



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Raised Bill No. 7020

LCO No. 5085



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS AND INITIATIVES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) The Department of
2 Education shall administer the kindergarten assessment tool,
3 developed by the Office of Early Childhood pursuant to subdivision
4 (7) of subsection (b) of section 10-500 of the general statutes, as
5 amended by this act, to each child enrolled in kindergarten for the
6 purpose of measuring a child's level of preparedness for kindergarten.
7 Such kindergarten assessment tool shall not be used as an
8 accountability measurement tool for an early childhood education
9 program.

10 Sec. 2. Subdivision (7) of subsection (b) of section 10-500 of the
11 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
12 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

13 (7) Developing [and implementing] a state-wide developmentally
14 appropriate kindergarten assessment tool [that measures a child's level

15 of preparedness for kindergarten, but shall not be used as a
16 measurement tool for program accountability] to be administered by
17 the Department of Education in accordance with the provisions of
18 section 1 of this act;

19 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 10-10a of the general statutes is
20 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
21 *1, 2015*):

22 (c) The state-wide public school information system shall:

23 (1) Track and report data relating to student, teacher and school and
24 district performance growth and make such information available to
25 local and regional boards of education for use in evaluating
26 educational performance and growth of teachers and students enrolled
27 in public schools in the state. Such information shall be collected or
28 calculated based on information received from local and regional
29 boards of education and other relevant sources. Such information shall
30 include, but not be limited to:

31 (A) In addition to performance on state-wide mastery examinations
32 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, data relating to students shall
33 include, but not be limited to, (i) the primary language spoken at the
34 home of a student, (ii) student transcripts, (iii) student attendance and
35 student mobility, (iv) reliable, valid assessments of a student's
36 readiness to enter public school at the kindergarten level, such as data
37 collected from the kindergarten assessment tool, administered
38 pursuant to section 1 of this act, and (v) data collected, if any, from the
39 preschool experience survey, described in section 10-515;

40 (B) Data relating to teachers shall include, but not be limited to, (i)
41 teacher credentials, such as master's degrees, teacher preparation
42 programs completed and certification levels and endorsement areas,
43 (ii) teacher assessments, such as whether a teacher is deemed highly
44 qualified pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, or
45 deemed to meet such other designations as may be established by

46 federal law or regulations for the purposes of tracking the equitable
47 distribution of instructional staff, (iii) the presence of substitute
48 teachers in a teacher's classroom, (iv) class size, (v) numbers relating to
49 absenteeism in a teacher's classroom, and (vi) the presence of a
50 teacher's aide. The department shall assign a unique teacher identifier
51 to each teacher prior to collecting such data in the public school
52 information system;

53 (C) Data relating to schools and districts shall include, but not be
54 limited to, (i) school population, (ii) annual student graduation rates,
55 (iii) annual teacher retention rates, (iv) school disciplinary records,
56 such as data relating to suspensions, expulsions and other disciplinary
57 actions, (v) the percentage of students whose primary language is not
58 English, (vi) the number of and professional credentials of support
59 personnel, and (vii) information relating to instructional technology,
60 such as access to computers.

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

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

67 Sec. 4. Subsection (g) of section 10-10a of the general statutes is
68 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
69 *1, 2015*):

70 (g) Local and regional boards of education and preschool programs
71 which receive state or federal funding shall participate, in a manner
72 prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, in the state-wide public
73 school information system described in subsection (b) of this section.
74 Participation for purposes of this subsection shall include, but not be
75 limited to, reporting on (1) student experiences in preschool by
76 program type and by numbers of months in each such program, and

77 (2) the readiness of students entering kindergarten using data collected
78 from the kindergarten assessment tool, administered pursuant to
79 section 1 of this act, and student progress in kindergarten. Such
80 reporting shall be done by October 1, 2007, and annually thereafter.

81 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) As used in this section,
82 "bachelor's degree program in early childhood education or child
83 development" means a bachelor's degree with a concentration in early
84 childhood education, including, but not limited to, a bachelor's degree
85 in early childhood education, child study, child development or
86 human growth and development.

