



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

***Raised Bill No. 6504***

LCO No. 3752



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL PROGRAMS.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2013*) (a) As used in this section  
2 and section 10-233d of the general statutes, as amended by this act,  
3 "alternative school program" means an educational program of  
4 instruction offered by a local or regional board of education that is not  
5 part of the general education provided by such board of education.

6 (b) A local or regional board of education shall offer an alternative  
7 school program to any student (1) who is under sixteen years of age  
8 during a period of expulsion, in accordance with the provisions of  
9 section 10-233d of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (2) who  
10 is between the ages of sixteen and eighteen years and has been  
11 expelled for the first time, in accordance with the provisions of said  
12 section 10-233d, (3) as part of an adult education activity, pursuant to  
13 section 10-69 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, during a  
14 period of expulsion, in accordance with the provisions of said section  
15 10-233d, or (4) enrolling in school who is nineteen years of age or older  
16 and cannot acquire a sufficient number of credits for graduation by

17 twenty-one years of age, or (5) who, in the opinion of such board and  
18 with the informed consent of such student or a parent or guardian of  
19 such student, as applicable, would benefit academically in an  
20 alternative school program.

21 (c) Any alternative education program offered by a local or regional  
22 board of education pursuant to this section shall be offered in  
23 accordance with the provisions of section 10-16 of the general statutes,  
24 and provide a program of instruction in accordance with the  
25 provisions of section 10-16b of the general statutes.

26 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-220 of the general statutes is  
27 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
28 *1, 2013*):

29 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall maintain good  
30 public elementary and secondary schools, implement the educational  
31 interests of the state, as defined in section 10-4a, and provide such  
32 other educational activities as in its judgment will best serve the  
33 interests of the school district; provided any board of education may  
34 secure such opportunities in another school district in accordance with  
35 provisions of the general statutes and shall give all the children of the  
36 school district as nearly equal advantages as may be practicable; shall  
37 provide an appropriate learning environment for its students which  
38 includes (1) adequate instructional books, supplies, materials,  
39 equipment, staffing, facilities and technology, (2) equitable allocation  
40 of resources among its schools, (3) proper maintenance of facilities,  
41 and (4) a safe school setting; shall, in accordance with the provisions of  
42 subsection (f) of this section, maintain records of allegations,  
43 investigations and reports that a child has been abused or neglected by  
44 a school employee, as defined in section 53a-65, employed by the local  
45 or regional board of education; shall have charge of the schools of its  
46 respective school district; shall make a continuing study of the need for  
47 school facilities and of a long-term school building program and from  
48 time to time make recommendations based on such study to the town;

49 shall adopt and implement an indoor air quality program that  
50 provides for ongoing maintenance and facility reviews necessary for  
51 the maintenance and improvement of the indoor air quality of its  
52 facilities; shall adopt and implement a green cleaning program,  
53 pursuant to section 10-231g, that provides for the procurement and use  
54 of environmentally preferable cleaning products in school buildings  
55 and facilities; on and after July 1, 2011, and triennially thereafter, shall  
56 report to the Commissioner of Construction Services on the condition  
57 of its facilities and the action taken to implement its long-term school  
58 building program, indoor air quality program and green cleaning  
59 program, which report the Commissioner of Construction Services  
60 shall use to prepare a triennial report that said commissioner shall  
61 submit in accordance with section 11-4a to the joint standing  
62 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
63 relating to education; shall advise the Commissioner of Construction  
64 Services of the relationship between any individual school building  
65 project pursuant to chapter 173 and such long-term school building  
66 program; shall have the care, maintenance and operation of buildings,  
67 lands, apparatus and other property used for school purposes and at  
68 all times shall insure all such buildings and all capital equipment  
69 contained therein against loss in an amount not less than eighty per  
70 cent of replacement cost; shall determine the number, age and  
71 qualifications of the pupils to be admitted into each school; shall  
72 develop and implement a written plan for minority staff recruitment  
73 for purposes of subdivision (3) of section 10-4a; shall employ and  
74 dismiss the teachers of the schools of such district subject to the  
75 provisions of sections 10-151 and 10-158a; shall designate the schools  
76 which shall be attended by the various children within the school  
77 district; shall make such provisions as will enable each child of school  
78 age residing in the district to attend some public day school for the  
79 period required by law and provide for the transportation of children  
80 wherever transportation is reasonable and desirable, and for such  
81 purpose may make contracts covering periods of not more than five  
82 years; [may place in] shall offer an alternative school program [or other

