



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7360

January Session, 2007

* _____ HB07360APP __ 041907 _____ *

AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND READING PROGRAMS.

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (3) of subsection (e) of section 10-16p of the
2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

4 (3) [If a town that is eligible for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of
5 this section does not submit, by October first, a plan which is
6 subsequently approved for the expenditure of the entire amount of
7 funds for which such town is eligible, the department may use funds
8 that such town has not earmarked for expenditure, to provide
9 supplemental grants to other towns that are eligible for grants
10 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, for school readiness
11 professional development, including, but not limited to, scholarship
12 assistance for school readiness staff to attain early childhood education
13 certification and staff training to enhance literacy teaching skills, and
14 to conduct activities related to preschool and kindergarten student
15 developmental evaluations or assessments] If funds appropriated for
16 the purposes of subsection (c) of this section are not expended, the
17 Commissioner of Education may use such unexpended funds to
18 support local school readiness programs. The commissioner may use
19 such funds for purposes including, but not limited to, (A) assisting

20 local school readiness programs in meeting and maintaining
21 accreditation requirements, (B) providing training in implementing the
22 preschool assessment and curriculum frameworks, including training
23 to enhance literacy teaching skills, (C) developing a state-wide
24 preschool curriculum, (D) developing student assessments for students
25 in grades kindergarten to two, inclusive, (E) developing and
26 implementing best practices for parents in supporting preschool and
27 kindergarten student learning, (F) developing and implementing
28 strategies for children to transition from preschool to kindergarten,
29 and (G) providing for professional development, including assisting in
30 career ladder advancement, for school readiness staff.

31 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 10-265f of the general statutes is
32 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
33 *1, 2007*):

34 (d) In the case of proposals for intensive early intervention reading
35 programs including after-school and summer programs, the plan shall:
36 (1) Incorporate the competencies required for early reading success,
37 critical indicators for teacher intervention and the components of a
38 high quality early reading success curriculum in accordance with the
39 findings of the Early Reading Success Panel delineated in section 10-
40 221l; (2) provide for a period of time each day of individualized or
41 small group instruction for each student; (3) provide for monitoring of
42 programs and students and follow-up in subsequent grades,
43 documentation of continuous classroom observation of students'
44 reading behaviors and establishment of performance indicators
45 aligned with the state-wide mastery examinations under chapter 163c,
46 measures of efficacy of programs developed by the department
47 pursuant to subsection (i) of this section, as amended by this act, the
48 findings of the Early Reading Success Panel pursuant to section 10-221j
49 and other methodologies for assessing reading competencies
50 established by the department pursuant to section 10-221i; (4) include a
51 professional development component for teachers in grades
52 kindergarten to three, inclusive, that emphasizes the teaching of

53 reading and reading readiness and assessment of reading competency
54 based on the findings of the Early Reading Success Panel pursuant to
55 section 10-221j; (5) provide for on-site teacher training and coaching in
56 the implementation of research-based reading instruction delineated in
57 section 10-221i; (6) provide for parental involvement and ensure that
58 parents have access to information on strategies that may be used at
59 home to improve prereading or reading skills; (7) provide for data
60 collection and program evaluation; and (8) include any additional
61 information the commissioner deems relevant. Each school district that
62 receives grant funds under this section shall annually report to the
63 Department of Education on the district's progress toward reducing
64 the achievement gap in reading, including data on student progress in
65 reading and how such data have been used to guide professional
66 development and the coaching process.

67 Sec. 3. Section 10-265f of the general statutes is amended by adding
68 subsection (i) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

69 (NEW) (i) (1) The Department of Education shall develop measures
70 of efficacy of the early reading intervention programs employed by
71 grant recipients under this section and the department shall list
72 programs that are efficacious and make such list available to grant
73 recipients. Not later than January 1, 2008, the department shall report
74 the measures of efficacy and the list of efficacious programs to the
75 Governor and the General Assembly, in accordance with the
76 provisions of section 11-4a.

77 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, and each fiscal year
78 thereafter, using the measures developed pursuant to subdivision (1)
79 of this subsection, the Department of Education shall determine the
80 efficacy of the early reading intervention program employed by each
81 grant recipient pursuant to this section. If any grant recipient is
82 determined to be employing a program that is not shown to be
83 effective, the department shall require the grant recipient to employ a
84 program listed as efficacious by the department pursuant to the
85 provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

86 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The Connecticut Health and
87 Educational Facilities Authority, under chapter 187 of the general
88 statutes, and the Department of Education shall develop a plan to
89 increase capacity in school readiness programs under chapter 164 of
90 the general statutes. Such plan shall include recommendations
91 concerning needs for facility expansions and new facilities,
92 professional development and changes to grant formulas for such
93 programs. Not later than January 1, 2008, the authority and the
94 Commissioner of Education shall report such plan, in accordance with
95 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor
96 and the General Assembly.

97 Sec. 5. Section 10-265j of the general statutes is repealed and the
98 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

99 The Commissioner of Education shall establish two [pilot] model
100 early childhood learning programs associated with institutions of
101 higher education. [The pilot programs shall be established in priority
102 school districts pursuant to section 10-266p or transitional school
103 districts. One program shall be in a municipality with a population of
104 fifty to one hundred thousand, inclusive, and one program shall be in a
105 municipality with a population over one hundred thousand.] Each
106 [pilot] program may include a laboratory school and a model day care
107 program that serves sixty children ages three to five. Eligibility shall be
108 determined for a five-year period. Grant awards shall be made
109 annually during the five-year eligibility period, contingent upon
110 available funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. The
111 Department of Education shall issue a request for proposals for the
112 [pilot] programs. The commissioner shall provide grants in the amount
113 of one hundred thousand dollars each for purposes of such [pilot]
114 programs. The grants shall be provided from the amount appropriated
115 for purposes of section 10-265f.

116 Sec. 6. Subsection (e) of section 10-265f of the general statutes is
117 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
118 *1, 2007*):

119 (e) (1) The [pilot] model programs established pursuant to section
 120 10-265j, as amended by this act, shall be funded from the amount
 121 appropriated for purposes of this section. The department shall use
 122 ninety per cent of the remaining funds appropriated for purposes of
 123 this section for grants to priority school districts. Priority school
 124 districts shall receive grants based on their proportional share of the
 125 sum of the products obtained by multiplying the number of enrolled
 126 kindergarten students in each priority school district for the year prior
 127 to the year the grant is to be paid, by the ratio of the average
 128 percentage of free and reduced price meals for all severe need schools
 129 in such district to the minimum percentage requirement for severe
 130 need school eligibility. (2) The department shall use nine per cent of
 131 such remaining funds for competitive grants to school districts in
 132 which a priority elementary school is located. In awarding grants to
 133 school districts in which priority elementary schools are located, the
 134 department shall consider the town wealth, as defined in subdivision
 135 (26) of section 10-262f, of the town in which the school district is
 136 located, or in the case of regional school districts, the towns which
 137 comprise the regional school district. Grants received by school
 138 districts in which priority elementary schools are located shall not
 139 exceed one hundred thousand dollars and shall be used for the
 140 appropriate purpose at the priority elementary school. (3) The
 141 department may retain up to one per cent of such remaining funds for
 142 coordination, program evaluation and administration.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	10-16p(e)(3)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	10-265f(d)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	10-265f
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	10-265j
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	10-265f(e)

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Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

APP

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