87 (b) On and after July 1, 2015, the Office of Early Childhood shall,
88 during a review and assessment pursuant to subdivision (4) of
89 subsection (b) of section 10-16p of the general statutes, collect data
90 relating to bachelor's degree programs in early childhood education or
91 childhood development that have not been approved by the Board of
92 Regents for Higher Education or the Office of Higher Education and
93 the Office of Early Childhood from institutions of higher education
94 that are regionally accredited. The office shall, at least quarterly, use
95 such data to conduct a trend analysis of such bachelor's degree
96 programs for the purpose of determining (1) whether such bachelor's
97 degree programs align with the teacher preparation standards of the
98 National Association for the Education of Young Children, and (2)
99 which courses and concentrations offered as part of such bachelor's
100 degree programs align with such teacher preparation standards.

101 (c) During a review and assessment pursuant to subdivision (4) of
102 subsection (b) of section 10-16p of the general statutes, the office shall
103 consult the results of the trend analysis conducted pursuant to
104 subsection (b) of this section for the purpose of determining whether
105 the degree of an individual with a bachelor's degree in early childhood
106 education or child development or a bachelor's degree and twelve
107 credits or more in early childhood education or child development,
108 other than those bachelor's degrees specified in subparagraphs (B) and

109 (C) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 10-16p of the general
110 statutes, has a sufficient concentration in early childhood education so
111 as to satisfy the requirements set forth in said subparagraphs (B) and
112 (C).

113 (d) The office shall make the results of the trend analysis conducted
114 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section available on its Internet web
115 site.

116 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) For the school year commencing
117 July 1, 2017, and each school year thereafter, (1) the local or regional
118 board of education or regional educational service center operating an
119 interdistrict magnet school offering a preschool program, or (2) the
120 governing council of a state or local charter school offering a preschool
121 program shall obtain accreditation for such preschool program from
122 the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

123 Sec. 7. Section 10-502 of the general statutes is repealed and the
124 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

125 The Office of Early Childhood shall collaborate with and provide
126 funding to local and regional early childhood councils [in] for the
127 implementation of early care and education and child development
128 programs at the local level. Such early childhood councils shall: (1)
129 Develop and implement a comprehensive plan for an early childhood
130 system for the community served by such early childhood council, (2)
131 develop policy and program planning, (3) encourage community
132 participation by emphasizing substantial parental involvement, (4)
133 collect, analyze and evaluate data with a focus on program and service
134 outcomes, (5) allocate resources, and (6) perform any other functions
135 that will assist in the provision of early childhood programs and
136 services. Such early childhood councils may enter into memoranda of
137 agreement with the local or regional school readiness council,
138 described in section 10-16r, of the town or region served by such early
139 childhood council to perform the duties and functions of a school

140 readiness council, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16r,
 141 or if no such local or regional school readiness council exists for the
 142 town or region of such early childhood council, perform the duties and
 143 functions of a school readiness council, in accordance with the
 144 provisions of section 10-16r.

145 Sec. 8. (*Effective from passage*) The Office of Early Childhood shall
 146 develop a plan to assist early childhood education program providers
 147 that accept state funds for infant, toddler and preschool spaces
 148 associated with such program's child care program or school readiness
 149 program in the implementation of the staff qualifications requirements
 150 under subsection (b) of section 10-16p of the general statutes. The plan
 151 shall include, but need not be limited to, a means of (1) assisting staff
 152 members of such program in obtaining a bachelor's degree with a
 153 concentration in early childhood education, (2) increasing the salaries
 154 of or providing incentives to staff members of such program who hold
 155 a bachelor's degree or otherwise meet such staff qualifications
 156 requirements, and (3) retaining staff members of such program who
 157 hold a bachelor's degree or otherwise meet such staff qualifications
 158 requirements. Not later than January 1, 2016, the office shall submit the
 159 plan and any recommendations to the joint standing committee of the
 160 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
 161 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
 162 statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-500(b)(7)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-10a(c)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-10a(g)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-502
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Department of Education to assist in the implementation of the kindergarten assessment tool, to authorize early childhood education credits earned at an out-of-state institution of higher education that is regionally accredited and accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children to count towards the staff qualifications requirements for the purposes of school readiness program staffing, to require preschool programs offered by magnet schools and charter schools to be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, to require the Office of Early Childhood to provide funding to local and regional early childhood councils and to require the Office of Early Childhood to develop a plan regarding the implementation of the staff qualifications requirements for staff members of early childhood education programs.

[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.]