



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Amendment

LCO No. 5751

SB0038005751HDO

Offered by:

REP. FLEISCHMANN, 18th Dist.

REP. BYE, 19th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 380

File No. 351

Cal. No. 511

(As Amended by Senate Amendment Schedules "A" and "B")

**"AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
CREDENTIALING FOR SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMS FOR
2015."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. 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4 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof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) (1) The Department of Education shall be the lead agency for
41 school readiness. For purposes of this section and section 10-16u,

42 school readiness program providers eligible for funding from the
43 Department of Education shall include local and regional boards of
44 education, regional educational service centers, family resource centers
45 and providers of child day care centers, as defined in section 19a-77,
46 Head Start programs, preschool programs and other programs that
47 meet such standards established by the Commissioner of Education.
48 The department shall establish standards for school readiness
49 programs. The standards may include, but need not be limited to,
50 guidelines for staff-child interactions, curriculum content, including
51 preliteracy development, lesson plans, parent involvement, staff
52 qualifications and training, transition to school and administration.
53 The department shall develop age-appropriate developmental skills
54 and goals for children attending such programs. The commissioner, in
55 consultation with the Commissioners of Higher Education and Social
56 Services and other appropriate entities, shall develop a continuing
57 education training program for the staff of school readiness programs.

58 (2) (A) For purposes of this section, prior to July 1, 2015, "staff
59 qualifications" means there is in each classroom an individual who has
60 at least the following: [(1)] (i) A childhood development associate
61 credential or an equivalent credential issued by an organization
62 approved by the Commissioner of Education, and [nine credits or
63 more, and on and after July 1, 2005,] twelve credits or more, in early
64 childhood education or child development, as determined by the
65 Commissioner of Higher Education, after consultation with the
66 Commissioners of Education and Social Services, from an institution of
67 higher education accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher
68 Education or regionally accredited; [(2)] (ii) an associate's degree with
69 [nine credits or more, and on and after July 1, 2005,] twelve credits or
70 more, in early childhood education or child development, as
71 determined by the Commissioner of Higher Education, after
72 consultation with the Commissioners of Education and Social Services,
73 from such an institution; [(3)] (iii) a four-year degree with [nine credits
74 or more, and on and after July 1, 2005,] twelve credits or more, in early
75 childhood education or child development, as determined by the

76 Commissioner of Higher Education, after consultation with the
77 Commissioners of Education and Social Services, from such an
78 institution; or [(4)] (iv) certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an
79 endorsement in early childhood education, [or special education, and
80 on]

81 (B) On and after July 1, 2015, "staff qualifications" means [there is in
82 each classroom an individual who has at least the following: (A) A
83 bachelor's degree in early childhood education or childhood
84 development, or in a related field approved by the Commissioner of
85 Education from an institution of higher education accredited by the
86 Board of Governors of Higher Education or regionally accredited; or
87 (B) certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an endorsement in
88 early childhood education or special education] for each program
89 accepting school readiness funds that (i) at least fifty per cent of its
90 teachers (I) hold certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an
91 endorsement in early childhood education, or (II) hold a bachelor's
92 degree from an institution of higher education accredited by the Board
93 of Governors of Higher Education or regionally accredited, (ii) the
94 remaining teachers hold an associate degree from an institution of
95 higher education accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher
96 Education or regionally accredited, and (iii) all such teachers described
97 in clause (i)(II) and clause (ii) of this subparagraph have completed a
98 program of study other than a program of teacher preparation leading
99 to professional certification approved by the Commissioners of
100 Education and Higher Education.

