



General Assembly

February Session, 2012

Raised Bill No. 5352

LCO No. 1650

01650_____ED_

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Department of
2 Education shall establish a pilot program to promote the
3 personalization of learning in schools. On or before June 15, 2012, local
4 and regional boards of education may submit proposals to the
5 department to participate in the pilot program and receive a grant to
6 implement the program. One or more local or regional boards of
7 education may submit joint proposals for grants under this section. On
8 or before July 1, 2012, the Commissioner of Education shall select ten
9 school districts from among the proposals received by the department
10 based on the criteria described in subsection (b) of this section. For the
11 fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, the commissioner shall provide grants
12 in the amount of fifty thousand dollars for purposes of implementing
13 the plans described in the proposals submitted to the department.

14 (b) The department shall develop evaluation criteria for use by the
15 commissioner when selecting the proposals, submitted pursuant to
16 subsection (a) of this section, that are the most innovative and most

17 likely to improve the personalization of learning. Such criteria (1) shall
18 focus on (A) the relationship of time and learning, (B) the
19 personalization of learning, and (C) financial sustainability of reforms;
20 and (2) may consider (A) the design of the proposed schooling model,
21 (B) the proposed means of raising standards and improving student
22 achievement, (C) the provision of early childhood education
23 opportunities, (D) the use and availability of technology, (E) the use of
24 student assessments to monitor student academic progress and
25 achievement, and (F) accountability frameworks.

26 (c) Grants under this section shall be awarded to school districts for
27 the purpose of implementing the plan described in the approved
28 proposal submitted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section during
29 the first three years of participation in the pilot program. Such grants
30 shall be used to cover any costs or expenses in excess of the normal
31 operational costs of the school district in the implementation of such
32 plan. Such planning grants may be used to relieve the superintendent
33 of schools, administrators and teachers of day-to-day responsibilities
34 so that such superintendents, administrators and teachers may
35 implement such plans in the school district.

36 (d) The department shall regularly conduct meetings with the
37 superintendents of schools for each school district receiving a grant
38 under this section and a representative from the Connecticut
39 Association of Public School Superintendents. Such meetings shall
40 discuss and evaluate the implementation of the plans described in the
41 approved proposals, submitted pursuant to subsection (a) of this
42 section, establish benchmarks for student and district performance and
43 achievement and suggest recommendations for the improvement of
44 the program.

45 (e) The commissioner may waive any provision of the general
46 statutes or any regulation adopted by the State Board of Education that
47 inhibits the implementation of a plan described in an approved
48 proposal submitted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

49 Sec. 2. Subsections (f) and (g) of section 10-221a of the 2012
50 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
51 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2012*):

52 (f) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of the
53 local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of the
54 curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject matter
55 of the specified course requirements. The local or regional board of
56 education may permit a student to graduate during a period of
57 expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the
58 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to
59 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student
60 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when
61 the planning and placement team for such student determines the
62 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, a
63 credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute
64 class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or
65 part of a credit toward high school graduation earned (1) at an
66 institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or
67 regionally accredited; [or] (2) through on-line coursework that is in
68 accordance with a policy adopted pursuant to subsection (g) of this
69 section; or (3) through the successful completion of a competency
70 assessment, pursuant to subsection (g) of this section.

71 (g) Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive,
72 shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that a local or regional
73 board of education may grant a student credit (1) toward meeting a
74 specified course requirement upon the successful completion in grade
75 seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of which corresponds
76 directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in
77 grades nine to twelve, inclusive; (2) toward meeting the high school
78 graduation requirement upon the successful completion of a world
79 language course (A) in grade six, seven or eight, (B) through on-line
80 coursework, or (C) offered privately through a nonprofit provider,
81 provided such student achieves a passing grade on an examination

82 prescribed, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of
83 Education and such credits do not exceed four; (3) toward meeting the
84 high school graduation requirement upon achievement of a passing
85 grade on a subject area proficiency examination identified and
86 approved, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of
87 Education, regardless of the number of hours the student spent in a
88 public school classroom learning such subject matter; (4) toward
89 meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful
90 completion of coursework at an institution accredited by the Board of
91 Regents for Higher Education or regionally accredited. One three-
92 credit semester course, or its equivalent, at such an institution shall
93 equal one-half credit for purposes of this section; (5) toward meeting
94 the high school graduation requirement upon the successful
95 completion of on-line coursework, provided the local or regional board
96 of education has adopted a policy in accordance with this subdivision
97 for the granting of credit for on-line coursework. Such a policy shall
98 ensure, at a minimum, that (A) the workload required by the on-line
99 course is equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a traditional
100 classroom setting, (B) the content is rigorous and aligned with
101 curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education,
102 where appropriate, (C) the course engages students and has interactive
103 components, which may include, but are not limited to, required
104 interactions between students and their teachers, participation in on-
105 line demonstrations, discussion boards or virtual labs, (D) the program
106 of instruction for such on-line coursework is planned, ongoing and
107 systematic, and (E) the courses are (i) taught by teachers who are
108 certified in the state or another state and have received training on
109 teaching in an on-line environment, or (ii) offered by institutions of
110 higher education that are accredited by the Board of Regents for
111 Higher Education or regionally accredited; [or] (6) toward meeting the
112 high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of
113 the board examination series pursuant to section 10-5c; or (7) toward
114 meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful
115 completion of a competency assessment developed or approved by the

116 Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 3 of this act.

117 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2012, the
118 Commissioner of Education shall develop or approve competency
119 assessments to be used by local or regional boards of education for
120 purposes of determining eligible credits for satisfaction of the high
121 school graduation requirements pursuant to section 10-221a of the
122 general statutes, as amended by this act.

123 Sec. 4. Section 10-5e of the 2012 supplement to the general statutes is
124 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
125 *1, 2012*):

126 On and after July 1, 2014, the Department of Education shall
127 commence development or approval of the end of the school year
128 examinations to be administered pursuant to subdivision (2) of
129 subsection (c) of section 10-221a. The department shall develop or
130 adopt various models of such examinations and various means of
131 administering such examinations to be part of a personalized
132 assessment system developed by the department pursuant to section 5
133 of this act. Such examinations shall be developed or approved on or
134 before July 1, 2016.

135 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2012*) On or before July 1, 2016, the
136 Department of Education shall develop a personalized assessment
137 system to be used by local and regional boards of education. Such
138 personalized assessment system shall assist local and regional boards
139 of education in improving student achievement by developing
140 personalized learning opportunities for students, and shall include, but
141 not be limited to, various models of examinations to be administered
142 to students, pursuant to sections 10-14n and 10-221a of the general
143 statutes, as amended by this act.

144 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2012*) The sum of five hundred thousand
145 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Education, from the
146 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, for

147 implementing the provisions of the pilot program described in section
148 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2012</i>	10-221a(f) and (g)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2012</i>	10-5e
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2012</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2012</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To promote the personalization of student learning by establishing a pilot program to provide grants to school districts to develop personalized systems of learning, authorizing the Commissioner of Education to develop assessments to be used to determine eligible credits for satisfying the high school graduation requirements, and to establish a personalized assessment system that develops various models of state examinations.

[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.]