83 suitable educational program a pupil enrolling in school who is  
84 nineteen years of age or older and cannot acquire a sufficient number  
85 of credits for graduation by age twenty-one] in accordance with the  
86 provisions of section 1 of this act; may arrange with the board of  
87 education of an adjacent town for the instruction therein of such  
88 children as can attend school in such adjacent town more conveniently;  
89 shall cause each child five years of age and over and under eighteen  
90 years of age who is not a high school graduate and is living in the  
91 school district to attend school in accordance with the provisions of  
92 section 10-184, and shall perform all acts required of it by the town or  
93 necessary to carry into effect the powers and duties imposed by law.

94 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 10-220 of the general statutes is  
95 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
96 *1, 2013*):

97 (c) Annually, each local and regional board of education shall  
98 submit to the Commissioner of Education a strategic school profile  
99 report for each school under its jurisdiction and for the school district  
100 as a whole. The superintendent of each local and regional school  
101 district shall present the profile report at the next regularly scheduled  
102 public meeting of the board of education after each November first.  
103 The profile report shall provide information on measures of (1) student  
104 needs, (2) school resources, including technological resources and  
105 utilization of such resources and infrastructure, (3) student and school  
106 performance, including truancy, (4) the number of students enrolled in  
107 an adult high school credit diploma program, pursuant to section 10-  
108 69, operated by a local or regional board of education or a regional  
109 educational service center, (5) equitable allocation of resources among  
110 its schools, (6) reduction of racial, ethnic and economic isolation, [and]  
111 (7) special education, and (8) the program of instruction offered as part  
112 of an alternative school program, pursuant to section 1 of this act, and  
113 the number of students enrolled in such alternative school program.  
114 For purposes of this subsection, measures of special education include  
115 (A) special education identification rates by disability, (B) rates at

116 which special education students are exempted from mastery testing  
117 pursuant to section 10-14q, (C) expenditures for special education,  
118 including such expenditures as a percentage of total expenditures, (D)  
119 achievement data for special education students, (E) rates at which  
120 students identified as requiring special education are no longer  
121 identified as requiring special education, (F) the availability of  
122 supplemental educational services for students lacking basic  
123 educational skills, (G) the amount of special education student  
124 instructional time with nondisabled peers, (H) the number of students  
125 placed out-of-district, and (I) the actions taken by the school district to  
126 improve special education programs, as indicated by analyses of the  
127 local data provided in subparagraphs (A) to (H), inclusive, of this  
128 subdivision. The superintendent shall include in the narrative portion  
129 of the report information about parental involvement and if the district  
130 has taken measures to improve parental involvement, including, but  
131 not limited to, employment of methods to engage parents in the  
132 planning and improvement of school programs and methods to  
133 increase support to parents working at home with their children on  
134 learning activities. For purposes of this subsection, measures of  
135 truancy include the type of data that is required to be collected by the  
136 Department of Education regarding attendance and unexcused  
137 absences in order for the department to comply with federal reporting  
138 requirements and the actions taken by the local or regional board of  
139 education to reduce truancy in the school district. Such truancy data  
140 shall be considered a public record for purposes of chapter 14.

141 Sec. 4. Subsections (c) to (i), inclusive, of section 10-233d of the  
142 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
143 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

144 (c) (1) In determining the length of an expulsion, [and the nature of  
145 the alternative educational opportunity to be offered under subsection  
146 (d) of this section,] the local or regional board of education, or the  
147 impartial hearing board established pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
148 section, may receive and consider evidence of past disciplinary

149 problems which have led to removal from a classroom, suspension or  
150 expulsion of such pupil.

