



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

**Amendment**

LCO No. 4238

\*HB0549604238HR0\*

Offered by:

REP. BOUCHER, 143<sup>rd</sup> Dist.

REP. POWERS, 151<sup>st</sup> Dist.

REP. SAWYER, 55<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5496

File No. 361

Cal. No. 229

(As Amended)

**"AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION."**

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

3 "Section 1. Section 10-16o of the general statutes, as amended by  
4 section 10 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is repealed and  
5 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

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

9 (1) Provide open access for children to quality programs that  
10 promote the health and safety of children and prepare them for formal  
11 schooling;

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

14 (3) Encourage coordination and cooperation among programs and  
15 prevent the duplication of services;

16 (4) Recognize the specific service needs and unique resources  
17 available to particular municipalities and provide flexibility in the  
18 implementation of programs;

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

21 (6) Enhance federally funded school readiness programs, including,  
22 but not limited to, early reading first, Head Start, child care, early  
23 education for children with disabilities and any other preschool  
24 program funded under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary  
25 Education Act of 1965;

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

30 (8) Reduce educational costs by decreasing the need for special  
31 education services for school age children and to avoid grade  
32 repetition;

33 (9) Assure that children with disabilities are integrated into  
34 programs available to children who are not disabled and that school  
35 readiness programs are appropriately reimbursed for children eligible  
36 for special education and related services; and

37 (10) Improve the availability and quality of school readiness  
38 programs and their coordination with the services of child care  
39 providers.

40 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as

41 amended by section 48 of public act 01-173 and section 11 of public act  
42 01-1 of the June special session, is repealed and the following is  
43 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

44 (b) The Department of Education shall be the lead agency for school  
45 readiness. For purposes of this section and section 10-16u, school  
46 readiness program providers eligible for funding from the Department  
47 of Education shall include local and regional boards of education,  
48 regional educational service centers, family resource centers and  
49 providers of child day care centers, as defined in section 19a-77, Head  
50 Start programs, preschool programs and other programs that meet  
51 such standards established by the Commissioner of Education. The  
52 department shall establish standards for school readiness programs.  
53 The standards may include, but need not be limited to, guidelines for  
54 staff-child interactions, curriculum content, including preliteracy  
55 development based on scientifically based reading research, lesson  
56 plans, parent involvement, staff qualifications and training, transition  
57 to school and administration. The department shall develop age-  
58 appropriate developmental skills and goals for children attending such  
59 programs. The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioners  
60 of Higher Education, ~~[and]~~ Social Services and Public Health and other  
61 appropriate entities, shall develop a continuing education training  
62 program for the staff of school readiness programs. For purposes of  
63 this section, on and after July 1, 2003, "staff qualifications" means there  
64 is in each classroom an individual who has at least the following: [(1)]  
65 (A) A credential issued by an organization approved by the  
66 Commissioner of Education and [nine] six credits or more, and on and  
67 after July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more, in early childhood education  
68 or child development from an institution of higher education  
69 accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher Education or  
70 regionally accredited; [(2)] (B) an associate's or four-year degree in  
71 early childhood education or child development from such an  
72 institution; [or (3) a] (C) an associate's or four-year degree with six  
73 credits or more, and on and after July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more,  
74 in early childhood education or child development from such an

75 institution; or (D) certification pursuant to section 10-145 with an  
76 endorsement in early childhood education or special education.

77 Sec. 3. Section 10-16q of the general statutes, as amended by section  
78 14 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is repealed and the  
79 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

