount received for special education
331 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-76g, in the fiscal year ending
332 June 30, 1995, to the sum of such special education amount and the

333 education equalization aid pursuant to this section for the fiscal year
334 ending June 30, 1995. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997, and each
335 fiscal year thereafter, such ratio shall be used to identify the amount of
336 the grant pursuant to this section which is considered to be a
337 reimbursement for special education expenses for the prior fiscal year.

338 Sec. 7. Subsection (d) of section 10-262n of the general statutes is
339 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

340 (d) (1) Each school district shall be eligible to receive a minimum
341 grant under the program in the amount of ten thousand dollars and
342 such minimum grant may be increased for certain school districts
343 pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection. (2) The department shall
344 use (A) one hundred thousand dollars of the amount appropriated for
345 purposes of this section for the vocational-technical schools for wiring
346 and other technology initiatives at such schools, and (B) fifty thousand
347 dollars of the amount appropriated for purposes of this section for
348 technology grants to state charter schools. The amount of the grant
349 each state charter school receives shall be based on the number of
350 students enrolled in the school. (3) The department may retain up to
351 one per cent of the amount appropriated for purposes of this section
352 for coordination, program evaluation and administration. (4) Any
353 remaining appropriated funds shall be used to increase the grants to
354 (A) priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p, [(B)
355 transitional school districts pursuant to section 10-263c, and (C)] and
356 (B) school districts in towns ranked from one to eighty-five, inclusive,
357 when all towns are ranked in ascending order from one to one
358 hundred sixty-nine based on town wealth, as defined in section 10-
359 262f. Each such school district shall receive an amount based on the
360 ratio of the number of resident students, as defined in said section 10-
361 262f, in such school district to the total number of resident students in
362 all such school districts.

363 Sec. 8. Section 10-265j of the general statutes is repealed and the
364 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

365 The Commissioner of Education shall establish two pilot early
366 childhood learning programs. The pilot programs shall be established
367 in priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p. [or transitional
368 school districts.] One program shall be in a municipality with a
369 population of fifty to one hundred thousand, inclusive, and one
370 program shall be in a municipality with a population over one
371 hundred thousand. Each pilot program may include a laboratory
372 school and a model day care program that serves sixty children ages
373 three to five. The Department of Education shall issue a request for
374 proposals for the pilot programs. The commissioner shall provide
375 grants in the amount of one hundred thousand dollars each for
376 purposes of such pilot programs. The grants shall be provided from
377 the amount appropriated for purposes of section 10-265f.

378 Sec. 9. Section 10-266p of the general statutes is repealed and the
379 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

380 (a) The State Board of Education shall administer a priority school
381 district grant program to assist certain school districts to improve
382 student achievement and enhance educational opportunities. The
383 grant program shall be for school districts in (1) the eight towns in the
384 state with the largest population, based on the most recent federal
385 decennial census, (2) towns which rank for the first fiscal year of each
386 biennium from one to eleven when all towns are ranked in descending
387 order from one to one hundred sixty-nine based on the number of
388 children under the temporary family assistance program as defined in
389 subdivision (17) of section 10-262f, plus the mastery count of the town
390 as defined in subdivision (9) of said section, and (3) towns which rank
391 for the first fiscal year of each biennium one to eleven when all towns
392 are ranked in descending order from one to one hundred sixty-nine
393 based on the ratio of the number of children under the temporary
394 family assistance program as so defined to the resident students of
395 such town as defined in subdivision (19) of said section plus the grant
396 mastery percentage of the town as defined in subdivision (8) of said
397 section. The State Board of Education shall utilize the categorical grant

398 program established under this section and sections 10-266q and 10-
399 266r and other educational resources of the state to work cooperatively
400 with such school districts during any school year to improve their
401 educational programs or to provide early childhood education or early
402 reading intervention programs. Subject to the provisions of subsection
403 (c) of section 10-276a, the State Board of Education shall allocate one
404 million dollars to each of the eight towns described in subdivision (1)
405 of this subsection and five hundred thousand dollars to each of the
406 towns described in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection, except
407 the towns described in subdivision (1) shall not receive any additional
408 allocation if they are also described in subdivision (2) or (3).

409 [(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
410 any town which received a grant pursuant to this section for the fiscal
411 year ending June 30, 1999, and which does not qualify for a grant
412 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section for the fiscal year ending June
413 30, 2000, shall receive grants for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2000,
414 June 30, 2001, and June 30, 2002, in amounts determined in accordance
415 with this subsection. (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, in an
416 amount equal to the difference between (A) the amount of the grant
417 such town received pursuant to this section for the fiscal year ending
418 June 30, 1999, and (B) an amount equal to twenty-five per cent of the
419 difference between (i) the amount of the grant such town received
420 pursuant to this section for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, and (ii)
421 the amount of the grants received by transitional school districts
422 pursuant to section 10-263c. (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30,
423 2001, in an amount equal to the difference between (A) the amount of
424 the grant such town received pursuant to this section for the fiscal year
425 ending June 30, 1999, and (B) an amount equal to fifty per cent of the
426 difference between (i) the amount of the grant such town received
427 pursuant to this section for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, and (ii)
428 the amount of the grants received by transitional school districts
429 pursuant to section 10-263c. (3) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002,
430 in an amount equal to the difference between (A) the amount of the
431 grant such town received pursuant to this section for the fiscal year

432 ending June 30, 1999, and (B) an amount equal to seventy-five per cent
433 of the difference between (i) the amount of the grant such town
434 received pursuant to this section for the fiscal year ending June 30,
435 1999, and (ii) the amount of the grants received by transitional school
436 districts pursuant to section 10-263c.]