151 (2) For any pupil expelled for the first time pursuant to this section  
152 and who has never been suspended pursuant to section 10-233c, the  
153 local or regional board of education may shorten the length of or waive  
154 the expulsion period if the pupil successfully completes a board-  
155 specified program and meets any other conditions required by the  
156 board. Such board-specified program shall not require the pupil or the  
157 parent or guardian of the pupil to pay for participation in the program.

158 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of section 10-  
159 220, local and regional boards of education shall [only be required to]  
160 offer an [alternative educational opportunity] alternative school  
161 program in accordance with [this section] the provisions of section 1 of  
162 this act. Any pupil under sixteen years of age who is expelled shall be  
163 offered [an alternative educational opportunity] enrollment in an  
164 alternative school program during the period of expulsion, provided  
165 [any] the parent or guardian of such pupil provides informed consent  
166 for such pupil to be enrolled in an alternative school program. The  
167 parent or guardian who does not choose to have his or her child  
168 enrolled in an alternative [educational] school program shall not be  
169 subject to the provisions of section 10-184. Any pupil expelled for the  
170 first time who is between the ages of sixteen and eighteen years and  
171 who wishes to continue his or her education shall be offered an  
172 alternative [educational opportunity] school program if he or she  
173 complies with conditions established by his or her local or regional  
174 board of education and the parent or guardian of such pupil provides  
175 informed consent for such pupil to be enrolled in such alternative  
176 school program. Such alternative [educational opportunity] school  
177 program may include, but shall not be limited to, the placement of a  
178 pupil who is at least seventeen years of age in an adult education  
179 [program] activity pursuant to section 10-69, as amended by this act.  
180 Any pupil participating in an adult education [program] activity,  
181 pursuant to said section 10-69, during a period of expulsion shall not

182 be required to withdraw from school under section 10-184. A local or  
183 regional board of education shall count the expulsion of a pupil when  
184 he or she was under sixteen years of age for purposes of determining  
185 whether an alternative [educational opportunity] school program is  
186 required for such pupil when he or she is between the ages of sixteen  
187 and eighteen years. [A local or regional board of education may offer  
188 an alternative educational opportunity to a pupil for whom such  
189 alternative educational opportunity is not required pursuant to this  
190 section.]

191 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section  
192 concerning the provision of an alternative [educational opportunity]  
193 school program for pupils between the ages of sixteen and eighteen  
194 years, local and regional boards of education shall not be required to  
195 offer such alternative school program to any pupil between the ages of  
196 sixteen and eighteen years who is expelled because of conduct which  
197 endangers persons if it is determined at the expulsion hearing that the  
198 conduct for which the pupil is expelled involved (1) possession of a  
199 firearm, as defined in 18 USC 921, as amended from time to time, or  
200 deadly weapon, dangerous instrument or martial arts weapon, as  
201 defined in section 53a-3, on school property or at a school-sponsored  
202 activity, or (2) offering for sale or distribution on school property or at  
203 a school-sponsored activity a controlled substance, as defined in  
204 subdivision (9) of section 21a-240, whose manufacture, distribution,  
205 sale, prescription, dispensing, transporting or possessing with the  
206 intent to sell or dispense, offering, or administration is subject to  
207 criminal penalties under sections 21a-277 and 21a-278. If a pupil is  
208 expelled pursuant to this section for possession of a firearm or deadly  
209 weapon the board of education shall report the violation to the local  
210 police department or in the case of a student enrolled in a technical  
211 high school to the state police. If a pupil is expelled pursuant to this  
212 section for the sale or distribution of such a controlled substance, the  
213 board of education shall refer the pupil to an appropriate state or local  
214 agency for rehabilitation, intervention or job training, or any

215 combination thereof, and inform the agency of its action. Whenever a  
216 local or regional board of education notifies a pupil between the ages  
217 of sixteen and eighteen years or the parents or guardian of such pupil  
218 that an expulsion hearing will be held, the notification shall include a  
219 statement that the board of education is not required to offer an  
220 alternative [educational opportunity] school program to any pupil  
221 who is found to have engaged in the conduct described in this  
222 subsection.

