



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 626

February Session, 2006

* SB00626ED_APP032306 *

AN ACT 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2 2006 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following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 and any funds carried forward from the fiscal year ending June 30,
16 2004, (B) provides for fewer full-day or part-day spaces than the grant
17 it received for the prior fiscal year, or [a grant that] (C) is less than one
18 hundred fifty thousand dollars. Notwithstanding the provisions of this
19 subdivision, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, the towns of
20 Ansonia, Bloomfield, Bridgeport, Bristol, Danbury, East Hartford,

21 Meriden, Hartford, Middletown, New Britain, New Haven, New
22 London, Norwalk, Norwich, Putnam, Stamford, Waterbury, West
23 Haven and Windham shall each receive a grant that is no less than the
24 grant it received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, including any
25 supplemental grants received in said fiscal year.

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27 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu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

29 (c) The grants shall be used to:

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

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

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

41 (4) Purchase educational equipment;

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

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

48 (7) Repair fire, health and safety problems in existing facilities and

49 conduct minor remodeling to comply with the Americans with
50 Disabilities Act; train child care providers on injury and illness
51 prevention; and achieve compliance with national safety standards;

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

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

55 (10) Provide for program quality assurance personnel;

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

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

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

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

76 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The Departments of Education
77 and Social Services shall require full-day and half-day pilot preschool

78 programs that receive funds from the state to comply with the quality
79 and oversight requirements for school readiness programs receiving
80 funds pursuant to sections 10-16p to 10-16u, inclusive, of the 2006
81 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by this act.

82 Sec. 5. Section 10-10a of the general statutes is amended by adding
83 subsections (d) and (e) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

84 (NEW) (d) Local and regional boards of education and preschool
85 programs which receive state and federal funding shall participate, in
86 a manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, in the state-
87 wide public school information system described in subsection (a) of
88 this section. Participation for purposes of this subsection shall include,
89 but not be limited to, reporting on (1) student experiences in preschool
90 by program type and by numbers of months in each such program,
91 and (2) the readiness of students for kindergarten and student progress
92 in kindergarten. Such reporting shall be done by October 1, 2007, and
93 annually thereafter.

94 (NEW) (e) Not later than April 1, 2010, and biennially thereafter, the
95 Department of Education shall prepare a report on the readiness of
96 students for kindergarten and their progress in kindergarten. Such
97 report shall include information on (1) student readiness and progress
98 in reading, language development, number concepts and other areas
99 as may be determined by the Commissioner of Education, (2) the
100 relationship between such readiness and progress and the number of
101 months and type of preschool experience of such students, and (3) the
102 characteristics of such students with respect to race, English
103 proficiency, special education and economic status as determined by
104 free and reduced lunch eligibility. The commissioner shall submit
105 such report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to
106 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
107 cognizance of matters relating to education.

108 Sec. 6. Subdivision (3) of subsection (e) of section 10-16p of the 2006
109 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is

110 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

111 (3) If a town that is eligible for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of
112 this section does not submit, by October first, a plan which is
113 subsequently approved for the expenditure of the entire amount of
114 funds for which such town is eligible, the department may use [up to
115 seventy per cent of any amounts] funds that such town has not
116 earmarked for expenditure, to provide supplemental grants to other
117 towns that are eligible for grants pursuant to subsection (c) of this
118 section, [and the remaining thirty per cent of any amounts such town
119 has not earmarked for expenditure,] for school readiness professional
120 development, including, but not limited to, scholarship assistance for
121 school readiness staff to attain early childhood education certification
122 and staff training to enhance literacy teaching skills, and to conduct
123 activities related to preschool and kindergarten student developmental
124 evaluations or assessments.

125 Sec. 7. Subsection (b) of section 10-16q of the 2006 supplement to the
126 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
127 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

128 (b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, the per child cost of
129 the Department of Education school readiness component of the
130 program offered by a school readiness provider shall not exceed six
131 thousand six hundred fifty dollars.

132 (2) For fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, and each fiscal year
133 thereafter, the per child cost of the Department of Education school
134 readiness component of the program offered by a school readiness
135 provider shall not exceed six thousand nine hundred twenty-five
136 dollars. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) of section 10-
137 16p of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by this
138 act, the per child cost of the Department of Education school readiness
139 component of the program offered by a school readiness provider shall
140 be reduced by ten per cent for any provider that is not accredited on
141 or before January 1, 2007.

142 (3) A school readiness provider may provide child day care services
143 and the cost of such child day care services shall not be subject to such
144 per child cost limitation.

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>	10-10a
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	10-16p(e)(3)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	10-16q(b)

ED

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

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