



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Raised Bill No. 1141

LCO No. 4408

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL READINESS AND PRIORITY SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 10-16p of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2003*):

4 (c) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
5 Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a grant program to
6 provide spaces in accredited or approved school readiness programs
7 for eligible children who reside in priority school districts pursuant to
8 section 10-266p or in former priority school districts as provided in this
9 subsection. Not later than July 1, 2008, the grant program shall provide
10 for spaces in accredited or approved school readiness programs for all
11 eligible children who reside in priority school districts pursuant to
12 section 10-266p or in former priority school districts as provided in this
13 subsection. Under the program, the grant shall be provided, in
14 accordance with this section, to the town in which such priority school
15 district or former priority school district is located. Eligibility shall be
16 determined for a five-year period based on an applicant's designation

17 as a priority school district for the initial year of application, except
18 that if a school district that receives a grant pursuant to this subsection
19 is no longer designated as a priority school district at the end of such
20 five-year period, such former priority school district shall continue to
21 be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to this subsection. Grant awards
22 shall be made annually contingent upon available funding and a
23 satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town
24 and the superintendent of schools for such priority school district or
25 former priority school district shall submit a plan for the expenditure
26 of grant funds and responses to the local request for proposal process
27 to the Departments of Education and Social Services. The departments
28 shall jointly review such plans and shall each approve the portion of
29 such plan within its jurisdiction for funding. The plan shall: (1) Be
30 developed in consultation with the local or regional school readiness
31 council established pursuant to section 10-16r; (2) be based on a needs
32 and resource assessment; (3) provide for the issuance of requests for
33 proposals for providers of accredited or approved school readiness
34 programs, provided, after the initial requests for proposals, facilities
35 that have been approved to operate a child care program financed
36 through the Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority
37 and have received a commitment for debt service from the Department
38 of Social Services pursuant to section 17b-749i, are exempt from the
39 requirement for issuance of annual requests for proposals; [and] (4)
40 identify the need for funding pursuant to section 17b-749a in order to
41 extend the hours and days of operation of school readiness programs
42 in order to provide child day care services for children attending such
43 programs; and (5) for plans submitted for the fiscal year ending June
44 30, 2009, and annually thereafter, include provisions allowing for
45 participation of all eligible children who reside in priority school
46 districts pursuant to section 10-266p or in former priority school
47 districts as provided in this subsection.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	July 1, 2003

Statement of Purpose:

To provide school readiness spaces for all eligible children residing in priority school districts and former priority school districts.

[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.]