223 (f) (1) Whenever a pupil is expelled pursuant to the provisions of  
224 this section, notice of the expulsion and the conduct for which the  
225 pupil was expelled shall be included on the pupil's cumulative  
226 educational record. Such notice, except for notice of an expulsion  
227 based on possession of a firearm or deadly weapon as described in  
228 subsection (a) of this section, shall be expunged from the cumulative  
229 educational record by the local or regional board of education if a  
230 pupil graduates from high school, except as provided for in  
231 subdivision (2) of this subsection.

232 (2) In the case of a pupil for which the length of the expulsion  
233 period is shortened or the expulsion period is waived pursuant to  
234 subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section, such notice shall be  
235 expunged from the cumulative educational record by the local or  
236 regional board of education (A) if the pupil graduates from high  
237 school, or (B) if the board so chooses, at the time the pupil completes  
238 the board-specified program and meets any other conditions required  
239 by the board pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this  
240 section, whichever is earlier.

241 (g) A local or regional board of education may adopt the decision of  
242 a pupil expulsion hearing conducted by another school district  
243 provided such local or regional board of education or impartial  
244 hearing board shall hold a hearing pursuant to the provisions of  
245 subsection (a) of this section which shall be limited to a determination  
246 of whether the conduct which was the basis for the expulsion would

247 also warrant expulsion under the policies of such board. The pupil  
248 shall be excluded from school pending such hearing. The excluded  
249 student shall be offered an alternative [educational opportunity]  
250 school program in accordance with the provisions of subsections (d)  
251 and (e) of this section.

252 (h) Whenever a pupil against whom an expulsion hearing is  
253 pending withdraws from school after notification of such hearing but  
254 before the hearing is completed and a decision rendered pursuant to  
255 this section, (1) notice of the pending expulsion hearing shall be  
256 included on the pupil's cumulative educational record, and (2) the  
257 local or regional board of education or impartial hearing board shall  
258 complete the expulsion hearing and render a decision. If such pupil  
259 enrolls in school in another school district, such pupil shall not be  
260 excluded from school in the other district pending completion of the  
261 expulsion hearing pursuant to this subsection unless an emergency  
262 exists, provided nothing in this subsection shall limit the authority of  
263 the local or regional board of education for such district to suspend the  
264 pupil or to conduct its own expulsion hearing in accordance with this  
265 section.

266 (i) Prior to conducting an expulsion hearing for a child requiring  
267 special education and related services described in subparagraph (A)  
268 of subdivision (5) of section 10-76a, a planning and placement team  
269 shall convene to determine whether the misconduct was caused by the  
270 child's disability. If it is determined that the misconduct was caused by  
271 the child's disability, the child shall not be expelled. The planning and  
272 placement team shall reevaluate the child for the purpose of modifying  
273 the child's individualized education program to address the  
274 misconduct and to ensure the safety of other children and staff in the  
275 school. If it is determined that the misconduct was not caused by the  
276 child's disability, the child may be expelled in accordance with the  
277 provisions of this section applicable to children who do not require  
278 special education and related services. Notwithstanding the provisions  
279 of subsections (d) and (e) of this section, whenever a child requiring

280 such special education and related services is expelled, an alternative  
281 [educational opportunity] school program, consistent with such child's  
282 educational needs shall be provided during the period of expulsion.

283 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 10-69 of the general statutes is  
284 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
285 *1, 2013*):

286 (a) Each local and regional board of education shall establish and  
287 maintain a program of adult classes or shall provide for participation  
288 in a program of adult classes for its adult residents through  
289 cooperative arrangements with one or more other boards of education,  
290 one or more cooperating eligible entities or a regional educational  
291 service center pursuant to the provisions of section 10-66a. Such board  
292 of education may admit an adult to any public elementary or  
293 secondary school. No person enrolled in a full-time program of study  
294 in any local or regional school district may enroll in an adult education  
295 activity unless (1) such person receives the approval of the school  
296 principal of the school in which such person is enrolled in such full-  
297 time program, or (2) such person is enrolled in an adult education  
298 activity as part of an alternative [educational opportunity] school  
299 program, as defined in section 1 of this act, during a period of  
300 expulsion, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-233d, as  
301 amended by this act. Instruction: (A) Shall be provided in  
302 Americanization and United States citizenship, English for adults with  
303 limited English proficiency and elementary and secondary school  
304 completion programs or classes; and (B) may be provided in (i) any  
305 subject provided by the elementary and secondary schools of such  
306 school district, including vocational education, (ii) adult literacy, (iii)  
307 parenting skills, and (iv) any other subject or activity.

