



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

Amendment

LCO No. 4276

HB0549604276HD0

Offered by:

REP. STAPLES, 96th Dist.

SEN. GAFFEY, 13th Dist.

REP. MERRILL, 54th Dist.

REP. KERENSKY, 14th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5496

File No. 361

Cal. No. 229

"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4 section 10 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is repealed and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 (a) of section 10-16p of the general statutes is

41 amended by adding subdivision (10) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

42 (NEW) (10) "Credential" means a Child Development Associate
43 issued by the Council for Professional Recognition, or an American
44 Montessori Instructor for children aged three to six years, issued by the
45 American Montessori Association, or otherwise meeting such criteria
46 as may be established by the Commissioner of Education, in
47 consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services.

48 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as
49 amended by section 48 of public act 01-173 and section 11 of public act
50 01-1 of the June special session, is repealed and the following is
51 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

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

74 approved by the Commissioner of Education and ~~[nine]~~ six credits or
75 more, and on and after July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more, in early
76 childhood education or child development from an institution of
77 higher education accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher
78 Education or regionally accredited; ~~[(2)]~~ (B) an associate's or four-year
79 degree in early childhood education or child development from such
80 an institution; [or (3) a] (C) an associate's or four-year degree with six
81 credits or more, and on and after July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more,
82 in early childhood education or child development from such an
83 institution; or (D) certification pursuant to section 10-145 with an
84 endorsement in early childhood education or special education.

85 (2) Credentialed staff shall be in classrooms from nine o'clock a.m.
86 to five o'clock p.m. at each full-time program. Not later than January 1,
87 2003, trained staff shall be present in the absence of credentialed staff
88 during full-time program hours earlier than nine o'clock a.m. and later
89 than five o'clock p.m. For purposes of this subsection, "trained staff"
90 means an individual who has completed a minimum of fifteen hours
91 training per year which meets criteria established by the local school
92 readiness council.

93 Sec. 4. Section 10-16q of the general statutes, as amended by section
94 14 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is repealed and the
95 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

96 (a) Each school readiness program shall include: (1) A plan for
97 collaboration with other community programs and services, including
98 public libraries, and for coordination of resources in order to facilitate
99 full-day and year-round child care and education programs for
100 children of working parents and parents in education or training
101 programs; (2) parent involvement, parenting education and outreach;
102 (3) (A) record-keeping policies that require documentation of the name
103 and address of each child's doctor, primary care provider and health
104 insurance company and information on whether the child is
105 immunized and has had health screens pursuant to the federal Early
106 and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program

107 under 42 USC 1396d, and (B) referrals for health services, including
108 referrals for appropriate immunizations and screenings; (4) a plan for
109 the incorporation of appropriate preliteracy practices and teacher
110 training in such practices based on the report completed by the Early
111 Reading Success Panel established pursuant to section 10-221j; (5)
112 nutrition services; (6) referrals to family literacy programs that
113 incorporate adult basic education and provide for the promotion of
114 literacy through access to public library services; (7) admission policies
115 that promote enrollment of children from different racial, ethnic and
116 economic backgrounds and from other communities; (8) a plan of
117 transition for participating children from the school readiness program
118 to kindergarten and provide for the transfer of records from the
119 program to the kindergarten program; (9) a plan for professional
120 development for staff, including, but not limited to, training (A) in
121 preliteracy skills development, and (B) designed to assure respect for
122 racial and ethnic diversity; (10) a sliding fee scale for families
123 participating in the program pursuant to section 17b-749d; and (11) an
124 annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the program. On and after
125 July 1, 2000, school readiness programs shall use the assessment
126 measures developed pursuant to section 10-16s in conducting their
127 annual evaluations.

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

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

137 (d) A school readiness program or a group of school readiness
138 programs may apply for a federal early reading first competitive grant
139 in accordance with provisions set forth in the No Child Left Behind

140 Act, P.L. 107-110.

141 (e) The Department of Education may apply for federal dollars to
142 create, in collaboration with appropriate New England nonprofit and
143 public agencies, a New England center for teacher training in literacy.
144 The center will train new and continuing teachers, preschool through
145 elementary school, in instruction methods consistent with research
146 based reading instruction.

147 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 10-16r of the general statutes, as
148 amended by section 14 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is
149 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
150 *1, 2002*):

151 (a) A town seeking to apply for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of
152 section 10-16p, as amended by this act, or section 10-16u shall convene
153 a local school readiness council or shall establish a regional school
154 readiness council pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. Any other
155 town may convene such a council. The chief elected official of the town
156 or, in the case of a regional school district, the chief elected officials of
157 the towns in the school district and the superintendent of schools for
158 the school district shall jointly appoint and convene such council. Each
159 school readiness council shall be composed of: (1) The chief elected
160 official, or the official's designee; (2) the superintendent of schools, or a
161 management level staff person as the superintendent's designee; (3)
162 parents; (4) representatives from local programs such as Head Start,
163 family resource centers, nonprofit and for-profit child day care centers,
164 group day care homes, prekindergarten and nursery schools, and
165 family day care home providers; and (5) other representatives from the
166 community who provide services to children or the community
167 including, but not limited to, librarians, child health experts and
168 business leaders. The chief elected official shall designate the
169 chairperson of the school readiness council.

