



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

**Raised Bill No. 330**

LCO No. 1878

\* SB00330PRIED\_030708 \*

Referred to Committee on Program Review and Investigations

Introduced by:  
(PRI)

**AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF  
THE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE  
CONCERNING THE BEST PROGRAM.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
3 *1, 2008*):

4 (d) (1) The Department of Education shall fund, within available  
5 appropriations, in cooperation with one or more regional educational  
6 service centers, a beginning teacher support and assessment program  
7 to train Connecticut public school teachers and other qualified persons  
8 approved by the Commissioner of Education and certified teachers at  
9 private special education facilities approved by the commissioner and  
10 at other facilities designated by the commissioner, who serve as  
11 mentors or assessors for beginning teachers and who supervise, train  
12 and assist or assess beginning teachers in their initial years in teaching  
13 and to pay stipends to assessors. Beginning teachers shall participate in  
14 a beginning teacher support and assessment program as made  
15 available by the State Board of Education. School districts shall be

16 responsible for providing support to beginning teachers that includes,  
17 but need not be limited to, the placement of beginning teachers with  
18 trained teacher mentors. Local and regional boards of education shall  
19 reduce the number of hours worked on regular classroom  
20 responsibilities for teacher mentors. Such reduction of hours shall be  
21 scheduled to ensure availability of the mentor to help the beginning  
22 teacher during the beginning teacher's daily preparation time. Any  
23 teacher mentor employed by the school district on a full-time basis,  
24 who mentors part-time and assumes regular classroom responsibilities  
25 part-time, shall receive the same compensation such teacher would  
26 receive if such teacher assumed regular classroom responsibilities on a  
27 full-time basis. No teacher mentor, who mentors on a full-time basis,  
28 shall mentor more than fifteen beginning teachers simultaneously.

29       (2) The assessment of each beginning teacher shall be based upon,  
30 but not limited to, data obtained from observations conducted by  
31 assessors using an assessment instrument. On and after July 1, 2008, as  
32 part of such assessment instrument, no beginning teacher shall be  
33 required to complete a video component and shall, instead, be  
34 assessed through on-site classroom observations as part of such  
35 assessment instrument. A beginning teacher shall be assessed by  
36 educators with teaching experience in the same general subject area as  
37 such beginning teacher.

38       (3) The Department of Education may fund, within available  
39 appropriations, in cooperation with one or more regional educational  
40 service centers: [(1)] (A) A cooperating teacher program to train  
41 Connecticut public school teachers and certified teachers at private  
42 special education facilities approved by the Commissioner of  
43 Education and at other facilities designated by the commissioner, who  
44 participate in the supervision, training and evaluation of student  
45 teachers; and [(2)] (B) institutes to provide continuing education for  
46 Connecticut public school educators, assessors and cooperating  
47 teachers and teacher mentors, including institutes to provide  
48 continuing education for Connecticut public school educators offered

49 in cooperation with the Connecticut Humanities Council. [; and (3) a  
50 beginning teacher support and assessment program to train  
51 Connecticut public school teachers and other qualified persons  
52 approved by the Commissioner of Education and certified teachers at  
53 such private special education and other designated facilities who  
54 serve as mentors or assessors for beginning teachers and who  
55 supervise, train and assist or assess beginning teachers in their initial  
56 years in teaching and to pay stipends to assessors.]

57 (4) Funds available under this subsection shall be paid directly to  
58 school districts for the provision of substitute teachers when  
59 cooperating teachers, teacher mentors, beginning teachers and  
60 assessors are released from regular classroom responsibilities and for  
61 the provision of professional development activities for cooperating  
62 and student teachers, teacher mentors, assessors and beginning  
63 teachers.

64 (5) The cooperating teacher and beginning teacher support and  
65 assessment programs shall operate in accordance with regulations  
66 adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with chapter  
67 54, except in cases of placement in other countries pursuant to written  
68 cooperative agreements between Connecticut institutions of higher  
69 education and institutions of higher education in other countries. A  
70 Connecticut institution may enter such an agreement only if the State  
71 Board of Education and Board of Governors for Higher Education  
72 have jointly approved the institution's teacher preparation program to  
73 enter into such agreements. Student teachers shall be placed with  
74 trained cooperating teachers. [Beginning teachers shall participate in a  
75 beginning teacher support and assessment program as made available  
76 by the board. School districts shall be responsible for providing  
77 support to beginning teachers which shall include, but not be limited  
78 to, the placement of beginning teachers with trained teacher mentors  
79 who may be full or part-time teachers in the same or a different  
80 building than the beginning teacher and provision of trained assessors

81 to conduct assessments of beginning teachers.]

82 (6) Cooperating teachers, teacher mentors and assessors may serve  
83 concurrently in more than one capacity and may be assigned more  
84 than one student teacher or beginning teacher in each such capacity.  
85 [The assessment of each beginning teacher shall be based upon, but not  
86 limited to, data obtained from observations conducted by assessors  
87 using an assessment instrument. A beginning teacher shall be assessed  
88 by educators with teaching experience in the same general subject area  
89 as such beginning teacher.] Cooperating teachers and teacher mentors  
90 who are Connecticut public school teachers and assessors who are  
91 employed by school districts shall be selected by local and regional  
92 boards of education. Cooperating teachers and teacher mentors and  
93 assessors at [such private special education and other designated  
94 facilities] private special education facilities approved by the  
95 Commissioner of Education and at other facilities designated by the  
96 commissioner, who participate in the supervision, training and  
97 evaluation of student teachers, shall be selected by the authority  
98 responsible for the operation of such facilities. If a board of education  
99 is unable to identify a sufficient number of individuals to serve in such  
100 positions, the commissioner may select qualified persons who are not  
101 employed by the board of education to serve in such positions. [Such  
102 regulations] Regulations adopted pursuant to this subsection shall  
103 require primary consideration of teachers' classroom experience and  
104 recognized success as educators. The provisions of sections 10-153a to  
105 10-153n, inclusive, shall not be applicable to the selection, placement  
106 and compensation of persons participating in the cooperating teacher  
107 and beginning teacher support and assessment programs pursuant to  
108 the provisions of this section and to the hours and duties of such  
109 persons. The State Board of Education shall protect and save harmless,  
110 in accordance with the provisions of section 10-235, any cooperating  
111 teacher, teacher mentor or assessor while serving in such capacity.

112 Sec. 2. (Effective July 1, 2008) The sum of \_\_\_\_ dollars is appropriated  
113 to the Department of Education, from the General Fund, for the fiscal

