



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE FEDERAL NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT
AND TEACHER CERTIFICATION.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-14n of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

3 (a) (1) Each student enrolled in the fourth grade in any public school
4 shall annually take a state-wide mastery examination. For purposes of
5 this section, a state-wide mastery examination is defined as an
6 examination which measures whether or not a student has mastered
7 essential grade-level skills in reading, language arts and mathematics.
8 The mastery examination shall be provided by and administered
9 under the supervision of the State Board of Education.

10 [(b)] (2) Each student enrolled in the sixth grade and each student
11 enrolled in the eighth grade in any public school shall annually take a
12 state-wide mastery examination. Such mastery examination shall be
13 provided by and administered under the supervision of the State
14 Board of Education.

15 [(c)] (3) Annually each student enrolled in the tenth grade in any
16 public school or any endowed or incorporated high school or academy
17 approved by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-34
18 shall take a state-wide mastery examination. Such mastery
19 examination shall be provided by and administered under the

20 supervision of the State Board of Education.

21 (b) Beginning in the 2005-2006 school year, the state-wide mastery
22 examinations pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be
23 administered in April.

24 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this
25 section, in conformance with the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-
26 110, and with implementation conditioned on the receipt of sufficient
27 federal funds, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, the
28 state-wide mastery examinations pursuant to this section shall be
29 administered as follows:

30 (1) Beginning in the 2005-2006 school year, each student enrolled in
31 grades three to eight, inclusive, and ten in any public school shall,
32 annually, in April, take a state-wide mastery examination that
33 measures the essential and grade-appropriate skills in reading, writing
34 and mathematics; and

35 (2) Beginning in the 2007-2008 school year, each student enrolled in
36 grades five, eight and ten in any public school shall, annually, in April,
37 take a state-wide mastery examination in science.

38 (d) Mastery examinations pursuant to subsection (c) of this section
39 shall be provided by and administered under the supervision of the
40 State Board of Education.

41 [(d)] (e) If a student meets or exceeds the state-wide mastery goal
42 level on each component of the state-wide tenth grade mastery
43 examination, certification of such mastery shall be made on the
44 permanent record and the transcript of each such student. Each
45 student who fails to meet the mastery goal level on each component of
46 said mastery examination may annually take or retake each such
47 component at its regular administration until such student scores at or
48 above each such state-wide mastery goal level or such student
49 graduates or reaches age twenty-one.

50 [(e)] (f) No such public school or endowed or incorporated high
51 school or academy may require achievement of a satisfactory score on
52 the state-wide mastery examination, or any subsequent retest on a
53 component of such examination as the sole criterion of promotion or
54 graduation.

55 Sec. 2. Subsection (e) of section 10-266aa of the general statutes is
56 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
57 *1, 2003*):

58 (e) Once the program is in operation in the region served by a
59 regional educational service center pursuant to subsection (c) of this
60 section, the Department of Education shall provide an annual grant to
61 such a regional educational service center to assist school districts in its
62 area in administering the program and to provide staff to assist
63 students participating in the program to make the transition to a new
64 school and to act as a liaison between the parents of such students and
65 the new school district. Each regional educational service center shall
66 determine which school districts in its area are located close enough to
67 a priority school district to make participation in the program feasible
68 in terms of student transportation pursuant to subsection [(e)] (f) of
69 this section, provided any student participating in the program prior to
70 July 1, 1999, shall be allowed to continue to attend the same school
71 such student attended prior to said date in the receiving district until
72 the student completes the highest grade in such school. Each regional
73 educational service center shall convene, annually, a meeting of
74 representatives of such school districts in order for such school
75 districts to report, by March thirty-first, the number of spaces available
76 for the following school year for out-of-district students under the
77 program. Annually, each regional educational service center shall
78 provide a count of such spaces to the Department of Education by
79 April fifteenth. If there are more students who seek to attend school in
80 a receiving district than there are spaces available, the regional
81 educational service center shall assist the school district in determining
82 attendance by the use of a lottery or lotteries designed to preserve or
83 increase racial, ethnic and economic diversity, except that the regional

84 educational service center shall give preference to siblings and to
85 students who would otherwise attend a school [that has lost its
86 accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and
87 Colleges] identified as in need of improvement pursuant to the No
88 Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110. The admission policies shall be
89 consistent with section 10-15c and this section. No receiving district
90 shall recruit students under the program for athletic or extracurricular
91 purposes. Each receiving district shall allow out-of-district students it
92 accepts to attend school in the district until they graduate from high
93 school.

94 Sec. 3. Section 10-145d of the general statutes is amended by adding
95 subsections (f) and (g) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

96 (NEW) (f) An endorsement to teach elementary education shall be
97 valid for grades kindergarten to six, inclusive, and an endorsement to
98 teach comprehensive special education shall be valid for grades
99 kindergarten to twelve, inclusive.

100 (NEW) (g) For the purposes of issuance of certificates, permits and
101 authorizations by the State Board of Education under the provisions of
102 sections 10-144o to 10-149, inclusive, as amended by this act, teaching
103 experience in approved nonpublic schools shall include teaching
104 experience in birth-to-three programs approved by the Department of
105 Mental Retardation.

