



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

**Raised Bill No. 6949**

LCO No. 4721

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Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL READINESS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-16o of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

3 The state shall encourage the development of a network of school  
4 readiness programs pursuant to sections 10-16p to 10-16r, inclusive, as  
5 amended by this act, 10-16u and 17b-749a, as amended by this act, in  
6 order to:

7 (1) Provide open access for children to quality programs that  
8 promote the health and safety of children and prepare them for formal  
9 schooling;

10 (2) Provide opportunities for parents to choose among affordable  
11 and accredited programs;

12 (3) Encourage coordination and cooperation among programs and  
13 prevent the duplication of services;

14 (4) Recognize the specific service needs and unique resources

15 available to particular municipalities and provide flexibility in the  
16 implementation of programs;

17 (5) Prevent or minimize the potential for developmental delay in  
18 children prior to their reaching the age of five;

19 (6) Enhance federally funded school readiness programs;

20 (7) Strengthen the family through: (A) Encouragement of parental  
21 involvement in a child's development and education; and (B)  
22 enhancement of a family's capacity to meet the special needs of the  
23 children, including children with disabilities;

24 (8) Reduce educational costs by decreasing the need for special  
25 education services for school age children and to avoid grade  
26 repetition;

27 (9) Assure that children with disabilities are integrated into  
28 programs available to children who are not disabled; and

29 (10) Improve the availability and quality of school readiness  
30 programs and their coordination with the services of child care  
31 providers servicing infants and toddlers.

32 Sec. 2. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-16p of the general  
33 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
34 (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

35 (a) As used in sections 10-16o to [10-16r] 10-16s, inclusive, as  
36 amended by this act, 10-16u, 17b-749a, as amended by this act, and  
37 17b-749c, as amended by this act:

38 (1) "School readiness program" means a nonsectarian program that  
39 (A) meets the standards set by the department pursuant to subsection  
40 (b) of this section and the requirements of section 10-16q, as amended  
41 by this act, and (B) provides a developmentally appropriate learning  
42 experience of not less than four hundred fifty hours and one hundred

43 eighty days for eligible children, except as provided in subsection (d)  
44 of [said] section 10-16q;

45 (2) "Eligible children" means children three and four years of age  
46 and children five years of age who are not eligible to enroll in school  
47 pursuant to section 10-15c, or who are eligible to enroll in school and  
48 will attend a school readiness program pursuant to section 10-16t;

49 (3) "Priority school" means a school in which forty per cent or more  
50 of the lunches served are served to students who are eligible for free or  
51 reduced price lunches pursuant to federal law and regulations,  
52 excluding such a school located in a priority school district pursuant to  
53 section 10-266p or in a former priority school district receiving a grant  
54 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and, on and after July 1, 2001,  
55 excluding such a school in a transitional school district receiving a  
56 grant pursuant to section 10-16u;

57 (4) "Severe need school" means a school in a priority school district  
58 pursuant to section 10-266p or in a former priority school district in  
59 which forty per cent or more of the lunches served are served to  
60 students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches;

61 (5) "Accredited" means accredited by the National Association for  
62 the Education of Young Children, a Head Start on-site program review  
63 instrument or a successor instrument pursuant to federal regulations,  
64 or otherwise meeting such criteria as may be established by the  
65 commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social  
66 Services;

67 (6) "Year-round" means fifty weeks per year, except as provided in  
68 subsection (d) of section 10-16q;

69 (7) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Education; [and]

70 (8) "Department" means the Department of Education; and

71 (9) "Transition to school" means a planned system of collaboration

72 and communication between preschool and kindergarten teachers,  
73 families and schools, developed by school principals in conjunction  
74 with a local or regional school readiness council and kindergarten  
75 teachers (A) to facilitate students' successful passage from school  
76 readiness programs to kindergarten classes, and (B) to ensure that  
77 social, cognitive and literacy gains that children make in school  
78 readiness programs are sustained and expanded in kindergarten.

