



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5900

January Session, 2013



AN ACT REQUIRING MORE TRANSPARENCY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE STATE EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER.

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (28) of section 4e-1 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (28) "State contracting agency" means any executive branch agency,
5 board, commission, department, office, institution or council. "State
6 contracting agency" does not include the judicial branch, the legislative
7 branch, the offices of the Secretary of the State, the State Comptroller,
8 the Attorney General, the State Treasurer, with respect to their
9 constitutional functions, any state agency with respect to contracts
10 specific to the constitutional and statutory functions of the office of the
11 State Treasurer. For the purposes of section 4e-16, [state contracting
12 agency] "state contracting agency" includes any constituent unit of the
13 state system of higher education and for the purposes of section 4e-19,
14 "state contracting agency" includes the State Education Resource
15 Center, established pursuant to section 10-4q, as amended by this act,
16 and any regional educational service centers, as described in section
17 10-66a;

18 Sec. 2. Section 10-4q of the general statutes is repealed and the

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

20 (a) The State Board of Education shall establish a State Education
21 Resource Center to assist the board in the provision of programs and
22 activities that will promote educational equity and excellence. Such
23 activities, to be provided by the State Education Resource Center or a
24 regional educational service center, may include training and
25 professional development seminars, publication of technical materials,
26 research and evaluation, and other related activities. The center may
27 support programs and activities concerning early childhood education,
28 the federal No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, and closing the
29 academic achievement gap between socio-economic subgroups, and
30 other related programs. The center shall be considered (1) a public
31 agency, as defined in section 1-200, for purposes of chapter 14, and (2)
32 a state agency, as defined in section 4-212, for purposes of chapter 55a.

33 (b) The Commissioner of Education, with the assistance of the State
34 Education Resource Center, may provide grants to local and regional
35 boards of education for districts identified as in need of improvement
36 under the provisions of section 10-223e. The grants shall be for the
37 creation and acquisition of new curricula, training in the use of the
38 curricula and related supporting textbooks and other materials. Local
39 and regional boards of education may use such grants only for
40 curricula, training and related textbooks and materials that have been
41 authorized by the commissioner. Local and regional boards of
42 education shall apply for grants pursuant to this subsection at such
43 time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes, and the
44 commissioner shall determine the amount of the grant awards.

45 (c) Within available appropriations, the Department of Education
46 shall establish a Connecticut School Reform Resource Center within
47 the State Education Resource Center established pursuant to
48 subsection (a) of this section or by contract through a regional
49 educational service center. The center shall operate year-round and
50 focus on serving the needs of all public schools. The center shall (1)
51 publish and distribute reports on the most effective practices for

52 improving student achievement by successful schools, (2) provide a
 53 program of professional development activities for (A) school leaders,
 54 including curriculum coordinators, principals, superintendents and
 55 board of education members, and (B) teachers to educate such students
 56 that includes research-based child development and reading
 57 instruction tools and practices, (3) provide information on successful
 58 models for evaluating student performance and managing student
 59 data, (4) develop strategies for assisting such students who are in
 60 danger of failing, (5) develop culturally relevant methods for
 61 educating students whose primary language is not English, and (6)
 62 provide other programs and materials to assist in the improvement of
 63 public schools.

64 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2013*) Not later than January 15, 2014,
 65 and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Education shall submit a
 66 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
 67 statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
 68 having cognizance of matters relating to education and government
 69 administration containing (1) all contracts, including personal service
 70 agreements, awarded by the Department of Education and the State
 71 Education Resource Center to private vendors and regional education
 72 service centers during the previous year for purposes of fulfilling the
 73 duties of the Department of Education; (2) all amounts and sources of
 74 private funding, including grants, received by the Department of
 75 Education and the State Education Resource Center; and (3) the
 76 amounts paid by the Department of Education or the State Education
 77 Resource Center for the salary, fringe benefits and other compensation
 78 for any department or center employee or consultant. Such report shall
 79 also be posted on the Internet web sites of the Department of
 80 Education and the State Education Resource Center.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	4e-1(28)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	10-4q

Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	New section
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GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*