106 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-145d of the general statutes is
107 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
108 *1, 2003*):

109 (a) The State Board of Education shall, pursuant to chapter 54, adopt
110 such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of
111 sections 10-144o, 10-145a to 10-145d, inclusive, 10-145f and 10-146b.
112 Such regulations shall provide for (1) the establishment of an appeal
113 panel to review any decision to deny the issuance of a certificate
114 authorized under said section 10-145b; (2) the establishment of
115 requirements for subject area endorsements; (3) the extension of the

116 time to complete requirements for certificates under said section 10-
117 145b; (4) the establishment of requirements for administrator and
118 supervisor certificates; (5) the composition of, and the procedures to be
119 utilized by, the assessment teams in implementing the beginning
120 educator program; (6) procedures and criteria for issuing certificates to
121 persons whose certificates have lapsed or persons with non-public-
122 school or out-of-state teaching experience; (7) the criteria for defining a
123 major course of study; (8) a requirement that on and after July 1, 1993,
124 in order to be eligible to obtain an initial educator certificate with an
125 elementary endorsement, each person be required to complete a
126 survey course in United States history comprised of not fewer than
127 three semester hours; and (9) a requirement that on and after July 1,
128 [2003] 2004, in order to be eligible to obtain an initial educator
129 certificate with an early childhood nursery through grade three or an
130 elementary endorsement, each person be required to complete a
131 comprehensive reading instruction course comprised of not less than
132 six semester hours. Such regulations may provide for exceptions to
133 accommodate specific certification endorsement areas.

134 Sec. 5. Section 10-145i of the general statutes is repealed and the
135 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

136 Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 10-144o to 10-146b,
137 inclusive, and 10-149, the State Board of Education shall not issue or
138 reissue any certificate, authorization or permit pursuant to said
139 sections if (1) the applicant for such certificate, authorization or permit
140 has been convicted of any of the following: (A) A capital felony, as
141 defined in section 53a-54b; (B) arson murder, as defined in section 53a-
142 54d; (C) any Class A felony; (D) any Class B felony except a violation
143 of section 53a-122, 53a-252 or 53a-291; (E) a crime involving an act of
144 child abuse or neglect as described in section 46b-120; or (F) a violation
145 of section 53-21, 53-37a, 53a-60b, 53a-60c, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b, 53a-
146 73a, 53a-88, 53a-99, 53a-103a, 53a-181c, 53a-191, 53a-196, 53a-196c, 53a-
147 216, 53a-217b or 21a-278 or a violation of subsection (a) of section 21a-
148 277, and (2) the applicant completed serving the sentence for such
149 conviction within the five years immediately preceding the date of the

150 application.

151 Sec. 6. Section 17a-101c of the general statutes is repealed and the
152 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

153 Within forty-eight hours of making an oral report, a mandated
154 reporter shall submit a written report to the Commissioner of Children
155 and Families or his representative. When a mandated reporter is a
156 member of the staff of a public or private institution or facility that
157 provides care for such child or public or private school he shall also
158 submit a copy of the written report to the person in charge of such
159 institution, school or facility or the person's designee. In the case of a
160 report concerning a [certified] school employee holding a certificate,
161 authorization or permit issued by the State Board of Education under
162 the provisions of sections 10-144o to 10-146b, inclusive, as amended by
163 this act, and 10-149, a copy of the written report shall also be sent by
164 the person in charge of such institution, school or facility to the
165 Commissioner of Education or his representative. In the case of an
166 employee of a facility or institution that provides care for a child which
167 is licensed by the state, a copy of the written report shall also be sent
168 by the mandated reporter to the executive head of the state licensing
169 agency.

170 Sec. 7. Subsection (b) of section 17a-101i of the general statutes is
171 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
172 *1, 2003*):

173 (b) After an investigation has been completed and the
174 Commissioner of Children and Families, based upon the results of the
175 investigation, has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been
176 abused by a staff member of a public or private institution or facility
177 providing care for children or private school, the commissioner shall
178 notify the executive director of such institution, school or facility and
179 shall provide records, whether or not created by the department
180 concerning such investigation to such executive director. Such
181 institution, school or facility may suspend such staff person. Such

182 suspension shall be with pay and shall not result in diminution or
 183 termination of benefits to such employee. Such suspension shall
 184 remain in effect until the incident of abuse has been satisfactorily
 185 resolved by the employer of the staff person. If such staff member has
 186 a professional license or [certification] certificate issued by the state or
 187 a permit or authorization issued by the State Board of Education, the
 188 commissioner shall forthwith notify the state agency responsible for
 189 issuing such license, [or certification of] certificate, permit or
 190 authorization to the staff member and provide records, whether or not
 191 created by the department, concerning such investigation.

192 Sec. 8. (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the adoption of
 193 sections 10-145d-620 to 10-145d-805, inclusive, of the regulations of
 194 Connecticut state agencies, the Department of Education shall operate
 195 under the teacher certification regulations under section 10-145d of the
 196 general statutes, as amended by this act, in effect on the effective date
 197 of this section during the period from the effective date of this section
 198 to January 1, 2005.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*