308 Sec. 6. Subsection (b) of section 10-4p of the general statutes is  
309 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
310 *1, 2013*):

311 (b) Prior to developing the plan, the State Board of Education shall  
312 conduct a state-wide assessment of the disparities among local and  
313 regional school districts and make comparisons to relevant national  
314 standards or regional accreditation standards, in the areas of: (1)  
315 Resources, including educational materials, supplies, equipment,  
316 textbooks, library materials, facilities and expenditures by category  
317 and in total; (2) staff, including the education and experience of  
318 teachers, staff-student ratios, the racial and ethnic characteristics of  
319 staff, minority staff recruitment and a comparison of the racial  
320 diversity of school staffs to the racial diversity of the region where the  
321 school is located; (3) program and curriculum, including course  
322 offerings, requirements, enrollments in advanced, special and  
323 compensatory education, programs and services to students with  
324 limited English proficiency and an analysis of such programs and  
325 services in terms of the recommendations of the bilingual education  
326 task force, policies on student assignment and promotion,  
327 extracurricular activities and student participation, goals and  
328 objectives and content and performance standards, opportunities for  
329 summer school, school-to-career transition, alternative school  
330 programs, as defined in section 1 of this act, and parent-student choice  
331 of school or program; (4) student achievement, including the effect of  
332 social promotional policies on student achievement, state and national  
333 assessments, dropout rates, attendance, graduation follow-up data,  
334 artistic, athletic and community service accomplishments, other  
335 documentation of student success, and success in reducing the racial,  
336 ethnic and economic isolation of students; and (5) community  
337 involvement, including parent and family contact with the school and  
338 teachers, business partnerships, joint programs with community  
339 agencies, town-wide preschool coordination, opportunities for adult  
340 basic education and parenting education.

341 Sec. 7. Subsection (b) of section 10-263c of the general statutes is  
342 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
343 *1, 2013*):

344 (b) A transitional school district grant shall be payable to the local  
345 board of education for the school district. The local board shall use the  
346 funds for any of the following: (1) The creation or expansion of  
347 programs or activities related to dropout prevention, (2) alternative  
348 school programs, as defined in section 1 of this act, and transitional  
349 programs for students having difficulty succeeding in traditional  
350 educational programs, (3) academic enrichment, tutorial and recreation  
351 programs or activities in school buildings during nonschool hours and  
352 during the summer, (4) development or expansion of extended-day  
353 kindergarten programs, (5) development or expansion of early reading  
354 intervention programs, including summer and after-school programs,  
355 (6) enhancement of the use of technology to support instruction or  
356 improve parent and teacher communication, (7) initiatives to  
357 strengthen parent involvement in the education of children, and parent  
358 and other community involvement in school and school district  
359 programs, activities and educational policies, which may be in  
360 accordance with the provisions of section 10-4g, or (8) for purposes of  
361 obtaining accreditation for elementary and middle schools from the  
362 New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Each such board of  
363 education shall use at least twenty per cent of its grant for early  
364 reading intervention programs. Each such board of education shall use  
365 its grant to supplement existing programs or create new programs. If  
366 the State Board of Education finds that any such grant is being used for  
367 other purposes or is being used to decrease the local share of support  
368 for schools, it may require repayment of such grant to the state.

369 Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 10-266q of the general statutes is  
370 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
371 *1, 2013*):

372 (b) A priority school district grant shall be payable to the local board  
373 of education for the school districts described in section 10-266p, which  
374 shall use the funds for any of the following: (1) The creation or  
375 expansion of programs or activities related to dropout prevention, (2)  
376 alternative school programs, as defined in section 1 of this act, and

