



General Assembly

Amendment

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LCO No. 5687

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Offered by:

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To: Subst. House Bill No. 5490

File No. 591

Cal. No. 365

**"AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM BUDGET REQUIREMENT
AND VARIOUS EDUCATION GRANTS."**

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. Section 10-16p of the 2010 supplement to the general
4 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
5 (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

6 (a) As used in sections 10-16o to 10-16s, inclusive, 10-16u, 17b-749a
7 and 17b-749c:

8 (1) "School readiness program" means a nonsectarian program that
9 (A) meets the standards set by the department pursuant to subsection
10 (b) of this section and the requirements of section 10-16q, and (B)
11 provides a developmentally appropriate learning experience of not less
12 than four hundred fifty hours and one hundred eighty days for eligible

13 children, except as provided in subsection (d) of section 10-16q;

14 (2) "Eligible children" means children three and four years of age
15 and children five years of age who are not eligible to enroll in school
16 pursuant to section 10-15c, or who are eligible to enroll in school and
17 will attend a school readiness program pursuant to section 10-16t;

18 (3) "Priority school" means a school in which forty per cent or more
19 of the lunches served are served to students who are eligible for free or
20 reduced price lunches pursuant to federal law and regulations,
21 excluding such a school located in a priority school district pursuant to
22 section 10-266p or in a former priority school district receiving a grant
23 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and, on and after July 1, 2001,
24 excluding such a school in a transitional school district receiving a
25 grant pursuant to section 10-16u;

26 (4) "Severe need school" means a school in a priority school district
27 pursuant to section 10-266p or in a former priority school district in
28 which forty per cent or more of the lunches served are served to
29 students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches;

30 (5) "Accredited" means accredited by the National Association for
31 the Education of Young Children, a Head Start on-site program review
32 instrument or a successor instrument pursuant to federal regulations,
33 or otherwise meeting such criteria as may be established by the
34 commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social
35 Services, unless the context otherwise requires;

36 (6) "Year-round" means fifty weeks per year, except as provided in
37 subsection (d) of section 10-16q;

38 (7) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Education; and

39 (8) "Department" means the Department of Education.

40 (b) The Department of Education shall be the lead agency for school
41 readiness. For purposes of this section and section 10-16u, school
42 readiness program providers eligible for funding from the Department

43 of Education shall include local and regional boards of education,
44 regional educational service centers, family resource centers and
45 providers of child day care centers, as defined in section 19a-77, Head
46 Start programs, preschool programs and other programs that meet
47 such standards established by the Commissioner of Education. The
48 department shall establish standards for school readiness programs.
49 The standards may include, but need not be limited to, guidelines for
50 staff-child interactions, curriculum content, including preliteracy
51 development, lesson plans, parent involvement, staff qualifications
52 and training, transition to school and administration. The department
53 shall develop age-appropriate developmental skills and goals for
54 children attending such programs. The commissioner, in consultation
55 with the Commissioners of Higher Education and Social Services and
56 other appropriate entities, shall develop a continuing education
57 training program for the staff of school readiness programs. For
58 purposes of this section, prior to July 1, 2015, "staff qualifications"
59 means there is in each classroom an individual who has at least the
60 following: (1) A credential issued by an organization approved by the
61 Commissioner of Education and nine credits or more, and on and after
62 July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more, in early childhood education or
63 child development from an institution of higher education accredited
64 by the Board of Governors of Higher Education or regionally
65 accredited; (2) an associate's degree with nine credits or more, and on
66 and after July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more, in early childhood
67 education or child development from such an institution; (3) a four-
68 year degree with nine credits or more, and on and after July 1, 2005,
69 twelve credits or more, in early childhood education or child
70 development from such an institution; or (4) certification pursuant to
71 section 10-145b with an endorsement in early childhood education or
72 special education, and on and after July 1, 2015, "staff qualifications"
73 means there is in each classroom an individual who has at least the
74 following: (A) A bachelor's degree in early childhood education or
75 childhood development, or in a related field approved by the
76 Commissioner of Education from an institution of higher education
77 accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher Education or

78 regionally accredited; or (B) certification pursuant to section 10-145b
79 with an endorsement in early childhood education or special
80 education.

