



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 626

LCO No. 3012

03012_____ED_

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

**AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL POLICY CONCERNING
SCHOOL READINESS.**

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 10-16p of the
2 2006 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following
3 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

4 (e) (1) Priority school districts and former priority school districts
5 shall receive grants based on their proportional share of the sum of the
6 products obtained by multiplying the average number of enrolled
7 kindergarten students in each priority school district and in each
8 former priority school district for the three years prior to the year the
9 grant is to be paid, by the ratio of the average percentage of free and
10 reduced price meals for all severe need schools in such district to the
11 minimum percentage requirement for severe need school eligibility,
12 provided no such school district shall receive a grant that (A) is less
13 than the grant it received for the prior fiscal year, including any
14 supplemental grants received in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005,
15 (B) provides for fewer full-day or part-day spaces than the grant it
16 received for the prior fiscal year, or [a grant that] (C) is less than one

17 hundred fifty thousand dollars. Notwithstanding the provisions of this
18 subdivision, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, the towns of
19 Ansonia, Bloomfield, Bridgeport, Bristol, Danbury, Meriden, Hartford,
20 Middletown, New Haven, New London, Norwalk, Putnam, Stamford
21 and West Haven shall each receive a grant that is no less than the grant
22 it received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, including any
23 supplemental grants received in said fiscal year.

24 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 17b-749c of the 2006 supplement to
25 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
26 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

27 (c) The grants shall be used to:

28 (1) Help providers who are not accredited by the National
29 Association for the Education of Young Children to obtain such
30 accreditation and to help accredited providers maintain their
31 accreditation;

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

33 (3) Provide comprehensive services, such as enhanced access to
34 health care, a health consultant, a mental health consultant, nutrition,
35 family support services, parent education, literacy and parental
36 involvement, and community and home and homeless shelter outreach
37 programs; and provide information concerning access when needed to
38 a speech and language therapist;

39 (4) Purchase educational equipment;

40 (5) Provide scholarships for training to obtain a credential in early
41 childhood education or child development;

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

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

50 (8) Create a supportive network with family day care homes and
51 other providers of care for children;

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

53 (10) Provide for program quality assurance personnel;

54 (11) Provide technical assistance services to enable providers to
55 develop child care facilities pursuant to sections 17b-749g, 17b-749h
56 and 17b-749i;

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

58 (13) Provide services that enhance the quality of programs to
59 maximize the health, safety and learning of children from birth to three
60 years of age, inclusive, including, but not limited to, those children
61 served by informal child care arrangements. Such grants may be used
62 for the improvement of staff to child ratios and interaction, initiatives
63 to promote staff retention, preliteracy development, parent
64 involvement, curriculum content and lesson plans.

65 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) In addition to any grant
66 provided pursuant to section 17b-749c of the 2006 supplement to the
67 general statutes, as amended by this act, the Department of Social
68 Services shall provide, within available appropriations, grants to
69 school readiness programs, as defined in subdivision (1) of subsection
70 (a) of section 10-16p of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes, in
71 the amount of four per cent of the program's budget. Such grants shall
72 be used in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of said
73 section 17b-749c.

74 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The Departments of Education

75 and Social Services shall require full-day and half-day pilot preschool
76 programs that receive funds from the state to comply with the quality
77 and oversight requirements for school readiness programs receiving
78 funds pursuant to sections 10-16p to 10-16u, inclusive, of the 2006
79 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by this act.

80 Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The sum of one hundred thousand
81 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Education, from the
82 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, to address the
83 reaccreditation needs of school readiness programs that will seek
84 reaccreditation under the new National Association for the Education
85 of Young Children accreditation standards. The Department of
86 Education shall provide a grant of said sum to an established resource
87 system of regional teams providing critical leadership and support for
88 the achievement of quality standards and excellence in early childhood
89 programs.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	10-16p(e)(1)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	17b-749c(c)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To address funding needs and reaccreditation concerns for school readiness programs.

[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.]