



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 741

January Session, 2009

Substitute House Bill No. 6488

House of Representatives, April 20, 2009

The Committee on Education reported through REP. FLEISCHMANN of the 18th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH SCHOOL REFORM.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-221a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

3 (a) For classes graduating from 1988 to 2003, inclusive, no local or
4 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
5 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not
6 satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than
7 four of which shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics,
8 not fewer than three in social studies, not fewer than two in science,
9 not fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and not fewer
10 than one in physical education.

11 (b) [Commencing with classes graduating in 2004, and for each
12 graduating class thereafter] For classes graduating from 2004 to 2015,
13 inclusive, no local or regional board of education shall permit any

14 student to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to any
15 student who has not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty
16 credits, not fewer than four of which shall be in English, not fewer than
17 three in mathematics, not fewer than three in social studies, including
18 at least a one-half credit course on civics and American government,
19 not fewer than two in science, not fewer than one in the arts or
20 vocational education and not fewer than one in physical education.

21 (c) Commencing with classes graduating in 2016, and for each
22 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education
23 shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a
24 diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily completed: (1) A
25 minimum of twenty-five credits, not fewer than four of which shall be
26 in English, including composition, not fewer than four in mathematics,
27 including algebra I, geometry and algebra II, not fewer than three in
28 science, including two laboratory science courses, not fewer than three
29 in social studies, including a one credit course on American history
30 and at least a one-half credit course on civics and American
31 government, not fewer than one in the arts or vocational education, not
32 fewer than one in physical education and not fewer than two in world
33 languages subject to the provisions of subsection (f) of this section; (2)
34 specific course requirements in three academic clusters: (A) Science,
35 technology, engineering and mathematics; (B) humanities; and (C)
36 career and life skills; and (3) a one credit senior demonstration project.
37 Local and regional boards of education shall provide alternate means
38 for a student to complete the high school graduation requirements if
39 such student is unable to satisfactorily complete any of the required
40 courses, and allow students to attend a public institution of higher
41 education through participation in a dual enrollment program that is
42 funded by an education equalization aid grant pursuant to section 10-
43 262h.

44 [(c)] (d) Any student who presents a certificate from a physician
45 stating that, in the opinion of the physician, participation in physical
46 education is medically contraindicated because of the physical
47 condition of such student, shall be excused from the physical

48 education requirement, provided the credit for physical education may
49 be fulfilled by an elective.

50 [(d)] (e) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of
51 the local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of
52 the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject
53 matter of the specified course requirements. The local or regional
54 board of education may permit a student to graduate during a period
55 of expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the
56 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to
57 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student
58 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when
59 the planning and placement team for such student determines the
60 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, a
61 credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute
62 class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or
63 part of a credit toward high school graduation earned at an institution
64 accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally
65 accredited.

66 [(e)] (f) Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive,
67 shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that a local or regional
68 board of education may grant a student credit (1) toward meeting a
69 specified course requirement upon the successful completion in grade
70 seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of which corresponds
71 directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in
72 grades nine to twelve, inclusive; (2) toward meeting the high school
73 graduation requirement upon the successful completion of a world
74 language course (A) in grade six, seven or eight, (B) through online
75 coursework, or (C) offered privately through a nonprofit provider,
76 provided such student achieves a passing grade on an examination
77 prescribed, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of
78 Education and such credits do not exceed four; (3) toward meeting the
79 high school graduation requirement upon achievement of a passing
80 grade on a subject area proficiency examination identified and
81 approved, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of

82 Education, regardless of the number of hours the student spent in a
83 public school classroom learning such subject matter; or (4) toward
84 meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful
85 completion of coursework at an institution accredited by the
86 Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited. One three-
87 credit semester course, or its equivalent, at such an institution shall
88 equal one-half credit for purposes of this section.

89 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) A local or regional board of education may offer one-half
90 credit in community service which, if satisfactorily completed, shall
91 qualify for high school graduation credit pursuant to this section,
92 provided such community service is supervised by a certified school
93 administrator or teacher and consists of not less than fifty hours of
94 actual service that may be performed at times when school is not
95 regularly in session and not less than ten hours of related classroom
96 instruction. For purposes of this section, community service does not
97 include partisan political activities. The State Board of Education shall
98 assist local and regional boards of education in meeting the
99 requirements of this section.

100 ~~[(g)]~~ (h) A local or regional board of education may award a
101 diploma to a veteran of World War II, pursuant to section 27-103, who
102 left high school prior to graduation in order to serve in the armed
103 forces of the United States and did not receive a diploma as a
104 consequence of such service.

105 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) For the fiscal year ending June
106 30, 2012, and each ending fiscal year thereafter the state Department of
107 Education shall provide grants to local and regional school districts to
108 implement the provisions of subsection (c) of section 10-221a of the
109 general statutes, as amended by this act.

