



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 694**

January Session, 2005

Substitute House Bill No. 6953

*House of Representatives, May 4, 2005*

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. MERRILL of the 54th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING BEST PRACTICES.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 10-66cc of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
3 *1, 2005*):

4 (b) The governing council of each charter school shall submit  
5 annually, to the Commissioner of Education, at such time and in such  
6 manner as [he] the commissioner prescribes, and, in the case of a local  
7 charter school, to the local or regional board of education for the school  
8 district in which the school is located, a report on the condition of the  
9 school, including (1) the educational progress of students in the school,  
10 (2) the financial condition of the school, including a certified audit  
11 statement of all revenues and expenditures, (3) accomplishment of the  
12 mission, purpose and any specialized focus of the charter school, [and]  
13 (4) the racial and ethnic composition of the student body and efforts  
14 taken to increase the racial and ethnic diversity of the student body.

15 and (5) best practices employed by the school that contribute  
16 significantly to the academic success of students.

17 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The Department of Education  
18 shall, annually, publish a report on all of the best practices reported by  
19 governing councils of charter schools pursuant to subdivision (5) of  
20 subsection (b) of section 10-66cc of the general statutes, as amended by  
21 this act, and distribute a copy of such report to each public school  
22 superintendent and the governing council of each charter school.

23 Sec. 3. Section 10-76n of the general statutes is repealed and the  
24 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

25 (a) The State Board of Education shall continue to maintain the  
26 special education resource center, with federal funds granted to the  
27 state for the maintenance of said center under the provisions of the  
28 federal Education for the Handicapped Act, for purposes consistent  
29 with the provisions of said act as it may from time to time be amended.  
30 The Commissioner of Education is authorized to accept any federal  
31 funds allotted to the state for such purposes and shall administer such  
32 funds in accordance with federal law.

33 (b) The special education resource center described in subsection (a)  
34 of this section may be conducted by the state education resource  
35 center, established pursuant to section 4 of this act, as part of its  
36 program of activities.

37 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) The State Board of Education  
38 shall establish a state education resource center to assist the board in  
39 the provision of programs and activities that will promote educational  
40 equity and excellence. Such activities may include training and  
41 continuing education seminars, publication of technical materials,  
42 research and evaluation, and other related activities. The center may  
43 support programs and activities concerning early childhood education,  
44 the federal No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, and closing the  
45 academic achievement gap between socio-economic subgroups, and  
46 other related programs.



The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

---

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 06 \$	FY 07 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	\$100,000	\$100,000

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

This bill results in a cost of \$100,000 per year by requiring the establishment of a School Reform Resource Center. These costs relate to publishing and distributing reports, providing professional development programming and other duties as prescribed in the bill. The budget as passed by the Appropriations Committee contains \$100,000 in each year of the biennium for this purpose.

It should be noted that the budget also contains \$400,000 in FY 07 to provide grants based on the finding and recommendations of the School Reform Resource Center to aid low performing school districts in improving curriculum. This bill does not contain the necessary language to implement the grant program.

---

**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 6953

***AN ACT CONCERNING BEST PRACTICES***

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires charter school governing councils to include information about best practices in their annual report and requires the Department of Education (SDE) to compile this information in a report to be distributed to all public school superintendents and charter school governing councils. It establishes a state education resource center, requires the establishment of a school reform resource center within it, and allows the education resource center to operate the existing special education resource center.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2005

**CHARTER SCHOOL BEST PRACTICES**

The bill adds to the information charter school governing councils must include in their annual report they submit to the education commissioner and, in the case of a local charter school, to the local or regional board where the school is located. Current law requires governing councils to include in the report the educational progress of the students, the financial condition of the school, accomplishment of school's mission, purpose, and specialized focus, and the racial and ethnic composition of the student body and efforts to increase diversity in these areas. The bill requires them to also include information about best practices employed by the school that significantly contribute to students' academic success.

The bill requires SDE to annually publish a report on all the reported best practices and distribute it to all public school superintendents and charter school governing councils.

**STATE EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER**

The bill requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to establish a state education resource center to help the board provide programs and activities that promote educational equity and excellence. Activities

may include training and continuing education seminars, publication of technical materials, research and evaluation, and other related activities. It is not clear whether the center is limited to providing these forms of assistance. The center may support programs and activities concerning early childhood education, the federal No Child Behind Act, closing the achievement gap between socio-economic subgroups, and other related programs.

### ***School Reform Resource Center***

The bill requires SDE to, within available appropriations, establish a Connecticut school reform resource center within the education resource center. The school reform center must operate year-round and focus on serving the needs of all public schools. The center must:

1. publish and distribute reports on the most effective practices for improving student achievement by successful schools;
2. provide a professional development program for school leaders, including curriculum coordinators, principals, superintendents, and board of education members;
3. provide information on successful models for evaluating student performance and managing student data; and
4. provide other programs and materials to assist in the improvement of public schools.

### ***Special Education Resource Center***

The bill allows the state education resource center to operate the existing special education resource center as part of its program of activities. Current law requires SBE to maintain the special education resource center with federal funds it receives pursuant to the federal Education for Handicapped Act.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference  
Yea 26 Nay 0

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 49    Nay 0