79 (b) The Department of Education shall be the lead agency for school  
80 readiness. For purposes of this section and section 10-16u, school  
81 readiness program providers eligible for funding from the Department  
82 of Education shall include local and regional boards of education,  
83 regional educational service centers, family resource centers and  
84 providers of child day care centers, as defined in section 19a-77, Head  
85 Start programs, preschool programs, child development centers that  
86 serve preschool children and are funded by the state pursuant to  
87 section 8-210, and other programs that meet such standards  
88 established by the Commissioner of Education. The department shall  
89 establish standards for school readiness programs. The standards may  
90 include, but need not be limited to, guidelines for staff-child  
91 interactions, curriculum content, including preliteracy development,  
92 lesson plans, parent involvement, staff qualifications and training,  
93 transition to school and administration. The department shall develop  
94 age-appropriate developmental skills and goals for children attending  
95 such programs. The commissioner, in consultation with the  
96 Commissioners of Higher Education, [and] Social Services and other  
97 appropriate entities, shall develop a continuing education training  
98 program for the staff of school readiness programs and shall develop a  
99 research-based joint professional development training on transition to  
100 school for kindergarten teachers and the staff of school readiness  
101 programs that promotes sustainable school readiness. For purposes of  
102 this section, [on and after July 1, 2004] until June 30, 2012, "staff  
103 qualifications" means there is in each classroom an individual who has  
104 at least the following: (1) A credential issued by an organization  
105 approved by the Commissioner of Education and nine credits or more,

106 and on and after July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more, in early  
107 childhood education or child development from an institution of  
108 higher education accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher  
109 Education or regionally accredited; (2) an associate's degree with nine  
110 credits or more, and on and after July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more,  
111 in early childhood education or child development from such an  
112 institution; (3) a four-year degree with nine credits or more, and on  
113 and after July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more, in early childhood  
114 education or child development from such an institution; or (4)  
115 certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an endorsement in early  
116 childhood education or special education, and on and after July 1,  
117 2012, "staff qualifications" means each classroom is headed by a  
118 teacher who has at least the following: (A) A bachelor's degree in early  
119 childhood education or childhood development, or in a related field  
120 approved by the Commissioner of Education; or (B) certification  
121 pursuant to section 10-145b with an endorsement in early childhood  
122 education or special education.

123 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-16q of the general statutes is  
124 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
125 *1, 2005*):

126 (a) Each school readiness program shall include: (1) A plan for  
127 collaboration with other community programs and services, including  
128 public libraries, and for coordination of resources in order to facilitate  
129 full-day and year-round child care and education programs for  
130 children of working parents and parents in education or training  
131 programs; (2) parent involvement, parenting education and outreach;  
132 (3) (A) record-keeping policies that require documentation of the name  
133 and address of each child's doctor, primary care provider and health  
134 insurance company and information on whether the child is  
135 immunized and has had health screens pursuant to the federal Early  
136 and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program  
137 under 42 USC 1396d, and (B) referrals for health services, including  
138 referrals for appropriate immunizations and screenings; (4) a plan for

139 the incorporation of appropriate preliteracy practices and teacher  
140 training in such practices based on the report by the Early Reading  
141 Success Panel established pursuant to section 10-221j; (5) nutrition  
142 services; (6) referrals to family literacy programs that incorporate adult  
143 basic education and provide for the promotion of literacy through  
144 access to public library services; (7) admission policies that promote  
145 enrollment of children from different racial, ethnic and economic  
146 backgrounds and from other communities; (8) a plan of transition for  
147 participating children from the school readiness program to  
148 kindergarten and provide for the transfer of records from the program  
149 to the kindergarten program; (9) a plan for professional development  
150 for staff, including, but not limited to, training (A) in preliteracy skills  
151 development, and (B) designed to assure respect for racial and ethnic  
152 diversity; (10) a sliding fee scale for families participating in the  
153 program pursuant to section 17b-749d; and (11) an annual evaluation  
154 of the effectiveness of the program. On and after July 1, 2000, school  
155 readiness programs shall use the assessment measures developed  
156 pursuant to section 10-16s, as amended by this act, in conducting their  
157 annual evaluations.

158 Sec. 4. Section 10-16r of the general statutes is repealed and the  
159 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

160 (a) A town seeking to apply for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of  
161 section 10-16p or section 10-16u shall convene a local school readiness  
162 council or shall establish a regional school readiness council pursuant  
163 to subsection (c) of this section. Any other town may convene such a  
164 council. The chief elected official of the town or, in the case of a  
165 regional school district, the chief elected officials of the towns in the  
166 school district and the superintendent of schools for the school district  
167 shall jointly appoint and convene such council. Each school readiness  
168 council shall be composed of: (1) The chief elected official, or the  
169 official's designee; (2) the superintendent of schools, or a management  
170 level staff person as the superintendent's designee; (3) parents; (4)  
171 representatives from local programs such as Head Start, family

172 resource centers, nonprofit and for-profit child day care centers, group  
173 day care homes, prekindergarten and nursery schools, and family day  
174 care home providers; [and] (5) a representative from a health care  
175 provider in the community; (6) a representative from a Birth-to-Three  
176 program; and (7) other representatives from the community who  
177 provide services to children. The chief elected official shall designate  
178 the chairperson of the school readiness council.