81 (c) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
82 Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a grant program to
83 provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs for eligible
84 children who reside in priority school districts pursuant to section 10-
85 266p or in former priority school districts as provided in this
86 subsection. Under the program, the grant shall be provided, in
87 accordance with this section, to the town in which such priority school
88 district or former priority school district is located. Eligibility shall be
89 determined for a five-year period based on an applicant's designation
90 as a priority school district for the initial year of application, except
91 that if a school district that receives a grant pursuant to this subsection
92 is no longer designated as a priority school district at the end of such
93 five-year period, such former priority school district shall continue to
94 be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to this subsection. Grant awards
95 shall be made annually contingent upon available funding and a
96 satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town
97 and the superintendent of schools for such priority school district or
98 former priority school district shall submit a plan for the expenditure
99 of grant funds and responses to the local request for proposal process
100 to the Departments of Education and Social Services. The departments
101 shall jointly review such plans and shall each approve the portion of
102 such plan within its jurisdiction for funding. The plan shall: (1) Be
103 developed in consultation with the local or regional school readiness
104 council established pursuant to section 10-16r; (2) be based on a needs
105 and resource assessment; (3) provide for the issuance of requests for
106 proposals for providers of accredited school readiness programs,
107 provided, after the initial requests for proposals, facilities that have
108 been approved to operate a child care program financed through the
109 Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority and have
110 received a commitment for debt service from the Department of Social
111 Services pursuant to section 17b-749i, are exempt from the requirement

112 for issuance of annual requests for proposals; and (4) identify the need
113 for funding pursuant to section 17b-749a in order to extend the hours
114 and days of operation of school readiness programs in order to
115 provide child day care services for children attending such programs.

116 (d) (1) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
117 Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a competitive grant
118 program to provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs for
119 eligible children who reside (A) in an area served by a priority school
120 or a former priority school as provided for in subdivision (2) of this
121 subsection, (B) in a town ranked one to fifty when all towns are ranked
122 in ascending order according to town wealth, as defined in subdivision
123 (26) of section 10-262f, whose school district is not a priority school
124 district pursuant to section 10-266p, or (C) in a town formerly a town
125 described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, as provided for in
126 said subdivision (2). A town in which a priority school is located, a
127 regional school readiness council, pursuant to subsection (c) of section
128 10-16r, for a region in which such a school is located or a town
129 described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision may apply for such a
130 grant in an amount not to exceed one hundred seven thousand dollars
131 per priority school or town. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-
132 year period based on an applicant's designation as having a priority
133 school or being a town described in subparagraph (B) of this
134 subdivision for the initial year of application. Grant awards shall be
135 made annually contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory
136 annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town and the
137 superintendent of schools of the school district or the regional school
138 readiness council shall submit a plan, as described in subsection (c) of
139 this section, for the expenditure of such grant funds to the Department
140 of Education. In awarding grants pursuant to this subsection, the
141 commissioner shall give preference to applications submitted by
142 regional school readiness councils and may, within available
143 appropriations, provide a grant in excess of one hundred seven
144 thousand dollars to towns with two or more priority schools in such
145 district. A town or regional school readiness council awarded a grant

146 pursuant to this subsection shall use the funds to purchase spaces for
147 such children from providers of accredited school readiness programs.

148 (2) (A) [Commencing] Except as provided in subparagraph (C) of
149 this subdivision, commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005,
150 if a town received a grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection
151 and is no longer eligible to receive such a grant, the town may receive
152 a phase-out grant for each of the three fiscal years following the fiscal
153 year such town received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of
154 this subsection.

155 (B) The amount of such phase-out grants shall be determined as
156 follows: (i) For the first fiscal year following the fiscal year such town
157 received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in
158 an amount that does not exceed seventy-five per cent of the grant
159 amount such town received for the town or school's final year of
160 eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection; (ii) for the
161 second fiscal year following the fiscal year such town received its final
162 grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that
163 does not exceed fifty per cent of the grant amount such town received
164 for the town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to
165 subdivision (1) of this subsection; (iii) for the third fiscal year following
166 the fiscal year such town received its final grant pursuant to
167 subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that does not exceed
168 twenty-five per cent of the grant amount such town received for the
169 town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of
170 this subsection.

171 (C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, and each fiscal year
172 thereafter, any town that received a grant pursuant to subparagraph
173 (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection for the fiscal year ending June
174 30, 2010, shall continue to receive a grant under this subsection even if
175 the town no longer meets the criteria for such grant pursuant to
176 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

177 (e) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, and each fiscal year

178 thereafter, priority school districts and former priority school districts
179 shall receive grants based on the sum of the products obtained by (A)
180 multiplying the district's number of contracted slots on March thirtieth
181 of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the grant is to be paid,
182 by the per child cost pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of
183 section 10-16q, except that such per child cost shall be reduced for slots
184 that are less than year-round, and (B) multiplying the number of
185 additional or decreased slots the districts have requested for the fiscal
186 year in which the grant is to be paid by the per child cost pursuant to
187 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of said section 10-16q, except such per
188 child cost shall be reduced for slots that are less than year-round. If
189 said sum exceeds the available appropriation, such number of
190 requested additional slots shall be reduced, as determined by the
191 Commissioner of Education, to stay within the available appropriation.

