



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Raised Bill No. 6498

LCO No. 4032

04032_____ED_

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 10-10a of the general
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (c) On or before July 1, [2013] 2015, the department shall expand the
5 state-wide public school information system as follows:

6 (1) Track and report data relating to student, teacher and school and
7 district performance growth and make such information available to
8 local and regional boards of education for use in evaluating
9 educational performance and growth of teachers and students enrolled
10 in public schools in the state. Such information shall be collected or
11 calculated based on information received from local and regional
12 boards of education and other relevant sources. Such information shall
13 include, but not be limited to:

14 (A) In addition to performance on state-wide mastery examinations
15 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, data relating to students shall

16 include, but not be limited to, (i) the primary language spoken at the
17 home of a student, (ii) student transcripts, (iii) student attendance and
18 student mobility, and (iv) reliable, valid assessments of a student's
19 readiness to enter public school at the kindergarten level;

20 (B) Data relating to teachers shall include, but not be limited to, (i)
21 teacher credentials, such as master's degrees, teacher preparation
22 programs completed and certification levels and endorsement areas,
23 (ii) teacher assessments, such as whether a teacher is deemed highly
24 qualified pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, or
25 deemed to meet such other designations as may be established by
26 federal law or regulations for the purposes of tracking the equitable
27 distribution of instructional staff, (iii) the presence of substitute
28 teachers in a teacher's classroom, (iv) class size, (v) numbers relating to
29 absenteeism in a teacher's classroom, and (vi) the presence of a
30 teacher's aide. The department shall assign a unique teacher identifier
31 to each teacher prior to collecting such data in the public school
32 information system;

33 (C) Data relating to schools and districts shall include, but not be
34 limited to, (i) school population, (ii) annual student graduation rates,
35 (iii) annual teacher retention rates, (iv) school disciplinary records,
36 such as data relating to suspensions, expulsions and other disciplinary
37 actions, (v) the percentage of students whose primary language is not
38 English, (vi) the number of and professional credentials of support
39 personnel, and (vii) information relating to instructional technology,
40 such as access to computers.

41 (2) Collect data relating to student enrollment in and graduation
42 from institutions of higher education for any student who had been
43 assigned a unique student identifier pursuant to subsection (b) of this
44 section, provided such data is available.

45 (3) Develop means for access to and data sharing with the data
46 systems of public institutions of higher education in the state.

47 (d) On or before July 1, [2011] 2013, and each year thereafter until
48 July 1, [2013] 2015, the Commissioner of Education shall report, in
49 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
50 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
51 relating to education on the progress of the department's efforts to
52 expand the state-wide public school information system pursuant to
53 subsection (c) of this section. The report shall include a full statement
54 of those data elements that are currently included in the system and
55 those data elements that will be added on or before July 1, [2013] 2015.

56 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 10-151b of the general statutes is
57 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
58 *passage*):

59 (c) On or before July 1, [2013] 2015, the State Board of Education
60 shall adopt, in consultation with the Performance Evaluation Advisory
61 Council established pursuant to section 10-151d, guidelines for a
62 model teacher evaluation program. Such guidelines shall provide
63 guidance on the use of multiple indicators of student academic growth
64 in teacher evaluations. Such guidelines shall include, but not be limited
65 to: (1) Methods for assessing student academic growth; (2) a
66 consideration of control factors tracked by the state-wide public school
67 information system, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-10a, as
68 amended by this act, that may influence teacher performance ratings,
69 including, but not limited to, student characteristics, student
70 attendance and student mobility; and (3) minimum requirements for
71 teacher evaluation instruments and procedures.

72 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-66bb of the general statutes is
73 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
74 *passage*):

75 (a) On and after July 1, 1997, the State Board of Education may
76 grant, within available appropriations, charters for local and state
77 charter schools in accordance with this section.

