



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5564**

February Session, 2014



**AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL SAFETY.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the fiscal year ending June  
2 30, 2015, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
3 shall establish a safe travel to school grant program to provide grants  
4 to towns for expenses incurred as part of improving student safety  
5 along routes of travel to schools and in the immediate areas around  
6 schools during the hours before and after regular school hours.

7 (b) On or before July 15, 2014, a town may submit an application, at  
8 such time and in such manner as the department prescribes, to the  
9 department for a grant pursuant to this section. Each application shall  
10 include a plan for the improvement of student safety along routes of  
11 travel to school and in the immediate areas around schools during the  
12 hours before and after regular school hours. Such plan shall (1) be  
13 developed by the town in consultation with the local law enforcement  
14 agency and local or regional board of education for such town, (2)  
15 include the travel routes to schools and areas around such schools that  
16 will be covered by such plan, (3) establish the hours before and after  
17 school during which supervision may be provided along such travel  
18 routes and areas around such schools, and (4) require that any person  
19 assisting in the implementation of such plan submit to state and  
20 national criminal history records checks prior to implementation of

21 such plan.

22 (c) Not later than August 1, 2014, the department shall select up to  
23 ten towns to receive grants under this section and shall give priority to  
24 towns in which priority school districts are located or towns in which a  
25 priority school is located.

26 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Emergency Services  
27 and Public Protection shall study the feasibility of establishing a  
28 student safety hotline. Such study shall include, but not be limited to,  
29 an analysis of (1) the feasibility of establishing a student safety hotline  
30 that receives anonymous phone calls and text messages relating school  
31 safety concerns of students in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive,  
32 and provides assistance to and referrals for such students, (2) the  
33 relevant referral areas and appropriate entities and agencies to receive  
34 such referrals, (3) training for operators of such student safety hotline,  
35 (4) existing student safety hotlines in other states, (5) legal issues that  
36 might be associated with the administration of such student safety  
37 hotline, and (6) any other relevant topics or issues associated with such  
38 student safety hotline. Not later than January 1, 2015, the department  
39 shall submit such study to the joint standing committee of the General  
40 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in  
41 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

42 Sec. 3. Section 84 of public act 13-3, as amended by section 15 of  
43 public act 13-122 and section 191 of public act 13-247, is repealed and  
44 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

45 (a) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2013, to June 30, 2015,  
46 inclusive, the Departments of Emergency Services and Public  
47 Protection, Construction Services and Education shall jointly  
48 administer a school security infrastructure competitive grant program  
49 to reimburse (1) towns for certain expenses for schools under the  
50 jurisdiction of the town's school district incurred on or after January 1,  
51 2013, and (2) the supervisory agent for nonpublic schools for certain  
52 expenses incurred on or after January 1, 2013, for: [(1)] (A) The

53 development or improvement of the security infrastructure of schools,  
54 based on the results of school building security assessments pursuant  
55 to subsection (c) of this section, including, but not limited to, the  
56 installation of surveillance cameras, penetration resistant vestibules,  
57 ballistic glass, solid core doors, double door access, computer-  
58 controlled electronic locks, entry door buzzer systems, scan card  
59 systems, panic alarms or other systems; and [(2) (A)] (B) (i) the training  
60 of school personnel in the operation and maintenance of the security  
61 infrastructure of school buildings, or [(B)] (ii) the purchase of portable  
62 entrance security devices, including, but not limited to, metal detector  
63 wands and screening machines and related training.

64 (b) On and after the effective date of this section, each local and  
65 regional board of education [may,] on behalf of its town or its member  
66 towns [,] and supervisory agent for a nonpublic school, may apply, at  
67 such time and in such manner as the Commissioner of Emergency  
68 Services and Public Protection prescribes, to the Department of  
69 Emergency Services and Public Protection for a grant for certain  
70 expenses for schools under the jurisdiction of such board of education  
71 or supervisory agent incurred on and after January 1, 2013, for the  
72 purposes described in subsection (a) of this section. Ten per cent of the  
73 funds available under this program for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
74 2015, shall be awarded to the supervisory agents of nonpublic schools,  
75 in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of  
76 this section. Prior to the date that the School Safety Infrastructure  
77 Council makes its initial submission of the school safety infrastructure  
78 standards, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 80 of public act 13-3,  
79 the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in  
80 consultation with the Commissioners of Construction Services and  
81 Education, shall determine which expenses are eligible for  
82 reimbursement under the program. On and after the date that the  
83 School Safety Infrastructure Council submits the school safety  
84 infrastructure standards, the decision to approve or deny an  
85 application and the determination of which expenses are eligible for  
86 reimbursement under the program shall be in accordance with the

87 most recent submission of the school safety infrastructure standards,  
88 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 80 of public act 13-3.

89 (c) (1) A town may receive a grant equal to a percentage of its  
90 eligible expenses. The percentage shall be determined as follows: [(1)]  
91 (A) Each town shall be ranked in descending order from one to one  
92 hundred sixty-nine according to town wealth, as defined in  
93 subdivision (26) of section 10-262f of the general statutes, [(2)] (B)  
94 based upon such ranking, a percentage of not less than twenty or more  
95 than eighty shall be assigned to each town on a continuous scale, and  
96 [(3)] (C) the town ranked first shall be assigned a percentage of twenty  
97 and the town ranked last shall be assigned a percentage of eighty.