170 Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) On or before October 1, 2002, the
171 presidents of institutions of higher education that provide teacher

172 education programs, or their designees, shall summarize and report to
173 the Commissioners of Education and Higher Education on the changes
174 made in the curricula of each such program to implement the
175 recommendations set forth in the report of the Early Reading Success
176 Panel pursuant to section 10-221j of the general statutes. On or before
177 February 1, 2003, said commissioners shall report, in accordance with
178 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
179 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
180 matters relating to education on such curricula changes.

181 Sec. 7. Subsection (g) of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as
182 amended by section 13 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is
183 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
184 *passage*):

185 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, no funds received by
186 a town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-
187 16u shall be used to supplant federal, state or local funding received by
188 such town for early childhood education, provided (1) a town may use
189 the greater of (A) twenty-five thousand dollars, or (B) up to five per
190 cent but no more than fifty thousand dollars of the amount [received]
191 allocated pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-
192 16u for coordination, program evaluation and administration, and (2)
193 if a town provides twenty-five thousand dollars in local funding for
194 early childhood education coordination, program evaluation and
195 administration, such town may use up to ten per cent but no more
196 than seventy-five thousand dollars of such amount for coordination,
197 program evaluation and administration. Each town that receives a
198 grant pursuant to said subsection (c) or (d) or section 10-16u shall
199 designate a person to be responsible for such coordination, program
200 evaluation and administration and to act as a liaison between the town
201 and the Departments of Education and Social Services. Each school
202 readiness program that receives funds pursuant to this section or
203 section 10-16u shall provide information to the department or the
204 school readiness council, as requested, that is necessary for purposes of
205 any school readiness program evaluation.

206 Sec. 8. Subsection (e) of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as
207 amended by section 12 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is
208 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
209 *1, 2002*):

210 (e) (1) Ninety-three per cent of the amount appropriated for
211 purposes of this section shall be used for the grant program pursuant
212 to subsection (c) of this section. Priority school districts and former
213 priority school districts shall receive grants based on their proportional
214 share of the sum of the products obtained by multiplying the average
215 number of enrolled kindergarten students in each priority school
216 district and in each former priority school district for the three years
217 prior to the year the grant is to be paid, by the ratio of the average
218 percentage of free and reduced price meals for all severe need schools
219 in such district to the minimum percentage requirement for severe
220 need school eligibility, provided no such school district shall receive a
221 grant that is less than the grant it received for the prior fiscal year or a
222 grant that is less than one hundred fifty thousand dollars.

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

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

229 (4) If a town that is eligible for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of
230 this section does not submit, by January first, a plan which is
231 subsequently approved for the expenditure of the entire amount of
232 funds for which such town is eligible, the department may use [up to
233 fifty per cent of] any amounts such town has not earmarked for
234 expenditure to (1) provide supplemental grants to other towns that are
235 eligible for grants pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, or (2)
236 enhance the system of professional development for pre-school
237 educators in programs receiving funds pursuant to this section.

238 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) The Department of Education
239 shall oversee the 21st century community learning centers, as provided
240 for in the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110.

241 Sec. 10. Subsection (e) of section 10-265f of the general statutes, as
242 amended by section 21 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is
243 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
244 *1, 2002*):

245 (e) (1) The pilot programs established pursuant to section 10-265j, as
246 amended, shall be funded from the amount appropriated for purposes
247 of this section. The department shall use ninety per cent of the
248 remaining funds appropriated for purposes of this section for grants to
249 priority school districts. Priority school districts shall receive grants
250 based on their proportional share of the sum of the products obtained
251 by multiplying the number of enrolled kindergarten students in each
252 priority school district for the year prior to the year the grant is to be
253 paid, by the ratio of the average percentage of free and reduced price
254 meals for all severe need schools in such district to the minimum
255 percentage requirement for severe need school eligibility. (2) The
256 department shall use nine per cent of such remaining funds for
257 competitive grants to school districts in which a priority elementary
258 school is located. In awarding grants to school districts in which
259 priority elementary schools are located, the department shall consider
260 the town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f, of
261 the town in which the school district is located, or in the case of
262 regional school districts, the towns which comprise the regional school
263 district. Grants received by school districts in which priority
264 elementary schools are located shall not exceed one hundred thousand
265 dollars and shall be used for the appropriate purpose at the priority
266 elementary school. (3) The department may retain up to one per cent of
267 such remaining funds for coordination, program evaluation and
268 administration. (4) The district shall use grant funds to provide
269 professional training for teachers and principals in reading instruction
270 required pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, as amended, at
271 reading institutes approved by the Commissioner of Education in an

272 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>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2002</i>