78 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 10-66bb of the general statutes is
79 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
80 *passage*):

81 (c) The State Board of Education shall review, annually, all
82 applications and grant charters in accordance with subsection (f) of
83 this section. (1) Except as provided for in subdivision (2) of this
84 subsection, no state charter school shall enroll (A) (i) more than two
85 hundred fifty students, or (ii) in the case of a kindergarten to grade
86 eight, inclusive, school, more than three hundred students, or (B)
87 twenty-five per cent of the enrollment of the school district in which
88 the state charter school is to be located, whichever is less. (2) In the
89 case of a state charter school found by the State Board of Education to
90 have a demonstrated record of achievement, [said board] such school
91 [shall] may, upon application [by such school] to and approval by said
92 board, [waive the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection for
93 such school] enroll up to eighty-five students per grade, if within
94 available appropriations. (3) On and after July 1, 2013, in the case of a
95 state charter school found by the State Board of Education to have a
96 demonstrated record of achievement, said board shall, upon
97 application by such school to said board, waive the provisions of
98 subdivision (1) of this subsection for such school. The State Board of
99 Education shall give preference to applicants for charter schools that
100 will serve students who reside in a priority school district pursuant to
101 section 10-266p or in a district in which seventy-five per cent or more
102 of the enrolled students are members of racial or ethnic minorities and
103 to applicants for state charter schools that will be located at a work-site
104 or that are institutions of higher education. In determining whether to
105 grant a charter, the State Board of Education shall consider the effect of
106 the proposed charter school on the reduction of racial, ethnic and
107 economic isolation in the region in which it is to be located, the
108 regional distribution of charter schools in the state and the potential of
109 over-concentration of charter schools within a school district or in
110 contiguous school districts.

111 Sec. 5. Subsection (d) of section 10-66dd of the general statutes is
112 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
113 *passage*):

114 (d) (1) An otherwise qualified school professional hired by a charter
115 school prior to July 1, 2010, and employed in a charter school may
116 participate in the state teacher retirement system under chapter 167a
117 on the same basis as if such professional were employed by a local or
118 regional board of education. The governing council of a charter school
119 shall make the contributions, as defined in subdivision (7) of section
120 10-183b for such professional.

121 (2) An otherwise qualified school professional hired by a charter
122 school [on or after] from July 1, 2010, to the effective date of this act,
123 and who has not previously been employed by a charter school in this
124 state prior to July 1, 2010, shall participate in the state teacher
125 retirement system under chapter 167a on the same basis as if such
126 professional were employed by a local or regional board of education.
127 The governing council of a charter school shall make the contributions,
128 as defined in subdivision (7) of section 10-183b for such professional.

129 (3) An otherwise qualified school professional hired by a charter
130 school on or after July 1, 2013, and who has not previously been
131 employed by a charter school in this state prior to July 1, 2013, shall
132 participate in the state teacher retirement system under chapter 167a
133 on the same basis as if such professional were employed by a local or
134 regional board of education. The governing council of a charter school
135 shall make the contributions, as defined in subdivision (7) of section
136 10-183b for such professional.

137 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 10-66hh of the general statutes is
138 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
139 *passage*):

140 (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2008] 2013, and each fiscal
141 year thereafter, the Commissioner of Education shall establish, within

142 available bond authorizations, a grant program to assist state charter
143 schools in financing (1) school building projects, as defined in section
144 10-282, (2) general improvements to school buildings, as defined in
145 subsection (a) of section 10-265h, and (3) repayment of debt incurred
146 for school building projects. The governing authorities of such state
147 charter schools may apply for such grants to the Department of
148 Education at such time and in such manner as the commissioner
149 prescribes. The commissioner shall give preference to applications that
150 provide for matching funds from nonstate sources.

151 Sec. 7. Subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of section 10-221a of the
152 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
153 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

154 (b) For classes graduating from 2004 to [2017] 2019, inclusive, no
155 local or regional board of education shall permit any student to
156 graduate from high school or grant a diploma to any student who has
157 not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer
158 than four of which shall be in English, not fewer than three in
159 mathematics, not fewer than three in social studies, including at least a
160 one-half credit course on civics and American government, not fewer
161 than two in science, not fewer than one in the arts or vocational
162 education and not fewer than one in physical education.

