



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Raised Bill No. 649

LCO No. 2961

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Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:

(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than July 1,
2 2008, the Department of Education shall contract with an entity, such
3 as the Yale Child Study Center, to provide training to department
4 employees concerning child development and learning strategies
5 through the integration of development and instructional programs
6 that can lead to a positive transformation of school culture and climate.
7 Such strategies shall include, but not be limited to, development of a
8 framework and organizing force to help school staff and parents create
9 an in-school culture that promotes academic and life success.

10 (b) On and after January 1, 2009, local and regional boards of
11 education may apply at such time and in such manner as the
12 Commissioner of Education prescribes to have employees of the board
13 trained by the Department of Education in the development and
14 learning strategies described in subsection (a) of this section.
15 Department employees trained pursuant to said subsection (a) shall
16 train such employees of local and regional boards of education
17 through a combination of classroom instruction and instruction in

18 which trainees are engaged in a participatory manner.

19 Sec. 2. Section 10-222d of the general statutes is repealed and the
20 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

21 (a) Each local and regional board of education shall develop and
22 implement a policy, for use on and after February 1, 2003, to address
23 the existence of bullying in its schools. Such policy shall: (1) Enable
24 students to anonymously report acts of bullying to teachers and school
25 administrators and require students to be notified annually of the
26 process by which they may make such reports, (2) enable the parents
27 or guardians of students to file written reports of suspected bullying,
28 (3) require teachers and other school staff who witness acts of bullying
29 or receive student reports of bullying to notify school administrators,
30 (4) require school administrators to investigate any written reports
31 filed pursuant to subdivision (2) of this section and to review any
32 anonymous reports, (5) include an intervention strategy for school staff
33 to deal with bullying, (6) provide for the inclusion of language in
34 student codes of conduct concerning bullying, (7) require the parents
35 or guardians of students who commit any verified acts of bullying and
36 the parents or guardians of students against whom such acts were
37 directed to be notified, (8) require each school to maintain a list of the
38 number of verified acts of bullying in such school and make such list
39 available for public inspection, and (9) direct the development of case-
40 by-case interventions for addressing repeated incidents of bullying
41 against a single individual or recurrently perpetrated bullying
42 incidents by the same individual that may include both counseling and
43 discipline. The notification required pursuant to subdivision (7) of this
44 section shall include a description of the response of school staff to
45 such acts and any consequences that may result from the commission
46 of further acts of bullying. For purposes of this section, "bullying"
47 means any overt acts by a student or a group of students directed
48 against another student with the intent to ridicule, harass, humiliate or
49 intimidate the other student while on school grounds, at a school-
50 sponsored activity or on a school bus, which acts are [repeated against

51 the same student over time] committed more than once against any
52 student during the school year. Such policies may include provisions
53 addressing bullying outside of the school setting if it has a direct and
54 negative impact on a student's academic performance or safety in
55 school.

56 (b) On and after January 1, 2009, if the Department of Education
57 finds that a local or regional board of education has failed to
58 implement the policy required pursuant to subsection (a) of this
59 section, the department shall withhold from the grant paid pursuant to
60 section 10-262i of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes to the
61 town or regional school districts an amount not less than two thousand
62 five hundred dollars nor more than five thousand dollars, provided
63 the Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee, prior
64 to withholding any funds, gives the local or regional board of
65 education an opportunity to explain its actions in an administrative
66 hearing conducted pursuant to chapter 54.

67 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is
68 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
69 *1, 2008*):

70 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-
71 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil
72 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or
73 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such
74 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)
75 the nature and the relationship of drugs, as defined in subdivision (17)
76 of section 21a-240, and alcohol to health and personality development,
77 and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health and mental
78 health risk reduction education which includes, but need not be
79 limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the
80 relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually
81 transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in
82 section 19a-581, violence, child abuse and youth suicide, (3) the growth

83 and development of exceptional children, including handicapped and
 84 gifted and talented children and children who may require special
 85 education, including, but not limited to, children with attention-deficit
 86 hyperactivity disorder or learning disabilities, and methods for
 87 identifying, planning for and working effectively with special needs
 88 children in a regular classroom, (4) school violence prevention, [and]
 89 conflict resolution and prevention of bullying, as defined in subsection
 90 (a) of section 10-222d, as amended by this act, (5) cardiopulmonary
 91 resuscitation and other emergency life saving procedures, (6) computer
 92 and other information technology as applied to student learning and
 93 classroom instruction, communications and data management, (7) the
 94 teaching of the language arts, reading and reading readiness for
 95 teachers in grades kindergarten to three, inclusive, and (8) second
 96 language acquisition in districts required to provide a program of
 97 bilingual education pursuant to section 10-17f. The State Board of
 98 Education, within available appropriations and utilizing available
 99 materials, shall assist and encourage local and regional boards of
 100 education to include: (A) Holocaust education and awareness; (B) the
 101 historical events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (C) African-
 102 American history; (D) Puerto Rican history; (E) Native American
 103 history; (F) personal financial management; and (G) topics approved
 104 by the state board upon the request of local or regional boards of
 105 education as part of in-service training programs pursuant to this
 106 subsection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	10-222d
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	10-220a(a)

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Department of Education to contract with the Yale Child Study Center to train department employees in methods of creating a positive school climate and to provide opportunities for

school districts to have employees trained in such methods, to amend the definition of bullying, to provide that the Department of Education shall withhold portions of ECS grant payments for school districts that fail to implement a policy concerning bullying, and to include information on the prevention of bullying as part of in-service training.

[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.]