179 (b) The local school readiness council shall: (1) Make  
180 recommendations to the chief elected official and the superintendent of  
181 schools on issues relating to school readiness, including any  
182 applications for grants pursuant to sections 10-16p, as amended by this  
183 act, 10-16u, 17b-749a, as amended by this act, and 17b-749c, as  
184 amended by this act; (2) foster partnerships among providers of school  
185 readiness programs; (3) assist in the identification of (A) the need for  
186 school readiness programs and the number of children not being  
187 served by such a program, [and] (B) health, safety and learning needs  
188 for children from birth to five years of age, and available services to  
189 meet those needs; and (C) for priority school districts pursuant to  
190 section 10-266p, the number of children not being served by such a  
191 program and the estimated operating cost of providing universal  
192 school readiness to eligible children in such districts who are not being  
193 served; (4) submit biannual reports to the Department of Education on  
194 the number and location of school readiness spaces, estimates of future  
195 needs, and the factors identified pursuant to subdivision (3) of this  
196 subsection; (5) cooperate with the department in any program  
197 evaluation and, on and after July 1, 2000, use measures developed  
198 pursuant to section 10-16s for purposes of evaluating the effectiveness  
199 of school readiness programs; (6) identify existing and prospective  
200 resources and services available to children and families; (7) facilitate  
201 the coordination of the delivery of services to children and families,  
202 including (A) referral procedures, and (B) before and after-school child  
203 care for children attending kindergarten programs; (8) make policy  
204 recommendations concerning school readiness goals, outcomes and  
205 issues to the Early Childhood Investment Advisory Cabinet, the local

206 educational agency, and the local health department on an annual or  
207 more frequent basis; (9) exchange information with the Early  
208 Childhood Investment Advisory Cabinet, other local or regional school  
209 readiness councils, the community and organizations serving the  
210 needs of children and families; [(9)] (10) make recommendations to  
211 school officials concerning transition from school readiness programs  
212 to kindergarten; [and (10)] (11) encourage public participation; and (12)  
213 communicate all recommendations and decisions made pursuant to  
214 this section to the local or regional board of education and the  
215 municipal legislative body.

216 (c) Two or more towns or school districts and appropriate  
217 representatives of groups or entities interested in early childhood  
218 education in a region may establish a regional school readiness  
219 council. If a priority school is located in at least one of such school  
220 districts, the regional school readiness council may apply for a grant  
221 pursuant to subsection (d) of section 10-16p. The regional school  
222 readiness council may perform the duties outlined in subdivisions (2)  
223 to [(10)] (12), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section.

224 Sec. 5. Section 10-16s of the general statutes is repealed and the  
225 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

226 (a) The Commissioners of Education and Social Services shall  
227 develop an agreement with the Early Childhood Investment Advisory  
228 Cabinet to define the duties and responsibilities of their departments  
229 concerning school readiness programs. The commissioners shall  
230 consult with other affected state agencies. The agreement shall include,  
231 but not be limited to, a multiyear interagency agreement to establish  
232 and implement an integrated school readiness plan. Functions to be  
233 described and responsibilities to be undertaken by the two  
234 departments shall be delineated in the agreement.

235 (b) There shall be an Early Childhood Investment Advisory Cabinet  
236 to maximize good outcomes for children from birth to five years of  
237 age, inclusive, in health, safety and learning. The cabinet shall consist