163 (c) Commencing with classes graduating in [2018] 2020, and for each
164 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education
165 shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a
166 diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily completed (1) a
167 minimum of twenty-five credits, including not fewer than: (A) Nine
168 credits in the humanities, including not fewer than (i) four credits in
169 English, including composition; (ii) three credits in social studies,
170 including at least one credit in American history and at least one-half
171 credit in civics and American government; (iii) one credit in fine arts;
172 and (iv) one credit in a humanities elective; (B) eight credits in science,
173 technology, engineering and mathematics, including not fewer than (i)

174 four credits in mathematics, including algebra I, geometry and algebra
175 II or probability and statistics; (ii) three credits in science, including at
176 least one credit in life science and at least one credit in physical science;
177 and (iii) one credit in a science, technology, engineering and
178 mathematics elective; (C) three and one-half credits in career and life
179 skills, including not fewer than (i) one credit in physical education; (ii)
180 one-half credit in health and safety education, as described in section
181 10-16b; and (iii) two credits in career and life skills electives, such as
182 career and technical education, English as a second language,
183 community service, personal finance, public speaking and nutrition
184 and physical activity; (D) two credits in world languages, subject to the
185 provisions of subsection (g) of this section; and (E) a one credit senior
186 demonstration project or its equivalent, as approved by the State Board
187 of Education; and (2) end of the school year examinations for the
188 following courses: (A) Algebra I, (B) geometry, (C) biology, (D)
189 American history, and (E) grade ten English.

190 (d) Commencing with classes graduating in [2018] 2020, and for
191 each graduating class thereafter, local and regional boards of education
192 shall provide adequate student support and remedial services for
193 students beginning in grade seven. Such student support and remedial
194 services shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of
195 the high school graduation requirements or end of the school year
196 examinations described in subsection (c) of this section, if such student
197 is unable to satisfactorily complete any of the required courses or
198 exams. Such student support and remedial services shall include, but
199 not be limited to, (1) allowing students to retake courses in summer
200 school or through an on-line course; (2) allowing students to enroll in a
201 class offered at a constituent unit of the state system of higher
202 education, as defined in section 10a-1, pursuant to subdivision (4) of
203 subsection (g) of this section; (3) allowing students who received a
204 failing score, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, on an
205 end of the school year exam to take an alternate form of the exam; and
206 (4) allowing those students whose individualized education plans state
207 that such students are eligible for an alternate assessment to

208 demonstrate competency on any of the five core courses through
209 success on such alternate assessment.

210 Sec. 8. Subsection (j) of section 10-221a of the general statutes is
211 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
212 *passage*):

213 (j) For the school year commencing July 1, [2012] 2014, and each
214 school year thereafter, a local or regional board of education shall
215 collect information for each student enrolled in a public school,
216 beginning in grade six, that records students' career and academic
217 choices in grades six to twelve, inclusive.

218 Sec. 9. Subsection (b) of section 10-5c of the general statutes is
219 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
220 *passage*):

221 (b) Notwithstanding the high school graduation requirements
222 pursuant to section 10-221a, as amended by this act, for the school year
223 commencing July 1, [2011] 2013, and each school year thereafter, a local
224 or regional board of education shall permit a student to graduate from
225 high school upon the successful completion of the board examination
226 series program described in subsection (a) of this section.

227 Sec. 10. Section 18 of public act 10-111 is repealed and the following
228 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

229 (a) For the fiscal years ending June 30, [2013] 2015, to June 30, [2018]
230 2020, inclusive, the Department of Education shall, within available
231 appropriations, provide grants to local and regional school districts to
232 begin implementation of the provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of
233 section 10-221a of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

234 (b) On or before November 1, [2012] 2014, and biennially thereafter,
235 each local or regional board of education seeking grant assistance from
236 the department pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall report to
237 the department on the status of the school district's implementation of

238 the provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of section 10-221a of the
239 general statutes, as amended by this act, and an explanation for the
240 reasons why funds are necessary for the next biennium to implement
241 the provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of said section 10-221a.

