



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 944

LCO No. 2883

02883_____ED_

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING A PLAN FOR ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL SUCCESS FOR EVERY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) On and after July 1, 2015,
2 local and regional boards of education may implement, in accordance
3 with this section, "The Connecticut Plan: Academic and Personal
4 Success for Every Middle and High School Student" adopted by the
5 State Board of Education on October 2, 2008, provided funding is
6 appropriated to the Department of Education and school districts for
7 such implementation.

8 (b) The plan includes, but is not limited to, the following:

9 (1) Increasing to twenty-five the number of credits students are
10 required to earn to be awarded a high school diploma;

11 (2) Requiring students to satisfactorily complete specific core
12 courses, such as algebra I, geometry and biology;

13 (3) Requiring students to satisfactorily complete specific course
14 requirements in three academic clusters: (A) Science, technology,

15 engineering and mathematics; (B) humanities; and (C) career and life
16 skills;

17 (4) Requiring students to satisfactorily complete a "capstone
18 experience" or senior demonstration project that offers evidence of
19 mastery of essential skills and knowledge identified in each student's
20 individualized "success plan";

21 (5) Providing alternate means for a student to complete the high
22 school graduation requirements if such student is unable to
23 satisfactorily complete any of the required courses; and

24 (6) Allowing students to attend a public institution of higher
25 education through participation in a dual enrollment program that is
26 funded by an education equalization aid grant pursuant to section 10-
27 262h of the general statutes.

28 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) For the fiscal years beginning
29 July 1, 2011, to July 1, 2014, inclusive, the Department of Education
30 shall, within available appropriations, implement a program in
31 approximately twenty-five school districts to phase in the
32 implementation of the plan described in section 1 of this act.
33 Participation by school districts in such program shall be voluntary.

34 Sec. 3. Section 10-221a of the general statutes is repealed and the
35 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

36 (a) For classes graduating from 1988 to 2003, inclusive, no local or
37 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
38 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not
39 satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than
40 four of which shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics,
41 not fewer than three in social studies, not fewer than two in science,
42 not fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and not fewer
43 than one in physical education.

44 (b) [Commencing with] Except as provided in subsection (h) of this

45 section, classes graduating in 2004, and for each graduating class
46 thereafter, no local or regional board of education shall permit any
47 student to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to any
48 student who has not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty
49 credits, not fewer than four of which shall be in English, not fewer than
50 three in mathematics, not fewer than three in social studies, including
51 at least a one-half credit course on civics and American government,
52 not fewer than two in science, not fewer than one in the arts or
53 vocational education and not fewer than one in physical education.

54 (c) Any student who presents a certificate from a physician stating
55 that, in the opinion of the physician, participation in physical
56 education is medically contraindicated because of the physical
57 condition of such student, shall be excused from the physical
58 education requirement, provided the credit for physical education may
59 be fulfilled by an elective.

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

76 (e) Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive,

77 shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that a local or regional
78 board of education may grant a student credit (1) toward meeting a
79 specified course requirement upon the successful completion in grade
80 seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of which corresponds
81 directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in
82 grades nine to twelve, inclusive; (2) toward meeting the high school
83 graduation requirement upon completion of a world language course
84 offered privately through a nonprofit provider, provided such student
85 achieves a passing grade on an examination prescribed, within
86 available appropriations, by the Commissioner of Education and such
87 credits do not exceed four; (3) toward meeting the high school
88 graduation requirement upon achievement of a passing grade on a
89 subject area proficiency examination identified and approved, within
90 available appropriations, by the Commissioner of Education,
91 regardless of the number of hours the student spent in a public school
92 classroom learning such subject matter; or (4) toward meeting the high
93 school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of
94 coursework at an institution accredited by the Department of Higher
95 Education or regionally accredited. One three-credit semester course,
96 or its equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-half credit for
97 purposes of this section.

98 (f) A local or regional board of education may offer one-half credit
99 in community service which, if satisfactorily completed, shall qualify
100 for high school graduation credit pursuant to this section, provided
101 such community service is supervised by a certified school
102 administrator or teacher and consists of not less than fifty hours of
103 actual service that may be performed at times when school is not
104 regularly in session and not less than ten hours of related classroom
105 instruction. For purposes of this section, community service does not
106 include partisan political activities. The State Board of Education shall
107 assist local and regional boards of education in meeting the
108 requirements of this section.

109 (g) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma to a

110 veteran of World War II, pursuant to section 27-103, who left high
111 school prior to graduation in order to serve in the armed forces of the
112 United States and did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such
113 service.

114 (h) On and after July 1, 2015, if a local or regional board of education
115 implements "The Connecticut Plan: Academic and Personal Success for
116 Every Middle and High School Student" in accordance with section 1
117 of this act, then students in high schools under the jurisdiction of such
118 board shall be required to have satisfactorily completed: (1) The
119 minimum number of credits under such plan; (2) specific core courses,
120 such as algebra I, geometry and biology; (3) course requirements in the
121 three academic clusters of (A) science, technology engineering and
122 mathematics, (B) humanities, and (C) career and life skills; and (4) a
123 capstone experience.

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

Statement of Purpose:

To provide for the phasing in of the voluntary implementation of "The Connecticut Plan: Academic and Personal Success for Every Middle and High School Student" adopted by the State Board of Education on October 2, 2008, which significantly changes the requirements for the awarding of high school diplomas.

[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.]