238 of the Governor, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,  
239 the Commissioners of Education, Social Services, Higher Education,  
240 Public Health, Children and Families and Mental Retardation, one  
241 cochairperson of each of the joint standing committees of the General  
242 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and  
243 human services and the select committee having cognizance of matters  
244 relating to children appointed jointly by the majority leaders of the  
245 House of Representatives and the Senate, the executive directors of the  
246 Children's Trust Fund, the Commission on Children, the Connecticut  
247 Health and Educational Facilities Authority and the Office of  
248 Workforce Competitiveness, or their designees, and three persons  
249 representing a local or regional school readiness council appointed  
250 jointly by the cochairpersons of the joint standing committee of the  
251 General Assembly having cognizance of matters related to education.  
252 Of the three school readiness council representatives, one shall  
253 represent a council in a small priority school district, one shall  
254 represent a council in a medium-sized priority school district and one  
255 shall represent a council in a large priority school district. The cabinet  
256 shall be chaired by the Governor or the Governor's designee. The  
257 cabinet shall (1) adopt goals and outcome measures for a coordinated,  
258 comprehensive early childhood system, birth to five, including health,  
259 safety and learning; (2) facilitate coordination of policy, planning and  
260 budgeting affecting programs and services for young children and  
261 their families, including, but not limited to, state-funded child care  
262 centers, the child care subsidy program pursuant to section 17b-749,  
263 school readiness programs, Head Start programs and all state-funded  
264 preschool programs; (3) recommend streamlining of services to  
265 increase access and utilization of family consumers, where  
266 appropriate; (4) plan a uniform data collection and reporting system  
267 for children from birth to five years of age; (5) coordinate financing  
268 and capital investments in early care and education facilities; (6)  
269 develop a finance and workforce plan for universal access to high-  
270 quality school readiness programs for three and four-year-old  
271 children; (7) unify standards, quality assurance strategies and quality

272 improvement and evaluation, where necessary; (8) develop a quality  
273 rating system for early care and education programs, both formal and  
274 informal, that delineates program components of quality, rates quality  
275 and informs the public to ensure informed consumer choice, not later  
276 than January 1, 2007; (9) on or before January 1, 2006, and annually  
277 thereafter, report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a,  
278 on the state of the state-wide early care and education system and the  
279 progress made toward achieving the goals adopted by the cabinet  
280 pursuant to this subsection to the General Assembly and the State  
281 Board of Education; and (10) carry out those duties and responsibilities  
282 assigned to the cabinet by the Commissioners of Education and Social  
283 Services pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

284 [(b)] (c) On or before January 1, 2000, the commissioners shall adopt  
285 assessment measures for use by school readiness programs in  
286 conducting their annual evaluations pursuant to section 10-16q, as  
287 amended by this act. The commissioners may adopt the assessment  
288 measures used for Head Start programs. The Commissioner of  
289 Education, in consultation with early childhood development  
290 specialists and school readiness councils, shall adopt a  
291 developmentally appropriate kindergarten assessment tool for  
292 development and implementation by September 1, 2009.

293 (d) On or before January 1, 2006, and biennially thereafter, within  
294 available appropriations, the Commissioner of Education, in  
295 consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services and local and  
296 regional school readiness councils, as specified in section 7 of public  
297 act 00-187, shall submit to the Early Childhood Investment Advisory  
298 Cabinet an operating and capital school readiness needs assessment  
299 that provides an estimate of the number of three and four-year-old  
300 children not enrolled in a school readiness program whose parents  
301 would likely enroll them if a school readiness program were available  
302 and shall report on (1) any gap between the number of available spaces  
303 and the demand for such spaces, (2) program quality, including  
304 staffing and teacher preparation needs, (3) the need for preschool

305 facilities renovation and expansion, and (4) the coordination of new  
306 and existing funding streams to support full access to preschool.

307 (e) The Department of Education, within available appropriations,  
308 shall be the lead agency for a state-wide longitudinal evaluation of the  
309 school readiness program, in consultation with the Department of  
310 Social Services and the Early Childhood Investment Advisory Cabinet.

311 Sec. 6. Subsection (c) of section 17b-749a of the general statutes is  
312 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
313 *1, 2005*):

314 (c) The Commissioners of Social Services and Education shall: (1)  
315 Coordinate the development of a range of alternative programs to  
316 meet the needs of all children, including children from birth to three  
317 years of age, inclusive; (2) foster partnerships between school districts  
318 and private organizations; (3) provide information and assistance to  
319 parents in selecting an appropriate school readiness program; and (4)  
320 work to ensure, to the extent possible, that school readiness programs  
321 allow open enrollment for all children and allow families receiving  
322 benefits for such a program to choose a public or accredited private  
323 program.