242 (c) On or before February 1, [2013] 2015, and biennially thereafter,
243 the department shall report, in accordance with the provisions of
244 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of
245 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
246 education on the status of implementation of the provisions of
247 subsections (c) and (d) of section 10-221a of the general statutes, as
248 amended by this act, by local and regional boards of education in the
249 state. Such report shall include, (1) an explanation of any existing state
250 and federal funds currently available to assist in such implementation,
251 (2) recommendations regarding the appropriation of additional state
252 funds to support local and regional boards of education in the
253 implementation of subsections (c) and (d) of said section 10-221a, and
254 (3) recommendations for any statutory changes that would facilitate
255 implementation of subsections (c) and (d) of said section 10-221a by
256 local and regional boards of education.

257 Sec. 11. Section 10-5e of the general statutes is repealed and the
258 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

259 On and after July 1, [2012] 2014, the Department of Education shall
260 commence development or approval of the end of the school year
261 examinations to be administered pursuant to subdivision (2) of
262 subsection (c) of section 10-221a, as amended by this act. Such
263 examinations shall be developed or approved on or before July 1,
264 [2014] 2016.

265 Sec. 12. Subdivision (8) of subsection (g) of section 10-223e of the
266 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
267 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

268 (8) The Commissioner of Education shall evaluate the school

269 governance councils established on or before January 15, 2011, based
270 on the criteria described in subsection (a) of section 10-4s, as amended
271 by this act. On or before October 1, [2014] 2016, the commissioner shall
272 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint
273 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
274 matters relating to education on the evaluation conducted pursuant to
275 this subdivision. Such report shall also include recommendations
276 whether to continue to allow school governance councils to
277 recommend reconstitution pursuant to this subsection.

278 Sec. 13. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 10-4s of the general
279 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
280 (*Effective from passage*):

281 (b) On or before January 1, [2012] 2014, the department shall report,
282 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
283 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
284 relating to education on (1) the number of school governance councils
285 established pursuant to subsection (g) of section 10-223e, as amended
286 by this act, and (2) the number of schools that have been reconstituted
287 and the models, as described in said subsection (g), that have been
288 adopted as part of such reconstitution.

289 (c) On or before January 1, [2013] 2015, the department shall report,
290 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
291 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
292 relating to education on (1) the monitoring conducted pursuant to
293 subsection (a) of this section, (2) recommendations relating to changes
294 in the reconstitution options available to schools, including whether
295 school governance councils may continue to recommend reconstitution
296 pursuant to subsection (g) of section 10-223e, as amended by this act,
297 (3) comparison of the models adopted, and (4) the level of progress of
298 schools adopting each model in relation to the indicators described in
299 subsection (a) of this section.

300 Sec. 14. Section 10-4t of the general statutes is repealed and the

301 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

302 [(a)] On or before July 1, [2011] 2013, and biennially thereafter, the
303 Department of Education shall report, within available appropriations,
304 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
305 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
306 relating to education on (1) the number of such school governance
307 councils that have initiated reconstitution pursuant to subsection (g) of
308 section 10-223, as amended by this act, (2) a comparison of those school
309 governance councils that have initiated such reconstitution and those
310 that have not, and (3) whether parental involvement has increased at
311 those schools with school governance councils.

312 [(b) On or before July 1, 2011, and annually thereafter, the
313 department shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section
314 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
315 cognizance of matters relating to education on the evaluations
316 conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.]