98 (2) The supervisory agent for a nonpublic school may receive a  
99 grant equal to fifty per cent of its eligible expenses.

100 (d) If there are not sufficient funds to provide grants to all towns  
101 and supervisory agents for nonpublic schools based on the percentage  
102 determined pursuant to [this] subsection (c) of this section, the  
103 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in  
104 consultation with the Commissioners of Construction Services and  
105 Education, shall give priority to applicants on behalf of schools with  
106 the greatest need for security infrastructure, as determined by said  
107 commissioners based on school building security assessments of the  
108 schools under the jurisdiction of the town's school district conducted  
109 pursuant to this subsection. Of the applicants on behalf of such schools  
110 with the greatest need for security infrastructure, said commissioners  
111 shall give first priority to applicants on behalf of schools that have no  
112 security infrastructure at the time of such school building security  
113 assessment and succeeding priority to applicants on behalf of schools  
114 located in priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p of the  
115 general statutes. To be eligible for reimbursement pursuant to this  
116 section, an applicant board of education or supervisory agent shall  
117 [(A)] (1) demonstrate that it has developed and periodically practices  
118 an emergency plan at the schools under its jurisdiction and that such  
119 plan has been developed in concert with applicable state or local first-

120 responders, and [(B)] (2) provide for a uniform assessment of the  
121 schools under its jurisdiction, including any security infrastructure,  
122 using the National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities' Safe  
123 Schools Facilities Check List. The assessment shall be conducted under  
124 the supervision of the local law enforcement agency.

125 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 10-222d of the general statutes is  
126 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
127 *passage*):

128 (c) Not later than [January 1, 2012] July 1, 2014, each local and  
129 regional board of education shall [approve] submit the safe school  
130 climate plan developed pursuant to this section [and submit such plan]  
131 to the Department of Education for approval in accordance with  
132 section 5 of this act. Not later than thirty calendar days after approval  
133 of [such] the safe school climate plan by the [local or regional board of  
134 education] department, the board shall make such plan available on  
135 the board's and each individual school in the school district's Internet  
136 web site and ensure that such plan is included in the school district's  
137 publication of the rules, procedures and standards of conduct for  
138 schools and in all student handbooks.

139 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Department of  
140 Education shall receive and review each safe school climate plan  
141 submitted pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-222d of the general  
142 statutes, as amended by this act. The department may approve or  
143 reject a safe school climate plan if such plan does not adequately  
144 ensure a safe school climate at the schools under the jurisdiction of the  
145 board of education submitting such plan. If the department rejects a  
146 safe school climate plan submitted by a local or regional board of  
147 education, such board of education shall redevelop and resubmit the  
148 safe school climate plan to the department for approval not later than  
149 thirty calendar days after such rejection. If the department rejects such  
150 resubmitted plan, such board of education shall adopt the model safe  
151 school climate plan, developed by the department pursuant to  
152 subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 10-222h of the general

153 statutes, as amended by this act.

154 (b) The Department of Education shall make available on the  
155 department's Internet web site (1) each safe school climate plan that  
156 has been approved by the department, (2) a list of the school districts  
157 that have an approved safe school climate plan, and (3) a list of the  
158 school districts whose safe school climate plan has been rejected and is  
159 in the process of resubmitting its safe school climate plan for approval  
160 by the department.

161 Sec. 6. Section 10-222h of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes  
162 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
163 *from passage*):

164 (a) The Department of Education shall, within available  
165 appropriations, (1) document school districts' articulated needs for  
166 technical assistance and training related to safe learning and bullying,  
167 (2) collect information on the prevention and intervention strategies  
168 used by schools to reduce the incidence of bullying, improve school  
169 climate and improve reporting outcomes, (3) develop or recommend a  
170 model safe school climate plan for grades kindergarten to twelve,  
171 inclusive, and (4) in collaboration with the Connecticut Association of  
172 Schools, disseminate to all public schools grade-level appropriate  
173 school climate assessment instruments approved by the department,  
174 including uniform surveys that collect information about students'  
175 perspectives and opinions about the school climate at the school and  
176 allow students to complete and submit such surveys anonymously, to  
177 be used by local and regional boards of education for the purposes of  
178 collecting information described in subdivision (2) of this subsection so  
179 that the department can monitor bullying prevention efforts over time  
180 and compare each district's progress to state trends.

181 (b) On or before February 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, the  
182 department shall, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a,  
183 submit a report on the status of its efforts pursuant to this section  
184 including, but not limited to, the number of verified acts of bullying in

185 the state, an analysis of the responsive action taken by school districts,  
 186 an analysis of student perspectives and opinions about school climate  
 187 at schools and any recommendations it may have regarding additional  
 188 activities or funding to prevent bullying in schools and improve school  
 189 climate to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
 190 having cognizance of matters relating to education and children and to  
 191 the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president pro tempore  
 192 of the Senate and the majority and minority leaders of the House of  
 193 Representatives and the Senate.

194 (c) The department may accept private donations for the purposes  
 195 of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	PA 13-3, Sec. 84
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	10-222d(c)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	10-222h

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In section 1, made technical and grammatical changes; and in section 3(b), added "for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015," for accuracy.

**ED**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*