324 Sec. 7. Subsection (c) of section 17b-749c of the general statutes is  
325 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
326 *1, 2005*):

327 (c) The grants shall be used to:

328 (1) Help providers who are not accredited by the National  
329 Association for the Education of Young Children to obtain such  
330 accreditation;

331 (2) Help directors and administrators to obtain training;

332 (3) Provide comprehensive advice and services, such as enhanced  
333 access to health care, a health consultant, a mental health consultant,

334 nutrition, family support services, parent education, literacy and  
335 parental involvement, and community and home outreach programs;  
336 and provide information concerning access when needed to a speech  
337 and language therapist;

338 (4) Purchase educational equipment;

339 (5) Provide scholarships for training to obtain a child development  
340 associate certificate;

341 (6) Provide training for persons who are mentor teachers, as defined  
342 in federal regulations for the Head Start program, and provide a  
343 family service coordinator or a family service worker as such positions  
344 are defined in such federal regulations;

345 (7) Repair fire, health and safety problems in existing facilities and  
346 conduct minor remodeling to comply with the Americans with  
347 Disabilities Act; train child care providers on injury and illness  
348 prevention; and achieve compliance with national safety standards;

349 (8) Create a supportive network with family day care homes;

350 (9) Provide for educational consultation and staff development;

351 (10) Provide for program quality assurance personnel;

352 (11) Provide technical assistance services to enable providers to  
353 develop child care facilities pursuant to sections 17b-749g, 17b-749h  
354 and 17b-749i, as amended by this act; [or]

355 (12) Establish a single point of entry system;

356 (13) Provide services that enhance the quality of programs to  
357 maximize the health, safety and learning of children from birth to three  
358 years of age, inclusive, including, but not limited to, those children  
359 served by informal child care arrangements. Such grants may be used  
360 for the improvement of staff to child ratios and interaction, preliteracy  
361 development, parent involvement, curriculum content and lesson

362 plans, staff qualifications, training, administration and professional  
363 development; or

364 (14) Provide multidisciplinary training and intervention necessary  
365 to assist preschool children, infants, toddlers and their families with  
366 behavioral health difficulties to be continuously engaged in the  
367 learning process and to avoid future school suspension.

368 Sec. 8. Section 17b-749i of the general statutes is repealed and the  
369 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

370 (a) Within appropriations available to the State Treasurer for child  
371 care facilities, not already allocated toward debt service for specific  
372 child care facilities, the Commissioner of Social Services may, upon  
373 submission of a request by a facility operating a child care program  
374 that is financed with tax-exempt or taxable bonds issued through the  
375 Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority, allow actual  
376 debt service, comprised of principal, interest and premium, if any, on  
377 the loan or loans, a debt service reserve fund and a reasonable repair  
378 and replacement reserve to be paid, provided such debt service terms  
379 and amounts are determined by the commissioner, at the time the loan  
380 is entered into, to be reasonable in relation to the useful life and base  
381 value of the property.

382 (b) The sum of one million dollars is appropriated to the Childcare  
383 Facilities Program operated by the Connecticut Health and  
384 Educational Facilities Authority for the operation of the tax-exempt  
385 pooled financing program for projects approved for each of the fiscal  
386 years ending June 30, 2006, and June 30, 2007. Such financing shall be  
387 used for the capital costs associated with the facilities expansion or  
388 rehabilitation of early care and education facilities. The Department of  
389 Education, in consultation with the Department of Social Services and  
390 the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority, shall  
391 establish priorities for financing facilities based on need and quality  
392 determinants. Selection of child care facilities for such financing shall  
393 be reviewed and approved by the local or regional school readiness

394 council before such financing is approved.

395 Sec. 9. Subsection (e) of section 10-285a of the general statutes is  
396 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
397 *1, 2005*):

398 (e) If an elementary school building project for a new building or for  
399 the expansion of an existing building includes space for a school  
400 readiness program, the percentage determined pursuant to this section  
401 shall be increased by five percentage points, but shall not exceed one  
402 hundred per cent, for the portion of the building used primarily for  
403 such purpose. Recipient districts are required to maintain full-day  
404 preschool enrollment for at least ten years.

405 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) The Commissioner of  
406 Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services,  
407 shall, within available appropriations, develop and implement a plan  
408 for the delivery of multidisciplinary consultation services for licensed  
409 child care providers and school readiness programs. Such  
410 multidisciplinary consultative system shall include the areas of  
411 education, mental health and health, and shall serve settings including  
412 community-based, public school-based and home-based providers.  
413 The consultation shall include child-specific and program-level  
414 services.

415 (b) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the  
416 Commissioner of Social Services, shall provide grants for health and  
417 mental health consultation with an integrated or multidisciplinary  
418 approach to assist local or regional school readiness councils in  
419 providing such consultation to school readiness programs funded  
420 pursuant to section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this  
421 act.