101 (c) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
102 Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a grant program to
103 provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs for eligible
104 children who reside in priority school districts pursuant to section 10-
105 266p or in former priority school districts as provided in this
106 subsection. Under the program, the grant shall be provided, in
107 accordance with this section, to the town in which such priority school
108 district or former priority school district is located. Eligibility shall be
109 determined for a five-year period based on an applicant's designation

110 as a priority school district for the initial year of application, except
111 that if a school district that receives a grant pursuant to this subsection
112 is no longer designated as a priority school district at the end of such
113 five-year period, such former priority school district shall continue to
114 be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to this subsection. Grant awards
115 shall be made annually contingent upon available funding and a
116 satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town
117 and the superintendent of schools for such priority school district or
118 former priority school district shall submit a plan for the expenditure
119 of grant funds and responses to the local request for proposal process
120 to the Departments of Education and Social Services. The departments
121 shall jointly review such plans and shall each approve the portion of
122 such plan within its jurisdiction for funding. The plan shall: (1) Be
123 developed in consultation with the local or regional school readiness
124 council established pursuant to section 10-16r; (2) be based on a needs
125 and resource assessment; (3) provide for the issuance of requests for
126 proposals for providers of accredited school readiness programs,
127 provided, after the initial requests for proposals, facilities that have
128 been approved to operate a child care program financed through the
129 Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority and have
130 received a commitment for debt service from the Department of Social
131 Services pursuant to section 17b-749i, are exempt from the requirement
132 for issuance of annual requests for proposals; and (4) identify the need
133 for funding pursuant to section 17b-749a in order to extend the hours
134 and days of operation of school readiness programs in order to
135 provide child day care services for children attending such programs.

136 (d) (1) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
137 Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a competitive grant
138 program to provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs for
139 eligible children who reside (A) in an area served by a priority school
140 or a former priority school as provided for in subdivision (2) of this
141 subsection, (B) in a town ranked one to fifty when all towns are ranked
142 in ascending order according to town wealth, as defined in subdivision
143 (26) of section 10-262f, whose school district is not a priority school

144 district pursuant to section 10-266p, or (C) in a town formerly a town
145 described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, as provided for in
146 said subdivision (2). A town in which a priority school is located, a
147 regional school readiness council, pursuant to subsection (c) of section
148 10-16r, for a region in which such a school is located or a town
149 described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision may apply for such a
150 grant in an amount not to exceed one hundred seven thousand dollars
151 per priority school or town. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-
152 year period based on an applicant's designation as having a priority
153 school or being a town described in subparagraph (B) of this
154 subdivision for the initial year of application. Grant awards shall be
155 made annually contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory
156 annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town and the
157 superintendent of schools of the school district or the regional school
158 readiness council shall submit a plan, as described in subsection (c) of
159 this section, for the expenditure of such grant funds to the Department
160 of Education. In awarding grants pursuant to this subsection, the
161 commissioner shall give preference to applications submitted by
162 regional school readiness councils and may, within available
163 appropriations, provide a grant in excess of one hundred seven
164 thousand dollars to towns with two or more priority schools in such
165 district. A town or regional school readiness council awarded a grant
166 pursuant to this subsection shall use the funds to purchase spaces for
167 such children from providers of accredited school readiness programs.

168 (2) (A) Commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, if a
169 town received a grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection
170 and is no longer eligible to receive such a grant, the town may receive
171 a phase-out grant for each of the three fiscal years following the fiscal
172 year such town received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of
173 this subsection.

174 (B) The amount of such phase-out grants shall be determined as
175 follows: (i) For the first fiscal year following the fiscal year such town
176 received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in
177 an amount that does not exceed seventy-five per cent of the grant

178 amount such town received for the town or school's final year of
179 eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection; (ii) for the
180 second fiscal year following the fiscal year such town received its final
181 grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that
182 does not exceed fifty per cent of the grant amount such town received
183 for the town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to
184 subdivision (1) of this subsection; (iii) for the third fiscal year following
185 the fiscal year such town received its final grant pursuant to
186 subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that does not exceed
187 twenty-five per cent of the grant amount such town received for the
188 town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of
189 this subsection.

