



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Amendment

LCO No. 6314

SB0089306314SD0

Offered by:

SEN. GAFFEY, 13th Dist.

SEN. HARTLEY, 15th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 893

File No. 78

Cal. No. 89

"AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION."

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

3 "Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 10-16p of the general statutes is
4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
5 *1, 2003*):

6 (b) The Department of Education shall be the lead agency for school
7 readiness. For purposes of this section and section 10-16u, school
8 readiness program providers eligible for funding from the Department
9 of Education shall include local and regional boards of education,
10 regional educational service centers, family resource centers and
11 providers of child day care centers, as defined in section 19a-77, Head
12 Start programs, preschool programs and other programs that meet
13 such standards established by the Commissioner of Education. The
14 department shall establish standards for school readiness programs.

15 The standards may include, but need not be limited to, guidelines for
16 staff-child interactions, curriculum content, including preliteracy
17 development, lesson plans, parent involvement, staff qualifications
18 and training, transition to school and administration. The department
19 shall develop age-appropriate developmental skills and goals for
20 children attending such programs. The commissioner, in consultation
21 with the Commissioners of Higher Education, [and] Social Services
22 and Public Health and other appropriate entities, shall develop a
23 continuing education training program for the staff of school readiness
24 programs. For purposes of this section, on and after July 1, [2003] 2004,
25 "staff qualifications" means there is in each classroom an individual
26 who has at least the following: (1) A credential issued by an
27 organization approved by the Commissioner of Education and nine
28 credits or more, and on and after July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more,
29 in early childhood education or child development from an institution
30 of higher education accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher
31 Education or regionally accredited; (2) an associate's degree with nine
32 credits or more, and after July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more in early
33 childhood education or child development from such an institution;
34 [or] (3) a four-year degree with nine credits or more, and on and after
35 July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more, in early childhood education or
36 child development from such an institution; or (4) certification
37 pursuant to section 10-145 with an endorsement in early childhood
38 education or special education.

39 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-16q of the general statutes is
40 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
41 *1, 2003*):

42 (a) Each school readiness program shall include: (1) A plan for
43 collaboration with other community programs and services, including
44 public libraries, and for coordination of resources in order to facilitate
45 full-day and year-round child care and education programs for
46 children of working parents and parents in education or training
47 programs; (2) parent involvement, parenting education and outreach;
48 (3) (A) record-keeping policies that require documentation of the name

49 and address of each child's doctor, primary care provider and health
50 insurance company and information on whether the child is
51 immunized and has had health screens pursuant to the federal Early
52 and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program
53 under 42 USC 1396d, and (B) referrals for health services, including
54 referrals for appropriate immunizations and screenings; (4) a plan for
55 the incorporation of appropriate preliteracy practices and teacher
56 training in such practices based on the report completed by the Early
57 Reading Success Panel established pursuant to section 10-221j or other
58 practices, as determined by the Commissioner of Education; (5)
59 nutrition services; (6) referrals to family literacy programs that
60 incorporate adult basic education and provide for the promotion of
61 literacy through access to public library services; (7) admission policies
62 that promote enrollment of children from different racial, ethnic and
63 economic backgrounds and from other communities; (8) a plan of
64 transition for participating children from the school readiness program
65 to kindergarten and provide for the transfer of records from the
66 program to the kindergarten program; (9) a plan for professional
67 development for staff, including, but not limited to, training (A) in
68 preliteracy skills development, and (B) designed to assure respect for
69 racial and ethnic diversity; (10) a sliding fee scale for families
70 participating in the program pursuant to section 17b-749d; and (11) an
71 annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the program. On and after
72 July 1, 2000, school readiness programs shall use the assessment
73 measures developed pursuant to section 10-16s in conducting their
74 annual evaluations.

75 Sec. 3. Subsection (g) of section 10-16p of the general statutes is
76 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
77 *passage*):

78 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, no funds received by
79 a town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-
80 16u shall be used to supplant federal, state or local funding received by
81 such town for early childhood education, provided (1) a town may use
82 the greater of (A) twenty-five thousand dollars, or (B) up to five per

83 cent but no more than fifty thousand dollars of the amount [received]
84 allocated pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-
85 16u for coordination, program evaluation and administration, and (2)
86 if a town provides twenty-five thousand dollars in local funding for
87 early childhood education coordination, program evaluation and
88 administration, such town may use up to ten per cent but no more
89 than seventy-five thousand dollars of such amount for coordination,
90 program evaluation and administration. Each town that receives a
91 grant pursuant to said subsection (c) or (d) or section 10-16u shall
92 designate a person to be responsible for such coordination, program
93 evaluation and administration and to act as a liaison between the town
94 and the Departments of Education and Social Services. Each school
95 readiness program that receives funds pursuant to this section or
96 section 10-16u shall provide information to the department or the
97 school readiness council, as requested, that is necessary for purposes of
98 any school readiness program evaluation.

