



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 6495

LCO No. 3534

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Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING PARTICIPATION OF TOWNS IN CHARTER SCHOOLS AND INTERDISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOLS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 10-66bb of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2009*):

4 (d) Applications pursuant to this section shall include a description
5 of: (1) The mission, purpose and any specialized focus of the proposed
6 charter school; (2) the interest in the community for the establishment
7 of the charter school; (3) the school governance and procedures for the
8 establishment of a governing council that (A) includes (i) teachers and
9 parents and guardians of students enrolled in the school, and (ii) the
10 chairperson of the local or regional board of education of the town in
11 which the charter school is located and which has jurisdiction over a
12 school that resembles the approximate grade configuration of the
13 charter school, or the designee of such chairperson, provided such
14 designee is a member of the board of education or the superintendent
15 of schools for the school district, and (B) is responsible for the
16 oversight of charter school operations, provided no member or

17 employee of the governing council may have a personal or financial
18 interest in the assets, real or personal, of the school; (4) the financial
19 plan for operation of the school, provided no application fees or other
20 fees for attendance, except as provided in this section, may be charged;
21 (5) the educational program, instructional methodology and services to
22 be offered to students; (6) the number and qualifications of teachers
23 and administrators to be employed in the school; (7) the organization
24 of the school in terms of the ages or grades to be taught and the total
25 estimated enrollment of the school; (8) the student admission criteria
26 and procedures to (A) ensure effective public information, (B) ensure
27 open access on a space available basis, (C) promote a diverse student
28 body, and (D) ensure that the school complies with the provisions of
29 section 10-15c and that it does not discriminate on the basis of
30 disability, athletic performance or proficiency in the English language,
31 provided the school may limit enrollment to a particular grade level or
32 specialized educational focus and, if there is not space available for all
33 students seeking enrollment, the school may give preference to siblings
34 and students residing in a school district within a twenty-mile radius
35 of such school but shall otherwise determine enrollment by a lottery;
36 (9) a means to assess student performance that includes participation
37 in state-wide mastery examinations pursuant to chapter 163c; (10)
38 procedures for teacher evaluation and professional development for
39 teachers and administrators; (11) the provision of school facilities,
40 pupil transportation and student health and welfare services; (12)
41 procedures to encourage involvement by parents and guardians of
42 enrolled students in student learning, school activities and school
43 decision-making; (13) document efforts to increase the racial and
44 ethnic diversity of staff; and (14) a five-year plan to sustain the
45 maintenance and operation of the school. Subject to the provisions of
46 subsection (b) of section 10-66dd, an application may include, or a
47 charter school may file, requests to waive provisions of the general
48 statutes and regulations not required by sections 10-66aa to 10-66ff,
49 inclusive, and which are within the jurisdiction of the State Board of
50 Education.

51 Sec. 2. Subsection (j) of section 10-264l of the general statutes is
52 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
53 *1, 2009*):

54 (j) (1) After accommodating students from participating districts
55 and districts within a twenty-mile radius of the interdistrict magnet
56 school in accordance with an approved enrollment agreement, an
57 interdistrict magnet school operator that has unused student capacity
58 may enroll directly into its program any interested student. A student
59 from a district that is not participating in an interdistrict magnet school
60 or the interdistrict student attendance program pursuant to section 10-
61 266aa to an extent determined by the Commissioner of Education shall
62 be given preference. The local or regional board of education otherwise
63 responsible for educating such student shall contribute funds to
64 support the operation of the interdistrict magnet school in an amount
65 equal to the per student tuition, if any, charged to participating
66 districts.

67 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, any tuition charged to a
68 local or regional board of education by a regional educational service
69 center operating an interdistrict magnet school shall be in an amount
70 equal to at least seventy-five per cent of the difference between (A) the
71 average per pupil expenditure of the magnet school for the prior fiscal
72 year, and (B) the amount of any per pupil state subsidy calculated
73 under subsection (c) of this section plus any revenue from other
74 sources calculated on a per pupil basis, provided no increase in tuition
75 charged on a per pupil basis shall be more than ten per cent of that
76 charged for the previous fiscal year. If any such board of education
77 fails to pay such tuition, the commissioner may withhold from such
78 board's town or towns a sum payable under section 10-262i in an
79 amount not to exceed the amount of the unpaid tuition to the magnet
80 school and pay such money to the fiscal agent for the magnet school as
81 a supplementary grant for the operation of the interdistrict magnet
82 school program.

83 (3) A participating district shall provide opportunities for its
84 students to attend an interdistrict magnet school in a number that is at
85 least equal to the number specified in any written agreement with an
86 interdistrict magnet school operator or in a number that is at least
87 equal to the average number of students that the participating district
88 enrolled in such magnet school during the previous three school years.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	10-66bb(d)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	10-264l(j)

Statement of Purpose:

To allow school districts that are within a twenty-mile radius of a charter school or interdistrict magnet school to enroll their students in such schools despite not having joined in a participation agreement at the creation of such schools.

[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.]