437 [(c)] (b) In addition to the amount allocated pursuant to subsection
438 (a) of this section, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997, and each
439 fiscal year thereafter, the State Board of Education shall allocate (1)
440 seven hundred fifty thousand dollars to each town which ranks from
441 one to three, inclusive, in population pursuant to subdivision (1) of
442 said subsection (a) and three hundred thirty-four thousand dollars to
443 each town which ranks from four to eight, inclusive, in population
444 pursuant to said subdivision and (2) one hundred eighty thousand
445 dollars to each of the towns described in subdivisions (2) and (3) of
446 said subsection (a), except that the towns described in subdivision (1)
447 of said subsection (a) shall not receive any additional allocation
448 pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection if they are also described
449 in subdivision (2) or (3) of said subsection (a).

450 [(d)] (c) In addition to the amounts allocated pursuant to
451 subsections (a) and (c) of this section, the State Board of Education
452 shall allocate a share, in the same proportion as the total amount
453 allocated pursuant to said subsections, of two million five hundred
454 thousand dollars for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, and three
455 million dollars for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, and each fiscal
456 year thereafter, to each of the towns receiving a grant pursuant to this
457 section.

458 Sec. 10. Section 10-276a of the general statutes is repealed and the
459 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

460 [(a) Commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, if a
461 school district that received a priority school district grant pursuant to
462 subsection (a) of section 10-266p for the prior fiscal year is no longer
463 eligible to receive such a grant, such school district shall receive a

464 priority school district phase-out grant for each of the three fiscal years
465 following the fiscal year such school district received its final priority
466 school district grant. The amount of such phase-out grants shall be
467 determined in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

468 (b) (1) For the first fiscal year following the fiscal year such school
469 district received its final priority school district grant, in an amount
470 equal to the difference between (A) the amount of such final grant, and
471 (B) an amount equal to twenty-five per cent of the difference between
472 (i) the amount of such final grant, and (ii) the amount of the grants
473 received by transitional school districts pursuant to section 10-263c. (2)
474 For the second fiscal year following the fiscal year such school district
475 received its final priority school district grant, in an amount equal to
476 the difference between (A) the amount of such final grant, and (B) an
477 amount equal to fifty per cent of the difference between (i) the amount
478 of such final grant, and (ii) the amount of the grants received by
479 transitional school districts pursuant to section 10-263c. (3) For the
480 third fiscal year following the fiscal year such school district received
481 its final priority school district grant, in an amount equal to the
482 difference between (A) the amount of such final grant, and (B) an
483 amount equal to seventy-five per cent of the difference between (i) the
484 amount of such final grant, and (ii) the amount of the grants received
485 by transitional school districts pursuant to section 10-263c.

486 (c) Commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, if a school
487 district that was not eligible to receive a priority school district grant
488 pursuant to subsection (a) of said section 10-266p, for the prior fiscal
489 year becomes eligible to receive such a grant, the amount of the grant
490 such town receives pursuant to said section for the first year of such
491 eligibility shall be reduced by fifty per cent.]

492 Within available appropriations, all Priority School Districts that
493 were being phased-out during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000,
494 shall continue to receive funding for the fiscal year ending June 30,
495 2002.

496 Sec. 11. Subsection (d) of section 10-292o of the general statutes is
497 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

498 (d) The amount of the regional educational service center lease grant
499 approved by the Commissioner of Education under the provisions of
500 this section shall be [the eligible percentage, as determined in
501 subsection (c) of section 10-285a, times] fifty per cent of the eligible
502 lease costs as determined by the Commissioner of Education. Grants
503 pursuant to this section shall be paid on a current year basis if the
504 regional educational service center files an application to lease a
505 facility with the state Department of Education on or before August
506 first of each year. No such facility or portion thereof shall be eligible
507 for a grant under this section unless the local fire marshal has declared
508 the facility suitable for occupancy as a facility for use in furnishing
509 educational programs and services. Eligible costs pursuant to this
510 section shall be limited to the lease cost of the building, net of any
511 other costs. Grant payments shall be made as follows: Twenty-five per
512 cent of the estimated cost in October, twenty-five per cent of the
513 estimated cost in January, and the balance of the estimated cost in
514 April. The actual cost will be reported on or before September first
515 following the year of application on the end of school year report filed
516 by each regional educational service center. If the Commissioner of
517 Education determines that there has been an underpayment or
518 overpayment in a grant made pursuant to this section, the
519 commissioner shall calculate the amount of the underpayment or
520 overpayment and shall adjust the amount of the grant payment for the
521 fiscal year next following the fiscal year in which such underpayment
522 or overpayment was made. The amount of the adjustment shall be
523 equal to the amount of the underpayment or overpayment. If the
524 amount of the overpayment exceeds the grant payment for the fiscal
525 year next following the fiscal year in which such overpayment was
526 made, the regional educational service center shall, upon the request of
527 the commissioner, pay the department the difference. Any lease
528 pursuant to this section shall be for a period not to exceed twenty
529 years. In no event shall the reimbursement pursuant to this section be

530 based upon a cost per square foot which exceeds the cost determined
531 to be reasonable by the Commissioner of Education. In the case of any
532 grants computed under this section, any federal funds or other state
533 funds received for such costs covered by the grant shall be deducted
534 from cost estimates prior to computation of the grant.

535 Sec. 12. Sections 10-16u, 10-262l, 10-263c and 10-263d of the general
536 statutes are repealed.

537 Sec. 13. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

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