AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.

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

Section 1. (Effective from passage) Section 1 of public act 07-66 shall take effect January 1, 2009.

Sec. 2. Subsection (g) of section 10-233c of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by section 2 of public act 07-66, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2008):

(g) [Suspensions] On and after January 1, 2009, suspensions pursuant to this section shall be in-school suspensions, unless during the hearing held pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the administration determines that the pupil being suspended poses such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the educational process that the pupil shall be excluded from school during the period of suspension. An in-school suspension may be served in the school that the pupil attends, or in any school building under the jurisdiction of the local or regional board of education, as determined by such board.

Sec. 3. (Effective from passage) Not later than October 1, 2008, the Commissioner of Education shall issue guidelines to aid local and
regional boards of education in making the determination as to whether a suspension of a pupil should be an out-of-school suspension or whether the suspension should be an in-school suspension pursuant to the provisions of section 10-233c of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, as amended by this act.

Sec. 4. Section 10-222d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2008):

(a) Each local and regional board of education shall develop and implement a policy, for use on and after February 1, 2003, to address the existence of bullying in its schools. Such policy shall: (1) Enable students to anonymously report acts of bullying to teachers and school administrators and require students to be notified annually of the process by which they may make such reports, (2) enable the parents or guardians of students to file written reports of suspected bullying, (3) require teachers and other school staff who witness acts of bullying or receive student reports of bullying to notify school administrators, (4) require school administrators to investigate any written reports filed pursuant to subdivision (2) of this section and to review any anonymous reports, (5) include an intervention strategy for school staff to deal with bullying, (6) provide for the inclusion of language in student codes of conduct concerning bullying, (7) require the parents or guardians of students who commit any verified acts of bullying and the parents or guardians of students against whom such acts were directed to be notified, (8) require each school to maintain a list of the number of verified acts of bullying in such school and make such list available for public inspection, and (9) direct the development of case-by-case interventions for addressing repeated incidents of bullying against a single individual or recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the same individual that may include both counseling and discipline. The notification required pursuant to subdivision (7) of this section shall include a description of the response of school staff to such acts and any consequences that may result from the commission of further acts of bullying. For purposes of this section, "bullying"
means any overt acts by a student or a group of students directed
against another student with the intent to ridicule, harass, humiliate or
intimidate the other student while on school grounds, at a school-
sponsored activity or on a school bus, which acts are [repeated against
the same student over time] committed more than once against any
student during the school year. Such policies may include provisions
addressing bullying outside of the school setting if it has a direct and
negative impact on a student's academic performance or safety in
school.

(b) On and after January 1, 2009, if the Department of Education
finds that a local or regional board of education has failed to
implement the policy required pursuant to subsection (a) of this
section, the department shall withhold from the grant paid pursuant to
section 10-262i of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes to the
town or regional school districts an amount not less than two thousand
five hundred dollars or more than five thousand dollars, provided the
Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee, prior to
withholding any funds, gives the local or regional board of education
an opportunity to explain its actions in an administrative hearing
conducted pursuant to chapter 54.

Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is
repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July
1, 2008):

(a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-
service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil
personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or
professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such
teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)
the nature and the relationship of drugs, as defined in subdivision (17)
of section 21a-240, and alcohol to health and personality development,
and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health and mental
health risk reduction education which includes, but need not be
limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the
relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in section 19a-581, violence, child abuse and youth suicide, (3) the growth and development of exceptional children, including handicapped and gifted and talented children and children who may require special education, including, but not limited to, children with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder or learning disabilities, and methods for identifying, planning for and working effectively with special needs children in a regular classroom, (4) school violence prevention, [and] conflict resolution and prevention of bullying, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10-222d, as amended by this act, (5) cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other emergency life saving procedures, (6) computer and other information technology as applied to student learning and classroom instruction, communications and data management, (7) the teaching of the language arts, reading and reading readiness for teachers in grades kindergarten to three, inclusive, and (8) second language acquisition in districts required to provide a program of bilingual education pursuant to section 10-17f. The State Board of Education, within available appropriations and utilizing available materials, shall assist and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (A) Holocaust education and awareness; (B) the historical events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (C) African-American history; (D) Puerto Rican history; (E) Native American history; (F) personal financial management; and (G) topics approved by the state board upon the request of local or regional boards of education as part of in-service training programs pursuant to this subsection.

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