99 Sec. 4. Subsection (e) of section 10-16p of the general statutes is
100 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
101 *1, 2004*):

102 (e) (1) The Department of Education shall (A) use one hundred
103 thousand dollars of the amount appropriated for purposes of this
104 section to establish and fund the Early Education Professional
105 Development Center, as established pursuant to subsection (l) of this
106 section, as amended by this act, and (B) provide grant funds
107 appropriated for purposes of this section to support the addition of
108 fifteen spaces for children in accordance with this section and sections
109 10-16q and 10-16t at the Early Education Professional Development
110 Center. Such spaces and funding shall be in addition to the number of
111 spaces and funds allocated to towns in accordance with the provisions
112 of sections 10-16o to 10-16u, inclusive.

113 (2) Ninety-three per cent of the remaining amount appropriated for
114 purposes of this section shall be used for the grant program pursuant
115 to subsection (c) of this section. Priority school districts and former

116 priority school districts shall receive grants based on their proportional
117 share of the sum of the products obtained by multiplying the average
118 number of enrolled kindergarten students in each priority school
119 district and in each former priority school district for the three years
120 prior to the year the grant is to be paid, by the ratio of the average
121 percentage of free and reduced price meals for all severe need schools
122 in such district to the minimum percentage requirement for severe
123 need school eligibility, provided no such school district shall receive a
124 grant that is less than the grant it received for the prior fiscal year or a
125 grant that is less than one hundred fifty thousand dollars.

126 [(2)] (3) Six and five-tenths per cent of the remaining amount
127 appropriated for purposes of this section shall be used for the
128 competitive grant program pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

129 [(3)] (4) The Department of Education may retain up to five-tenths
130 of one per cent of the amount appropriated for purposes of this section
131 for coordination, program evaluation and administration.

132 [(4)] (5) If a town that is eligible for a grant pursuant to subsection
133 (c) of this section does not submit, by January first, a plan which is
134 subsequently approved for the expenditure of the entire amount of
135 funds for which such town is eligible, the department may use [up to
136 fifty per cent of] any amounts such town has not earmarked for
137 expenditure to provide supplemental grants to other towns that are
138 eligible for grants pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. The
139 department may then use any remaining funds to enhance the system
140 of professional development for preschool educators in programs
141 receiving funds pursuant to this section.

142 Sec. 5. Section 10-16p of the general statutes is amended by adding
143 subsection (l) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

144 (NEW) (l) The Commissioner of Education shall establish a program
145 to serve as a state-wide Early Education Professional Development
146 Center. The program shall be at Eastern Connecticut State University.

147 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) On or before May 1, 2004, and
148 biennially thereafter, the Commissioner of Education, in consultation
149 with the Commissioner of Social Services and the school readiness
150 councils, as specified in section 7 of public act 00-187, shall report, in
151 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
152 on school readiness capacity and financing in the areas of supply,
153 quality and facilities to the joint standing committee of the General
154 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education.

155 Sec. 7. Section 10-226h of the general statutes is repealed and the
156 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

157 (a) A local or regional board of education for purposes of
158 subdivision (3) of section 10-4a, may offer such programs or use such
159 methods as: (1) Interdistrict magnet school programs; (2) charter
160 schools; (3) interdistrict after-school, Saturday and summer programs
161 and sister-school projects; (4) intradistrict and interdistrict public
162 school choice programs; (5) interdistrict school building projects; (6)
163 interdistrict program collaboratives for students and staff; (7) distance
164 learning through the use of technology; (8) preschool programs; and
165 ~~[(8)]~~ (9) any other experience that increases awareness of the diversity
166 of individuals and cultures.

167 (b) Each local and regional board of education shall report by July 1,
168 2000, and biennially thereafter, to the regional educational service
169 center for its area on the programs and activities undertaken in its
170 school district to reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation,
171 including (1) information on the number and duration of such
172 programs and activities and the number of students and staff involved,
173 and (2) evidence of the progress over time in the reduction of racial,
174 ethnic and economic isolation.

175 (c) Each regional educational service center shall report by October
176 1, 2000, and biennially thereafter, to the Commissioner of Education on
177 the programs and activities undertaken in its region to reduce racial,
178 ethnic and economic isolation.

179 (d) The Commissioner of Education shall report, by January 1, 1999,
 180 and biennially thereafter, in accordance with section 10-4a, to the
 181 Governor and the General Assembly on activities and programs
 182 designed to reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation. The report
 183 shall include statistics on any growth in such programs or expansion of
 184 such activities over time, from preschool and kindergarten through
 185 grade twelve, inclusive, an analysis of the success of such programs
 186 and activities in reducing racial, ethnic and economic isolation, a
 187 recommendation for any statutory changes that would assist in the
 188 expansion of such programs and activities and the sufficiency of the
 189 annual grant pursuant to subsection (e) of section 10-266aa and
 190 whether additional financial incentives would improve the program
 191 established pursuant to section 10-266aa."

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, 2004</i>
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2003</i>