



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

***Raised Bill No. 1054***

LCO No. 4386



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) The Commissioner of  
2 Education shall designate an employee of the Department of Education  
3 to be responsible for providing information and assistance to local and  
4 regional boards of education and the parents or guardians of students  
5 relating to the detection and recognition of, and evidence-based  
6 interventions for, students with dyslexia. For purposes of this section,  
7 "dyslexia" has the same meaning as provided in the Department of  
8 Education IEP Manual and Forms, revised January 2015, as amended  
9 from time to time.

10 Sec. 2. Subsection (f) of section 10-145a of the general statutes is  
11 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
12 *1, 2015*):

13 (f) On and after July 1, 2006, any program of teacher preparation  
14 leading to professional certification shall include, as part of the  
15 curriculum, instruction in literacy skills and processes that reflects

16 current research and best practices in the field of literacy training. Such  
17 instruction shall (1) be incorporated into requirements of student major  
18 and concentration, and (2) on and after July 1, 2015, include not less  
19 than twelve semester credit hours or one and one-half credits in the  
20 detection and recognition of, and evidence-based interventions for,  
21 students with dyslexia, as defined in section 1 of this act.

22 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is  
23 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
24 *1, 2015*):

25 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-  
26 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil  
27 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or  
28 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such  
29 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)  
30 the nature and the relationship of drugs, as defined in subdivision (17)  
31 of section 21a-240, and alcohol to health and personality development,  
32 and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health and mental  
33 health risk reduction education which includes, but need not be  
34 limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the  
35 relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually  
36 transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in  
37 section 19a-581, violence, teen dating violence, domestic violence, child  
38 abuse and youth suicide, (3) the growth and development of  
39 exceptional children, including handicapped and gifted and talented  
40 children and children who may require special education, including,  
41 but not limited to, children with attention-deficit hyperactivity  
42 disorder or learning disabilities, and methods for identifying, planning  
43 for and working effectively with special needs children in a regular  
44 classroom, including, but not limited to, implementation of student  
45 individualized education programs, (4) school violence prevention,  
46 conflict resolution, the prevention of and response to youth suicide  
47 and the identification and prevention of and response to bullying, as  
48 defined in subsection (a) of section 10-222d, except that those boards of

49 education that implement any evidence-based model approach that is  
50 approved by the Department of Education and is consistent with  
51 subsection (d) of section 10-145a, sections 10-222d, 10-222g and 10-  
52 222h, subsection (g) of section 10-233c and sections 1 and 3 of public  
53 act 08-160, shall not be required to provide in-service training on the  
54 identification and prevention of and response to bullying, (5)  
55 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other emergency life saving  
56 procedures, (6) computer and other information technology as applied  
57 to student learning and classroom instruction, communications and  
58 data management, (7) the teaching of the language arts, reading and  
59 reading readiness for teachers in grades kindergarten to three,  
60 inclusive, (8) second language acquisition in districts required to  
61 provide a program of bilingual education pursuant to section 10-17f,  
62 (9) the requirements and obligations of a mandated reporter, [and] (10)  
63 the teacher evaluation and support program adopted pursuant to  
64 subsection (b) of section 10-151b, and (11) the detection and  
65 recognition of, and evidence-based interventions for, students with  
66 dyslexia, as defined in section 1 of this act. Each local and regional  
67 board of education may allow any paraprofessional or noncertified  
68 employee to participate, on a voluntary basis, in any in-service training  
69 program provided pursuant to this section. The State Board of  
70 Education, within available appropriations and utilizing available  
71 materials, shall assist and encourage local and regional boards of  
72 education to include: (A) Holocaust and genocide education and  
73 awareness; (B) the historical events surrounding the Great Famine in  
74 Ireland; (C) African-American history; (D) Puerto Rican history; (E)  
75 Native American history; (F) personal financial management; (G)  
76 domestic violence and teen dating violence; (H) mental health first aid  
77 training; and (I) topics approved by the state board upon the request of  
78 local or regional boards of education as part of in-service training  
79 programs pursuant to this subsection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-145a(f)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-220a(a)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To define dyslexia, require an employee of the Department of Education to be responsible for providing information and assistance to the public relating to dyslexia, include specific programmatic requirements for teacher preparation courses relating to dyslexia and include dyslexia instruction as part of the in-service training for educators.

*[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.]*