422 Sec. 11. Subsection (h) of section 10-285a of the general statutes is  
423 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
424 *1, 2005*):

425 (h) Subject to the provisions of section 10-285d, if an elementary  
426 school building project for a school in a priority school district or for a  
427 priority school is necessary in order to offer a full-day kindergarten  
428 program or to reduce class size pursuant to section 10-265f, the  
429 percentage determined pursuant to this section shall be (1) increased  
430 by ten percentage points for the portion of the building used primarily  
431 for such full-day kindergarten program or such reduced size classes,  
432 (2) increased by thirty percentage points, but shall not exceed ninety  
433 per cent, for the portion of the building used primarily for such full-  
434 day kindergarten program and a full-day preschool program provided  
435 the recipient district or school agrees to maintain both full-day  
436 kindergarten and a full-day preschool program in the school for at  
437 least ten years, and (3) ninety-five per cent for priority school districts  
438 and severe needs schools, for the portion of the building used  
439 primarily for such full-day kindergarten program and a full-day  
440 preschool program provided the recipient district or school agrees to  
441 maintain both full-day kindergarten and a full-day preschool program  
442 in the school for at least ten years.

443 Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) Any entity receiving state  
444 funds for early education shall follow student outcome measures and  
445 program standards determined by the Department of Education in  
446 consultation with the Department of Social Services.

447 Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) There shall be a home  
448 visitation program to promote wellness and school readiness, and to  
449 prevent developmental delays and child abuse and neglect, by  
450 assisting families in gaining access to needed educational, social,  
451 medical and other services.

452 (b) The home visitation program established pursuant to subsection  
453 (a) of this section shall provide (1) case management services to  
454 families with pregnant women or with children from birth to five years  
455 of age who reside in priority school districts and who are eligible for  
456 the Medicaid program, and (2) training of informal care providers

457 serving any such children during the first year of their care, within  
458 available appropriations.

459 (c) Case management services provided to families pursuant to this  
460 section shall include, but not be limited to, parent education, parenting  
461 skills training, assistance in securing education, housing, employment  
462 and social services, and other home visitation services.

463 (d) Training of informal care providers provided pursuant to this  
464 section shall include child development stages, safety, use of libraries,  
465 preliteracy, nutrition, food resources such as farmers' markets,  
466 program eligibility and access, or other related issues.

467 (e) The home visitation program established pursuant to subsection  
468 (a) of this section shall be administered by the Children's Trust Fund,  
469 in consultation with the Departments of Education and Social Services.  
470 Not later than July 1, 2005, the Department of Social Services, in  
471 consultation with the Children's Trust Fund and the Department of  
472 Education, shall submit to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid  
473 Services an amendment to the state Medicaid plan required by Title  
474 XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for federal reimbursement of  
475 services provided pursuant to this section.

476 Sec. 14. Section 10-155e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
477 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

478 The Board of Governors of Higher Education, with the advice and  
479 assistance of the constituent units of the state system of higher  
480 education and such private institutions of higher education as elect to  
481 participate after notice thereof, shall develop programs for persons  
482 employed in the public schools and school readiness programs  
483 established pursuant to sections 10-16p to 10-16r, inclusive, as  
484 amended by this act, 10-16u and 17b-749a, as amended by this act, as  
485 paraprofessionals, to assist such paraprofessionals to fulfill state  
486 teacher certification requirements. [Said Board of Governors of Higher  
487 Education shall report its findings and recommendations to the joint

488 standing committee on education of the General Assembly on or  
 489 before February 1, 1974.]

490       Sec. 15. (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The sum of five hundred thousand  
 491 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Social Services, from the  
 492 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, to enhance  
 493 quality services to infants and two-year-old children, authorized under  
 494 subdivision (13) of subsection (c) of section 17b-749c of the general  
 495 statutes, as amended by this act. The school readiness councils shall  
 496 assess need in quality improvements locally for infants and toddlers,  
 497 in both formal and informal care, and shall make recommendations to  
 498 the Commissioners of Education and Social Services for the  
 499 distribution of these quality enhancement grants to improve the  
 500 health, safety and learning of infants and toddlers through research-  
 501 based practice and training.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-16o
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-16p(a) and (b)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-16q(a)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-16r
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-16s
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	17b-749a(c)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	17b-749c(c)
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	17b-749i
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-285a(e)
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-285a(h)
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-155e
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To enhance and expand programs for early childhood education.

*[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.]*