317 Sec. 15. Section 10-223g of the general statutes is repealed and the
318 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

319 [A] On and after July 1, 2013, a local or regional board of education
320 for a school district with a dropout rate of eight per cent or greater in
321 the previous school year, shall establish an on-line credit recovery
322 program. Such program shall allow those students who are identified
323 by certified personnel as in danger of failing to graduate to complete
324 on-line coursework approved by the local or regional board of
325 education for credit toward meeting the high school graduation
326 requirement pursuant to section 10-221a, as amended by this act. Each
327 school in the school district shall designate, from among existing staff,
328 an on-line learning coordinator who shall administer and coordinate
329 the on-line credit recovery program pursuant to this section.

330 Sec. 16. Subsection (a) of section 10-221r of the general statutes is
331 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*

332 *passage*):

333 (a) For the school year commencing July 1, [2011] 2013, and each
334 school year thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall
335 provide an advanced placement course program. For purposes of this
336 section, "advanced placement course program" means a program that
337 provides courses at the high school level for which an advanced
338 placement examination is available through the College Board.

339 Sec. 17. Subsection (a) of section 10-151b of the general statutes is
340 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
341 *passage*):

342 (a) The superintendent of each local or regional board of education
343 shall continuously evaluate or cause to be evaluated each teacher, in
344 accordance with guidelines established by the State Board of
345 Education, pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, [for the
346 development of evaluation programs] and such other guidelines as
347 may be established by mutual agreement between the local or regional
348 board of education and the teachers' representative chosen pursuant to
349 section 10-153b. [, continuously evaluate or cause to be evaluated each
350 teacher.] An evaluation pursuant to this subsection shall include, but
351 need not be limited to, strengths, areas needing improvement,
352 strategies for improvement and multiple indicators of student
353 academic growth. Claims of failure to follow the established
354 procedures of such evaluation programs shall be subject to the
355 grievance procedure in collective bargaining agreements negotiated
356 subsequent to July 1, 2004. The superintendent shall report the status
357 of teacher evaluations to the local or regional board of education on or
358 before June first of each year. For purposes of this section, the term
359 "teacher" shall include each professional employee of a board of
360 education, below the rank of superintendent, who holds a certificate or
361 permit issued by the State Board of Education.

362 Sec. 18. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
363 examine issues relating to the changes to the high school graduation

364 requirements pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-221a of the
365 general statutes, as amended by this act, including, but not limited to,
366 special programming needs, requirement waivers and the appropriate
367 subject areas for courses pursuant to said subsection (c) of section 10-
368 221a.

369 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members: (1) The
370 Commissioners of Education, or the commissioner's designee, (2) one
371 representative from each of the following associations, designated by
372 the association, the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education,
373 the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents,
374 Connecticut Federation of School Administrators, the Connecticut
375 Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers-
376 Connecticut, and (3) persons selected by the Commissioner of
377 Education who shall include, but not be limited to, teachers and any
378 other person the commissioner deems appropriate.

379 (c) All appointments to the task force shall be made no later than
380 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
381 filled by the appointing authority.

382 (d) The representative from the Connecticut Association of Public
383 School Superintendents shall serve as the chairperson of the task force.
384 Such chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the task force,
385 which shall be held no later than sixty days after the effective date of
386 this section.

387 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
388 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
389 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

390 (f) Not later than January 1, 2012, the task force shall submit a report
391 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee
392 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
393 education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
394 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it

395 submits such report or January 1, 2012, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10-10a(c) and (d)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	10-151b(c)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	10-66bb(a)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	10-66bb(c)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	10-66dd(d)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	10-66hh(a)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	10-221a(b) to (d)
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	10-221a(j)
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	10-5c(b)
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	PA 10-111, Sec. 18
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	10-5e
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	10-223e(g)(8)
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	10-4s(b) and (c)
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	10-4t
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	10-223g
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	10-221r(a)
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	10-151b(a)
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To delay the implementation of certain mandates in public act 10-111; to make technical corrections to public act 10-111; and to create a task force to examine issues related to the changes in the high school graduation requirements.

[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.]