192 (2) (A) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of
193 this section are not expended, the Commissioner of Education may
194 deposit such unexpended funds in the account established under
195 section 502 of this act and use such unexpended funds in accordance
196 with the provisions of said section 502.

197 [(2)] (B) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of
198 this section are not expended pursuant to said subsection (c) or
199 deposited pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, the
200 Commissioner of Education may use such unexpended funds to
201 support local school readiness programs. The commissioner may use
202 such funds for purposes including, but not limited to, [(A)] (i) assisting
203 local school readiness programs in meeting and maintaining
204 accreditation requirements, [(B)] (ii) providing training in
205 implementing the preschool assessment and curriculum frameworks,
206 including training to enhance literacy teaching skills, [(C)] (iii)
207 developing a state-wide preschool curriculum, [(D)] (iv) developing
208 student assessments for students in grades kindergarten to two,
209 inclusive, [(E)] (v) developing and implementing best practices for
210 parents in supporting preschool and kindergarten student learning,
211 [(F)] (vi) developing and implementing strategies for children to

212 transition from preschool to kindergarten, [(G)] (vii) providing for
213 professional development, including assisting in career ladder
214 advancement, for school readiness staff, and [(H)] (viii) providing
215 supplemental grants to other towns that are eligible for grants
216 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

217 (3) Notwithstanding subdivision (2) of this subsection, for the fiscal
218 years ending June 30, 2008, to June 30, 2011, inclusive, the Department
219 of Education may retain up to one hundred ninety-eight thousand two
220 hundred dollars of the amount appropriated for purposes of this
221 section for coordination, program evaluation and administration.

222 (f) Any school readiness program that receives funds pursuant to
223 this section or section 10-16u shall not discriminate on the basis of race,
224 color, national origin, gender, religion or disability. For purposes of
225 this section, a nonsectarian program means any public or private
226 school readiness program that is not violative of the Establishment
227 Clause of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut or the
228 Establishment Clause of the Constitution of the United States of
229 America.

230 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, no funds received by
231 a town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-
232 16u shall be used to supplant federal, state or local funding received by
233 such town for early childhood education, provided a town may use an
234 amount determined in accordance with this subsection for
235 coordination, program evaluation and administration. Such amount
236 shall be at least twenty-five thousand dollars but not more than
237 seventy-five thousand dollars and shall be determined by the
238 Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of
239 Social Services, based on the school readiness grant award allocated to
240 the town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-
241 16u and the number of operating sites for coordination, program
242 evaluation and administration. Such amount shall be increased by an
243 amount equal to local funding provided for early childhood education
244 coordination, program evaluation and administration, not to exceed

245 twenty-five thousand dollars. Each town that receives a grant pursuant
246 to said subsection (c) or (d) or section 10-16u shall designate a person
247 to be responsible for such coordination, program evaluation and
248 administration and to act as a liaison between the town and the
249 Departments of Education and Social Services. Each school readiness
250 program that receives funds pursuant to this section or section 10-16u
251 shall provide information to the department or the school readiness
252 council, as requested, that is necessary for purposes of any school
253 readiness program evaluation.

254 (h) For the first three years a town receives grants pursuant to this
255 section, such grants may be used, with the approval of the
256 commissioner, to prepare a facility or staff for operating a school
257 readiness program and shall be adjusted based on the number of days
258 of operation of a school readiness program if a shorter term of
259 operation is approved by the commissioner.

260 (i) A town may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible
261 children who reside in such town at an accredited school readiness
262 program located in another town. A regional school readiness council
263 may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible children who
264 reside in the region covered by the council at an accredited school
265 readiness program located outside such region.

266 (j) Children enrolled in school readiness programs funded pursuant
267 to this section shall not be counted (1) as resident students for
268 purposes of subdivision (22) of section 10-262f, or (2) in the
269 determination of average daily membership pursuant to subdivision
270 (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-261.

271 (k) Up to two per cent of the amount of the appropriation for this
272 section may be allocated to the competitive grant program pursuant to
273 subsection (d) of this section. The determination of the amount of such
274 allocation shall be made on or before August first.

275 Sec. 502. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) There is established an
276 account to be known as the competitive district grant account which

277 shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The
278 account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in
279 the account. Moneys in the account shall be expended by the
280 Commissioner of Education for the purposes of providing grants to
281 competitive school districts to make slots available in preschool school
282 readiness programs. For purposes of this section, "competitive school
283 district" means a school district described in subdivision (1) of
284 subsection (d) of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by
285 this act, that has more than nine thousand students enrolled in schools
286 in the district."