377 transitional programs for students having difficulty succeeding in  
378 traditional educational programs, (3) academic enrichment, tutorial  
379 and recreation programs or activities in school buildings during  
380 nonschool hours and during the summer, (4) development or  
381 expansion of extended-day kindergarten programs, (5) development or  
382 expansion of early reading intervention programs, including summer  
383 and after-school programs, (6) enhancement of the use of technology to  
384 support instruction or improve parent and teacher communication, (7)  
385 initiatives to strengthen parent involvement in the education of  
386 children, and parent and other community involvement in school and  
387 school district programs, activities and educational policies, which  
388 may be in accordance with the provisions of section 10-4g, or (8) for  
389 purposes of obtaining accreditation for elementary and middle schools  
390 from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Each such  
391 board of education shall use at least twenty per cent of its grant for  
392 early reading intervention programs. Each such board of education  
393 shall use its grant to supplement existing programs or create new  
394 programs. If the State Board of Education finds that any such grant is  
395 being used for other purposes or is being used to decrease the local  
396 share of support for schools, it may require repayment of such grant to  
397 the state.

398       Sec. 9. Subsection (b) of section 10-19m of the general statutes is  
399 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
400 *1, 2013*):

401       (b) A youth service bureau established pursuant to subsection (a) of  
402 this section may provide, but shall not be limited to the delivery of, the  
403 following services: (1) Individual and group counseling; (2) parent  
404 training and family therapy; (3) work placement and employment  
405 counseling; (4) alternative school programs, as defined in section 1 of  
406 this act, and special educational opportunities; (5) recreational and  
407 youth enrichment programs; (6) outreach programs to insure  
408 participation and planning by the entire community for the  
409 development of regional and community-based youth services; (7)

410 preventive programs, including youth pregnancy, youth suicide,  
411 violence, alcohol and drug prevention; and (8) programs that develop  
412 positive youth involvement. Such services shall be designed to meet  
413 the needs of youths by the diversion of troubled youths from the  
414 justice system as well as by the provision of opportunities for all  
415 youths to function as responsible members of their communities.

416 Sec. 10. Subsection (b) of section 10-94e of the general statutes is  
417 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
418 *1, 2013*):

419 (b) For purposes of this section, "career education program" means  
420 an alternative school program, as defined in section 1 of this act, or  
421 school without walls program designed to allow students to develop  
422 career awareness and orientation through exploration of their career  
423 interests. Such exploration includes, but is not limited to, permitting  
424 students to gain actual experience by working, without compensation  
425 but for school credit, in government agencies or in business or  
426 industrial establishments.

427 Sec. 11. Section 10-220d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
428 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

429 Each local and regional board of education shall provide full access  
430 to technical high schools, regional agricultural science and technology  
431 education centers, interdistrict magnet schools, charter schools and  
432 interdistrict student attendance programs for the recruitment of  
433 students attending the schools under the board's jurisdiction, provided  
434 such recruitment is not for the purpose of interscholastic athletic  
435 competition. Each local and regional board of education shall provide  
436 information relating to technical high schools, regional agricultural  
437 science and technology education centers, interdistrict magnet schools,  
438 charter schools, alternative [high schools] school programs, as defined  
439 in section 1 of this act, and interdistrict student attendance programs  
440 on the board's web site. Each local and regional board of education

441 shall inform students and parents of students in middle and high  
442 schools within such board's jurisdiction of the availability of (1)  
443 vocational, technical and technological education and training at  
444 technical high schools, and (2) agricultural science and technology  
445 education at regional agricultural science and technology education  
446 centers.

447 Sec. 12. Subsection (c) of section 10-223h of the general statutes is  
448 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
449 *1, 2013*):

450 (c) Following the establishment of a turnaround committee, the  
451 Department of Education shall conduct, in consultation with the local  
452 or regional board of education for a school selected to participate in the  
453 commissioner's network of schools, the school governance council for  
454 such school and such turnaround committee, an operations and  
455 instructional audit, as described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2)  
456 of subsection (e) of section 10-223e, for such school. Such operations  
457 and instructional audit shall be conducted pursuant to guidelines  
458 issued by the department and shall determine the extent to which the  
459 school (1) has established a strong family and community connection  
460 to the school; (2) has a positive school environment, as evidenced by a  
461 culture of high expectations, a safe and orderly workplace, and that  
462 address other nonacademic factors that impact student achievement,  
463 such as students' social, emotional, arts, cultural, recreational and  
464 health needs; (3) has effective leadership, as evidenced by the school  
465 principal's performance appraisals, track record in improving student  
466 achievement, ability to lead turnaround efforts, and managerial skills  
467 and authority in the areas of scheduling, staff management,  
468 curriculum implementation and budgeting; (4) has effective teachers  
469 and support staff as evidenced by performance evaluations, policies to  
470 retain staff determined to be effective and who have the ability to be  
471 successful in the turnaround effort, policies to prevent ineffective  
472 teachers from transferring to the schools, and job-embedded, ongoing  
473 professional development informed by the teacher evaluation and

