



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Raised Bill No. 843

LCO No. 3019



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

**AN ACT CONCERNING TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICE TRAINING
FOR TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS AND PUPIL PERSONNEL.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-220a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-
4 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil
5 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or
6 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such
7 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)
8 the nature and the relationship of drugs, as defined in subdivision (17)
9 of section 21a-240, and alcohol to health and personality development,
10 and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health and mental
11 health risk reduction education which includes, but need not be
12 limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the
13 relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually
14 transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in
15 section 19a-581, violence, teen dating violence, domestic violence, child
16 abuse and youth suicide, (3) the growth and development of

17 exceptional children, including handicapped and gifted and talented
18 children and children who may require special education, including,
19 but not limited to, children with attention-deficit hyperactivity
20 disorder or learning disabilities, and methods for identifying, planning
21 for and working effectively with special needs children in a regular
22 classroom, including, but not limited to, implementation of student
23 individualized education programs, (4) school violence prevention,
24 conflict resolution, the prevention of and response to youth suicide
25 and the identification and prevention of and response to bullying, as
26 defined in subsection (a) of section 10-222d, except that those boards of
27 education that implement any evidence-based model approach that is
28 approved by the Department of Education and is consistent with
29 subsection (d) of section 10-145a, sections 10-222d, 10-222g and 10-
30 222h, subsection (g) of section 10-233c and sections 1 and 3 of public
31 act 08-160, shall not be required to provide in-service training on the
32 identification and prevention of and response to bullying, (5)
33 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other emergency life saving
34 procedures, (6) computer and other information technology as applied
35 to student learning and classroom instruction, communications and
36 data management, (7) the teaching of the language arts, reading and
37 reading readiness for teachers in grades kindergarten to three,
38 inclusive, (8) second language acquisition in districts required to
39 provide a program of bilingual education pursuant to section 10-17f,
40 (9) the requirements and obligations of a mandated reporter, [and] (10)
41 the teacher evaluation and support program adopted pursuant to
42 subsection (b) of section 10-151b, and (11) for the school year
43 commencing July 1, 2016, and each school year thereafter, trauma-
44 informed practices for the school setting to enable such teachers,
45 administrators and pupil personnel to more adequately respond to
46 students with mental, emotional or behavioral health needs. Each local
47 and regional board of education may allow any paraprofessional or
48 noncertified employee to participate, on a voluntary basis, in any in-
49 service training program provided pursuant to this section. The State
50 Board of Education, within available appropriations and utilizing
51 available materials, shall assist and encourage local and regional

52 boards of education to include: (A) Holocaust and genocide education
53 and awareness; (B) the historical events surrounding the Great Famine
54 in Ireland; (C) African-American history; (D) Puerto Rican history; (E)
55 Native American history; (F) personal financial management; (G)
56 domestic violence and teen dating violence; (H) mental health first aid
57 training; and (I) topics approved by the state board upon the request of
58 local or regional boards of education as part of in-service training
59 programs pursuant to this subsection.

60 (b) Not later than a date prescribed by the commissioner, each local
61 and regional board of education shall establish a professional
62 development and evaluation committee consisting of certified
63 employees, and such other school personnel as the board deems
64 appropriate, including representatives selected by the exclusive
65 bargaining representative for such employees chosen pursuant to
66 subsection (b) of section 10-153. The duties of such committees shall
67 include, but not be limited to, participation in the development or
68 adoption of a teacher evaluation and support program for the district,
69 pursuant to section 10-151b, and the development, evaluation and
70 annual updating of a comprehensive local professional development
71 plan for certified employees of the district. Such plan shall: (1) Be
72 directly related to the educational goals prepared by the local or
73 regional board of education pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-
74 220, (2) on and after July 1, 2011, be developed with full consideration
75 of the priorities and needs related to student outcomes as determined
76 by the State Board of Education, and (3) provide for the ongoing and
77 systematic assessment and improvement of both teacher evaluation
78 and professional development of the professional staff members of
79 each such board, including personnel management and evaluation
80 training or experience for administrators, shall be related to regular
81 and special student needs and may include provisions concerning
82 career incentives and parent involvement. The State Board of
83 Education shall develop guidelines to assist local and regional boards
84 of education in determining the objectives of the plans and in
85 coordinating staff development activities with student needs and

86 school programs.

87 (c) The Department of Education, in cooperation with one or more
88 regional educational service centers, is authorized to provide institutes
89 annually for Connecticut educators. Such institutes shall serve as
90 model programs of professional development and shall be taught by
91 exemplary Connecticut teachers and administrators and by other
92 qualified individuals as selected by the Department of Education. The
93 Department of Education shall charge fees for attending such institutes
94 provided such fees shall be based on the actual cost of such institutes.

95 (d) The Department of Education may fund, within available
96 appropriations, in cooperation with one or more regional educational
97 service centers: (1) A cooperating teacher program to train Connecticut
98 public school teachers, certified teachers at private special education
99 facilities approved by the Commissioner of Education, certified
100 teachers at nonpublic schools approved by the commissioner and
101 certified teachers at other facilities designated by the commissioner,
102 who participate in the supervision, training and evaluation of student
103 teachers, provided such certified teachers at nonpublic schools pay for
104 the cost of participation in such cooperating teacher program and
105 provided further that enrollment in such program shall first be made
106 available to public school teachers; and (2) institutes to provide
107 professional development for Connecticut public school educators and
108 cooperating teachers, including institutes to provide professional
109 development for Connecticut public school educators offered in
110 cooperation with the Connecticut Humanities Council. Funds available
111 under this subsection shall be paid directly to school districts for the
112 provision of substitute teachers when cooperating teachers are
113 released from regular classroom responsibilities and for the provision
114 of professional development activities for cooperating and student
115 teachers, except that such funds shall not be paid to nonpublic schools
116 for such professional development activities. The cooperating teacher
117 program shall operate in accordance with regulations adopted by the
118 State Board of Education in accordance with chapter 54, except in cases

119 of placement in other countries pursuant to written cooperative
120 agreements between Connecticut institutions of higher education and
121 institutions of higher education in other countries. A Connecticut
122 institution may enter such an agreement only if the State Board of
123 Education and the Board of Regents for Higher Education have jointly
124 approved the institution's teacher preparation program to enter into
125 such agreements. Student teachers shall be placed with trained
126 cooperating teachers. Cooperating teachers who are Connecticut
127 public school teachers shall be selected by local and regional boards of
128 education. Cooperating teachers at such private special education
129 facilities, nonpublic schools and other designated facilities shall be
130 selected by the authority responsible for the operation of such facilities.
131 If a board of education is unable to identify a sufficient number of
132 individuals to serve in such positions, the commissioner may select
133 qualified persons who are not employed by the board of education to
134 serve in such positions. Such regulations shall require primary
135 consideration of teachers' classroom experience and recognized success
136 as educators. The provisions of sections 10-153a to 10-153n, inclusive,
137 shall not be applicable to the selection, placement and compensation of
138 persons participating in the cooperating teacher program pursuant to
139 the provisions of this section and to the hours and duties of such
140 persons. The State Board of Education shall protect and save harmless,
141 in accordance with the provisions of section 10-235, any cooperating
142 teacher while serving in such capacity.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	10-220a

KID *Joint Favorable*

ED *Joint Favorable*