110 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-69 of the general statutes is
111 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
112 *1, 2009*):

113 (a) Each local and regional board of education shall establish and

114 maintain a program of adult classes or shall provide for participation
 115 in a program of adult classes for its adult residents through
 116 cooperative arrangements with one or more other boards of education,
 117 one or more cooperating eligible entities or a regional educational
 118 service center pursuant to the provisions of section 10-66a. Such board
 119 of education may admit an adult to any public elementary or
 120 secondary school. [No] A person sixteen years of age or older and
 121 enrolled in a full-time program of study in any local or regional school
 122 district may enroll in [an] not more than two adult education [activity
 123 without] classes or activities in a school year. Such enrollment shall be
 124 with the approval of the school principal of the school in which such
 125 person is enrolled in such full-time program. High school graduation
 126 credit awarded for an adult education class may only be awarded in
 127 proportion to the instructional hours required in section 10-221a, as
 128 amended by this act, and shall not exceed one-half high school credit
 129 for each adult education credit. A student may not be awarded, for
 130 purposes of meeting graduation requirements, more than two credits
 131 earned through adult education. Instruction: (1) Shall be provided in
 132 Americanization and United States citizenship, English for adults with
 133 limited English proficiency and elementary and secondary school
 134 completion programs or classes; and (2) may be provided in (A) any
 135 subject provided by the elementary and secondary schools of such
 136 school district, including vocational education, (B) adult literacy, (C)
 137 parenting skills, and (D) any other subject or activity.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2009	10-221a
Sec. 2	July 1, 2009	New section
Sec. 3	July 1, 2009	10-69(a)

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 10 \$	FY 11 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	\$3.4 million	\$3.7 million

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: See Below

Explanation

Section 1 revises high school graduation requirements. Beginning with the freshman class of 2012 (graduating class of 2016), the bill raises, from 20 to 25, the number of credits required to graduate and changes course requirements.

In order to prepare for the change in curriculum the State Department of Education (SDE) will need to develop model curriculums. Additionally, online courses may need to be utilized to prepare schools and teachers for the change.

It is anticipated that SDE will require approximately \$3.4 million in FY 10 and \$3.7 million in FY 11 to develop the model curriculum and prepare local and regional school districts.

Section 2 requires SDE, beginning in FY 12, to provide grants to local and regional school districts to help implement the new graduation requirements. Since the grants will not be issued until FY 12, there is no cost in the current biennium.

Section 3 limits the number of adult education classes that high school students (age 16 and over) can take to two per school year, and is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The state will incur additional costs in FY 12 associated with providing grants to municipalities. Although they are anticipated to be significant, the specific cost of the grant is indeterminate as the size and the scope of the assistance from the state is unclear. Municipalities could incur additional costs beginning in FY 12 if the grants issued from SDE are not sufficient to implement the new graduation requirements.

Sources: Secondary School Reform, The Connecticut Plan: Academic and Personal Success for Every Middle and High School Student

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6488*****AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH SCHOOL REFORM.*****SUMMARY:**

Starting with students graduating from high school in 2016, this bill raises from 20 to 25 the number of credits required to graduate, changes course requirements, and requires the State Department of Education to provide grants to school districts to implement these changes starting in FY 12.

The bill also limits the number of adult education classes that high school students (age 16 and over) can take to two per school year. Current law prohibits adult education students enrolled in a full-time program of study in a school district from taking such classes unless they have the principal's permission, but places no limits on the number of classes. The bill specifies that high school graduation credit awarded for adult education must be awarded in proportion to the required instructional hours required for high schools, not to exceed half a credit for each adult education credit. It limits to two the number of credits earned through adult education students may use to meet graduation requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2009

MINIMUM GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

<i>Subject Area</i>	<i>Current Law</i>	<i>Class of 2016 and Beyond</i>
English	4	Same, but must include English Composition
Mathematics	3	4 (including Algebra I and II and Geometry)

Social Studies	3 (including a half credit in civics and American Government)	Same, but must also include 1 credit in American History.
Science	2	3 (including 2 laboratory sciences)
Arts or Vocational Education	1	Same
Physical Education	1	Same
World Languages	0	2 (see below)

In addition to these requirements, the bill requires (1) specific course requirements in science, engineering, mathematics, and technology; humanities; and career/life skills and (2) a one credit senior demonstration project.

The bill requires school boards to (1) provide alternate means to meet these requirements if students cannot satisfactorily complete any of the required courses and (2) allow participation in a dual-enrollment magnet school funded by the Education Cost Sharing grant.

Additionally, the bill specifies that a world language course successfully completed in grade six, seven, or eight or online can count towards the graduation requirement. Current law already allows world language classes taken through a private nonprofit provider to count toward the graduation requirements. The bill requires these private classes to be completed successfully. The bill does not define "successful."

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 0 (04/01/2009)