190 (e) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, and each fiscal year
191 thereafter, priority school districts and former priority school districts
192 shall receive grants based on the sum of the products obtained by (A)
193 multiplying the district's number of contracted slots on March thirtieth
194 of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the grant is to be paid,
195 by the per child cost pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of
196 section 10-16q, except that such per child cost shall be reduced for slots
197 that are less than year-round, and (B) multiplying the number of
198 additional or decreased slots the districts have requested for the fiscal
199 year in which the grant is to be paid by the per child cost pursuant to
200 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of said section 10-16q, except such per
201 child cost shall be reduced for slots that are less than year-round. If
202 said sum exceeds the available appropriation, such number of
203 requested additional slots shall be reduced, as determined by the
204 Commissioner of Education, to stay within the available appropriation.

205 (2) (A) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of
206 this section are not expended, the Commissioner of Education may use
207 such unexpended funds to support local school readiness programs in
208 satisfying the staff qualifications requirements of subparagraph (B) of
209 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section. The local school
210 readiness programs shall use any such funds to provide assistance to
211 staff for the cost of higher education courses leading to an associate's

212 degree or a bachelor's degree.

213 [(2)] (B) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of
214 this section are not expended pursuant to said subsection (c) or
215 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, the Commissioner of Education
216 may use such unexpended funds to support local school readiness
217 programs. The commissioner may use such funds for purposes
218 including, but not limited to, [(A)] (i) assisting local school readiness
219 programs in meeting and maintaining accreditation requirements, [(B)]
220 (ii) providing training in implementing the preschool assessment and
221 curriculum frameworks, including training to enhance literacy
222 teaching skills, [(C)] (iii) developing a state-wide preschool curriculum,
223 [(D)] (iv) developing student assessments for students in grades
224 kindergarten to two, inclusive, [(E)] (v) developing and implementing
225 best practices for parents in supporting preschool and kindergarten
226 student learning, [(F)] (vi) developing and implementing strategies for
227 children to transition from preschool to kindergarten, [(G)] (vii)
228 providing for professional development, including assisting in career
229 ladder advancement, for school readiness staff, and [(H)] (viii)
230 providing supplemental grants to other towns that are eligible for
231 grants pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

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

237 (f) Any school readiness program that receives funds pursuant to
238 this section or section 10-16u shall not discriminate on the basis of race,
239 color, national origin, gender, religion or disability. For purposes of
240 this section, a nonsectarian program means any public or private
241 school readiness program that is not violative of the Establishment
242 Clause of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut or the
243 Establishment Clause of the Constitution of the United States of
244 America.

245 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, no funds received by
246 a town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-
247 16u shall be used to supplant federal, state or local funding received by
248 such town for early childhood education, provided a town may use an
249 amount determined in accordance with this subsection for
250 coordination, program evaluation and administration. Such amount
251 shall be at least twenty-five thousand dollars but not more than
252 seventy-five thousand dollars and shall be determined by the
253 Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of
254 Social Services, based on the school readiness grant award allocated to
255 the town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-
256 16u and the number of operating sites for coordination, program
257 evaluation and administration. Such amount shall be increased by an
258 amount equal to local funding provided for early childhood education
259 coordination, program evaluation and administration, not to exceed
260 twenty-five thousand dollars. Each town that receives a grant pursuant
261 to said subsection (c) or (d) or section 10-16u shall designate a person
262 to be responsible for such coordination, program evaluation and
263 administration and to act as a liaison between the town and the
264 Departments of Education and Social Services. Each school readiness
265 program that receives funds pursuant to this section or section 10-16u
266 shall provide information to the department or the school readiness
267 council, as requested, that is necessary for purposes of any school
268 readiness program evaluation.

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

275 (i) A town may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible
276 children who reside in such town at an accredited school readiness
277 program located in another town. A regional school readiness council
278 may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible children who

279 reside in the region covered by the council at an accredited school
280 readiness program located outside such region.

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

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

290 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2010*) The Department of Higher Education,
291 in consultation with the Office of Workforce Competitiveness and
292 representatives from public and private institutions of higher
293 education in the state, shall develop a plan for meeting the
294 requirements in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b)
295 of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this act. Not
296 later than February 1, 2011, and annually thereafter through February
297 1, 2015, the department shall submit such plan, in accordance with the
298 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
299 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
300 relating to higher education and employment advancement and
301 education."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	10-16p
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section