



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

**Raised Bill No. 6569**

LCO No. 4061

\*        HB06569ED        042809        \*

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:  
(ED)

**AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTING OF SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-184 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

3 All parents and those who have the care of children shall bring them  
4 up in some lawful and honest employment and instruct them or cause  
5 them to be instructed in reading, writing, spelling, English grammar,  
6 geography, arithmetic and United States history and in citizenship,  
7 including a study of the town, state and federal governments. Subject  
8 to the provisions of this section and section 10-15c, each parent or other  
9 person having control of a child five years of age and over and under  
10 eighteen years of age shall cause such child to attend a public school  
11 regularly during the hours and terms the public school in the district in  
12 which such child resides is in session, unless such child is a high school  
13 graduate or the parent or person having control of such child is able to  
14 show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the  
15 studies taught in the public schools. [The] For the school year  
16 commencing July 1, 2009, the parent or person having control of a

17 child [sixteen or] seventeen years of age may consent, as provided in  
 18 this section, to such child's withdrawal from school. For the school  
 19 year commencing July 1, 2010, and each school year thereafter, the  
 20 parent or person having control of a child eighteen years of age may  
 21 consent, as provided in this section, to such child's withdrawal from  
 22 school. Such parent or person shall personally appear at the school  
 23 district office and sign a withdrawal form. The school district shall  
 24 provide such parent or person with information on the educational  
 25 options available in the school system and in the community. The  
 26 parent or person having control of a child five years of age shall have  
 27 the option of not sending the child to school until the child is six years  
 28 of age and the parent or person having control of a child six years of  
 29 age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the  
 30 child is seven years of age. The parent or person shall exercise such  
 31 option by personally appearing at the school district office and signing  
 32 an option form. The school district shall provide the parent or person  
 33 with information on the educational opportunities available in the  
 34 school system.

35 Sec. 2. Section 10-202e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
 36 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

37 (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt a state policy on  
 38 dropout prevention. The policy shall include, but not be limited to, the  
 39 encouragement of: (1) The local identification of students in grades  
 40 kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, who are at risk of dropping out of  
 41 school; (2) the development, expansion and coordination of local  
 42 services to such students; and (3) the coordination of dropout  
 43 prevention programs administered by state agencies.

44 (b) Not later than June 30, 2009, the Department of Education shall  
 45 develop a standardized dropout formula to be used by local and  
 46 regional boards of education to annually report on the graduation and  
 47 dropout rates of students in their school districts. Such formula shall  
 48 account for those students that enter adult education instead of  
 49 finishing high school and track the number of such students who

50 receive an adult education diploma pursuant to section 10-69. The  
51 board of education for any district that has students who received an  
52 adult education diploma shall include an asterisk next to its district's  
53 dropout rate to indicate that some of its students received an adult  
54 education diploma. The dropout rate of a district shall include those  
55 students that receive adult education but do not receive an adult  
56 education diploma.

57 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-220 of the general statutes is  
58 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
59 *1, 2009*):

60 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall maintain good  
61 public elementary and secondary schools, implement the educational  
62 interests of the state as defined in section 10-4a and provide such other  
63 educational activities as in its judgment will best serve the interests of  
64 the school district; provided any board of education may secure such  
65 opportunities in another school district in accordance with provisions  
66 of the general statutes and shall give all the children of the school  
67 district as nearly equal advantages as may be practicable; shall provide  
68 an appropriate learning environment for its students which includes  
69 (1) adequate instructional books, supplies, materials, equipment,  
70 staffing, facilities and technology, (2) equitable allocation of resources  
71 among its schools, (3) proper maintenance of facilities, and (4) a safe  
72 school setting; shall have charge of the schools of its respective school  
73 district; shall make a continuing study of the need for school facilities  
74 and of a long-term school building program and from time to time  
75 make recommendations based on such study to the town; shall adopt  
76 and implement an indoor air quality program that provides for  
77 ongoing maintenance and facility reviews necessary for the  
78 maintenance and improvement of the indoor air quality of its facilities;  
79 shall report biennially to the Commissioner of Education on the  
80 condition of its facilities and the action taken to implement its long-  
81 term school building program and indoor air quality program, which  
82 report the Commissioner of Education shall use to prepare a biennial  
83 report that said commissioner shall submit in accordance with section

84 11-4a to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
85 cognizance of matters relating to education; shall advise the  
86 Commissioner of Education of the relationship between any individual  
87 school building project pursuant to chapter 173 and such long-term  
88 school building program; shall have the care, maintenance and  
89 operation of buildings, lands, apparatus and other property used for  
90 school purposes and at all times shall insure all such buildings and all  
91 capital equipment contained therein against loss in an amount not less  
92 than eighty per cent of replacement cost; shall determine the number,  
93 age and qualifications of the pupils to be admitted into each school;  
94 shall develop and implement a written plan for minority staff  
95 recruitment for purposes of subdivision (3) of section 10-4a; shall  
96 employ and dismiss the teachers of the schools of such district subject  
97 to the provisions of sections 10-151 and 10-158a; shall designate the  
98 schools which shall be attended by the various children within the  
99 school district; shall make such provisions as will enable each child of  
100 school age, residing in the district to attend some public day school for  
101 the period required by law and provide for the transportation of  
102 children wherever transportation is reasonable and desirable, and for  
103 such purpose may make contracts covering periods of not more than  
104 five years; may place in an alternative school program or other suitable  
105 educational program a pupil enrolling in school who is nineteen years  
106 of age or older and cannot acquire a sufficient number of credits for  
107 graduation by age twenty-one; may arrange with the board of  
108 education of an adjacent town for the instruction therein of such  
109 children as can attend school in such adjacent town more conveniently;  
110 shall cause each child five years of age and over and under eighteen  
111 years of age who is not a high school graduate and is living in the  
112 school district to attend school in accordance with the provisions of  
113 section 10-184, [and] as amended by this act; shall perform all acts  
114 required of it by the town or necessary to carry into effect the powers  
115 and duties imposed by law; for the school year commencing July 1,  
116 2012, and each school year thereafter, if the dropout rate for the school  
117 district under the board's jurisdiction exceeds ten per cent in each of  
118 the four prior school years then such board shall establish and

119 maintain an alternative school or provide opportunities for students to  
120 attend a regional alternative school; and shall develop a plan for  
121 students identified in eighth grade as at risk of dropping out pursuant  
122 to section 10-202e, as amended by this act, that shall be employed  
123 through high school for such students commencing with the 2012-2013  
124 school year.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	10-184
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	10-202e
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	10-220(a)

**ED**            *Unfavorable- JR 19 No Recommendation*