80 (a) Each school readiness program shall include: (1) A plan for  
81 collaboration with other community programs and services, including  
82 public libraries, and for coordination of resources in order to facilitate  
83 full-day and year-round child care and education programs for  
84 children of working parents and parents in education or training  
85 programs; (2) parent involvement, parenting education and outreach;  
86 (3) (A) record-keeping policies that require documentation of the name  
87 and address of each child's doctor, primary care provider and health  
88 insurance company and information on whether the child is  
89 immunized and has had health screens pursuant to the federal Early  
90 and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program  
91 under 42 USC 1396d, and (B) referrals for health services, including  
92 referrals for appropriate immunizations and screenings; (4) a plan for  
93 the incorporation of appropriate preliteracy practices and teacher  
94 training in such practices based on the report completed by the Early  
95 Reading Success Panel established pursuant to section 10-221j; (5)  
96 nutrition services; (6) referrals to family literacy programs that  
97 incorporate adult basic education and provide for the promotion of  
98 literacy through access to public library services; (7) admission policies  
99 that promote enrollment of children from different racial, ethnic and  
100 economic backgrounds and from other communities; (8) a plan of  
101 transition for participating children from the school readiness program  
102 to kindergarten and provide for the transfer of records from the  
103 program to the kindergarten program; (9) a plan for professional  
104 development for staff, including, but not limited to, training (A) in  
105 preliteracy skills development, and (B) designed to assure respect for  
106 racial and ethnic diversity; (10) a sliding fee scale for families  
107 participating in the program pursuant to section 17b-749d; and (11) an  
108 annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the program. On and after

109 July 1, 2000, school readiness programs shall use the assessment  
110 measures developed pursuant to section 10-16s in conducting their  
111 annual evaluations.

112 (b) The per child cost of the Department of Education school  
113 readiness component of the program offered by a school readiness  
114 provider shall not exceed the foundation, as defined in subdivision (9)  
115 of section 10-262f, as amended. A school readiness provider may  
116 provide child day care services and the cost of such child day care  
117 services shall not be subject to such per child cost limitation.

118 (c) A local or regional board of education may implement a sliding  
119 fee scale for the cost of services provided to children enrolled in a  
120 school readiness program.

121 (d) A school readiness program or a group of school readiness  
122 programs may apply for a federal early reading first competitive grant  
123 in accordance with provisions set forth in the No Child Left Behind  
124 Act, P.L. 107-110.

125 (e) The Department of Education may apply for federal dollars to  
126 create, in collaboration with appropriate New England nonprofit and  
127 public agencies, a New England center for teacher training in literacy.  
128 The center will train new and continuing teachers, preschool through  
129 elementary school, in instruction methods consistent with research  
130 based reading instruction.

131 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-16r of the general statutes, as  
132 amended by section 14 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is  
133 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
134 *1, 2002*):

135 (a) A town seeking to apply for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of  
136 section 10-16p, as amended by this act, or section 10-16u shall convene  
137 a local school readiness council or shall establish a regional school  
138 readiness council pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. Any other  
139 town may convene such a council. The chief elected official of the town

140 or, in the case of a regional school district, the chief elected officials of  
141 the towns in the school district and the superintendent of schools for  
142 the school district shall jointly appoint and convene such council. Each  
143 school readiness council shall be composed of: (1) The chief elected  
144 official, or the official's designee; (2) the superintendent of schools, or a  
145 management level staff person as the superintendent's designee; (3)  
146 parents; (4) representatives from local programs such as Head Start,  
147 family resource centers, nonprofit and for-profit child day care centers,  
148 group day care homes, prekindergarten and nursery schools, and  
149 family day care home providers; and (5) other representatives from the  
150 community who provide services to children or the community  
151 including, but not limited to, librarians, child health experts and  
152 business leaders. The chief elected official shall designate the  
153 chairperson of the school readiness council.

154 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) On or before October 1, 2002, the  
155 presidents of institutions of higher education that provide teacher  
156 education programs, or their designees, shall summarize and report to  
157 the Commissioners of Education and Higher Education on the changes  
158 made in the curricula of each such program to implement the  
159 recommendations set forth in the report of the Early Reading Success  
160 Panel pursuant to section 10-221j of the general statutes. On or before  
161 February 1, 2003, said commissioners shall report, in accordance with  
162 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint  
163 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
164 matters relating to education on such curricula changes.