474 support programs that are tied to teacher and student needs; (5) uses  
475 time effectively as evidenced by the redesign of the school day, week,  
476 or year to include additional time for student learning and teacher  
477 collaboration; (6) has a curriculum and instructional program that is  
478 based on student needs, is research-based, rigorous and aligned with  
479 state academic content standards, and serves all children, including  
480 students at every achievement level; and (7) uses evidence to inform  
481 decision-making and for continuous improvement, including by  
482 providing time for collaboration on the use of data. Such operations  
483 and instructional audit shall be informed by an inventory of the  
484 following: (A) Before and after school programs, (B) any school-based  
485 health centers, family resource centers or other community services  
486 offered at the school, including, but not limited to, social services,  
487 mental health services and parenting support programs, (C) whether  
488 scientific research-based interventions are being fully implemented at  
489 the school, (D) resources for scientific research-based interventions  
490 during the school year and summer school programs, (E) resources for  
491 gifted and talented students, (F) the length of the school day and the  
492 school year, (G) summer school programs, (H) the alternative [high]  
493 school program, as defined in section 1 of this act, if any, available to  
494 students at the school, (I) the number of teachers employed at the  
495 school and the number of teachers who have left the school in each of  
496 the previous three school years, (J) student mobility, including the  
497 number of students who have been enrolled in and left the school, (K)  
498 the number of students whose primary language is not English, (L) the  
499 number of students receiving special education services, (M) the  
500 number of truants, (N) the number of students who are eligible for free  
501 or reduced price lunches, (O) the number of students who are eligible  
502 for HUSKY Plan, Part A, (P) the curricula used at the school, (Q) the  
503 reading curricula and programs for kindergarten to grade three,  
504 inclusive, if any, at the school, (R) arts and music programs offered at  
505 the school, (S) physical education programs offered and periods for  
506 recess or physical activity, (T) the number of school psychologists at  
507 the school and the ratio of school psychologists to students at the

508 school, (U) the number of social workers at the school and the ratio of  
 509 social workers to students at the school, (V) the teacher and  
 510 administrator performance evaluation program, including the  
 511 frequency of performance evaluations, how such evaluations are  
 512 conducted and by whom, the standards for performance ratings and  
 513 follow-up and remediation plans and the aggregate results of teacher  
 514 performance evaluation ratings conducted pursuant to section 10-151b  
 515 and any other available measures of teacher effectiveness, (W)  
 516 professional development activities and programs, (X) teacher and  
 517 student access to technology inside and outside of the classroom, (Y)  
 518 student access to and enrollment in mastery test preparation programs,  
 519 (Z) the availability of textbooks, learning materials and other supplies,  
 520 (AA) student demographics, including race, gender and ethnicity, and  
 521 (BB) chronic absenteeism, and (CC) preexisting school improvement  
 522 plans, for the purpose of (i) determining why such school  
 523 improvement plans have not improved student academic  
 524 performance, and (ii) identifying governance, legal, operational,  
 525 staffing or resource constraints that contributed to the lack of student  
 526 academic performance at such school and should be addressed,  
 527 modified or removed for such school to improve student academic  
 528 performance.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-220(a)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-220(c)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-233d(c) to (i)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-69(a)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-4p(b)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-263c(b)
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-266q(b)
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-19m(b)
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-94e(b)
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-220d

Sec. 12	July 1, 2013	10-223h(c)
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**Statement of Purpose:**

To provide clarity and uniformity to alternative school programs offered by local and regional boards of education.

*[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.]*