165 Sec. 6. Subsection (g) of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as  
166 amended by section 13 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is  
167 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
168 *passage*):

169 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, no funds received by  
170 a town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-  
171 16u shall be used to supplant federal, state or local funding received by  
172 such town for early childhood education, provided (1) a town may use

173 the greater of (A) twenty-five thousand dollars, or (B) up to five per  
174 cent but no more than fifty thousand dollars of the amount [received]  
175 allocated pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-  
176 16u for coordination, program evaluation and administration, and (2)  
177 if a town provides twenty-five thousand dollars in local funding for  
178 early childhood education coordination, program evaluation and  
179 administration, such town may use up to ten per cent but no more  
180 than seventy-five thousand dollars of such amount for coordination,  
181 program evaluation and administration. Each town that receives a  
182 grant pursuant to said subsection (c) or (d) or section 10-16u shall  
183 designate a person to be responsible for such coordination, program  
184 evaluation and administration and to act as a liaison between the town  
185 and the Departments of Education and Social Services. Each school  
186 readiness program that receives funds pursuant to this section or  
187 section 10-16u shall provide information to the department or the  
188 school readiness council, as requested, that is necessary for purposes of  
189 any school readiness program evaluation.

190 Sec. 7. Subsection (e) of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as  
191 amended by section 12 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is  
192 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
193 *1, 2002*):

194 (e) (1) Ninety-three per cent of the amount appropriated for  
195 purposes of this section shall be used for the grant program pursuant  
196 to subsection (c) of this section. Priority school districts and former  
197 priority school districts shall receive grants based on their proportional  
198 share of the sum of the products obtained by multiplying the average  
199 number of enrolled kindergarten students in each priority school  
200 district and in each former priority school district for the three years  
201 prior to the year the grant is to be paid, by the ratio of the average  
202 percentage of free and reduced price meals for all severe need schools  
203 in such district to the minimum percentage requirement for severe  
204 need school eligibility, provided no such school district shall receive a  
205 grant that is less than the grant it received for the prior fiscal year or a  
206 grant that is less than one hundred fifty thousand dollars.

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

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

213 (4) If a town that is eligible for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of  
214 this section does not submit, by January first, a plan which is  
215 subsequently approved for the expenditure of the entire amount of  
216 funds for which such town is eligible, the department may use [up to  
217 fifty per cent of] any amounts such town has not earmarked for  
218 expenditure to (1) provide supplemental grants to other towns that are  
219 eligible for grants pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, or (2)  
220 enhance the system of professional development for pre-school  
221 educators in programs receiving funds pursuant to this section.

222 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) The Department of Education  
223 shall oversee the 21<sup>st</sup> century community learning centers, as provided  
224 for in the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110.

225 Sec. 9. Subsection (e) of section 10-265f of the general statutes, as  
226 amended by section 21 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is  
227 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
228 *1, 2002*):

229 (e) (1) The pilot programs established pursuant to section 10-265j, as  
230 amended, shall be funded from the amount appropriated for purposes  
231 of this section. The department shall use ninety per cent of the  
232 remaining funds appropriated for purposes of this section for grants to  
233 priority school districts. Priority school districts shall receive grants  
234 based on their proportional share of the sum of the products obtained  
235 by multiplying the number of enrolled kindergarten students in each  
236 priority school district for the year prior to the year the grant is to be  
237 paid, by the ratio of the average percentage of free and reduced price  
238 meals for all severe need schools in such district to the minimum

239 percentage requirement for severe need school eligibility. (2) The  
 240 department shall use nine per cent of such remaining funds for  
 241 competitive grants to school districts in which a priority elementary  
 242 school is located. In awarding grants to school districts in which  
 243 priority elementary schools are located, the department shall consider  
 244 the town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f, of  
 245 the town in which the school district is located, or in the case of  
 246 regional school districts, the towns which comprise the regional school  
 247 district. Grants received by school districts in which priority  
 248 elementary schools are located shall not exceed one hundred thousand  
 249 dollars and shall be used for the appropriate purpose at the priority  
 250 elementary school. (3) The department may retain up to one per cent of  
 251 such remaining funds for coordination, program evaluation and  
 252 administration. (4) The district shall use grant funds to provide  
 253 professional training for teachers and principals in reading instruction  
 254 required pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, as amended, at  
 255 reading institutes approved by the Commissioner of Education in an  
 256 amount sufficient to implement its approved program."

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2002</i>