



Substitute House Bill No. 7023

Public Act No. 15-215

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.

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

Section 1. Subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section 10-223e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of this title or any regulation adopted pursuant to said title, except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, in carrying out the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection and this subdivision, the State Board of Education shall take any of the following actions to improve student performance of the school district, a particular school in the district or among student subgroups, and remove the school or district from the list of schools or districts designated and listed as a low achieving school or district pursuant to said subdivision (1), and to address other needs of the school or district: (A) Require an operations audit to identify possible programmatic savings and an instructional audit to identify any deficits in curriculum and instruction or in the learning environment of the school or district; (B) require the local or regional board of education for such school or district to use state and federal funds for critical needs, as directed by the State Board of Education; (C) provide

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incentives to attract highly qualified teachers and principals; (D) direct the transfer and assignment of teachers and principals; (E) require additional training and technical assistance for parents and guardians of children attending the school or a school in the district and for teachers, principals, and central office staff members hired by the district; (F) require the local or regional board of education for the school or district to implement model curriculum, including, but not limited to, recommended textbooks, materials and supplies approved by the Department of Education; (G) identify schools for reconstitution, as may be phased in by the commissioner, as state or local charter schools, schools established pursuant to section 10-74g, innovation schools established pursuant to section 10-74h, or schools based on other models for school improvement, or for management by an entity other than the local or regional board of education for the district in which the school is located; (H) direct the local or regional board of education for the school or district to develop and implement a plan addressing deficits in achievement and in the learning environment as recommended in the instructional audit; (I) assign a technical assistance team to the school or district to guide school or district initiatives and report progress to the Commissioner of Education; (J) establish instructional and learning environment benchmarks for the school or district to meet as it progresses toward removal from the list of low achieving schools or districts; (K) provide funding to any proximate district to a district designated as a low achieving school district so that students in a low achieving district may attend public school in a neighboring district; (L) direct the establishment of learning academies within schools that require continuous monitoring of student performance by teacher groups; (M) require local and regional boards of education to (i) undergo training to improve their operational efficiency and effectiveness as leaders of their districts' improvement plans, and (ii) submit an annual action plan to the Commissioner of Education outlining how, when and in what manner their effectiveness shall be monitored; (N) require the

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appointment of (i) a superintendent, approved by the Commissioner of Education, or (ii) a [special master] district improvement officer, selected by the commissioner, whose authority is consistent with the provisions of section 138 of public act 11-61, as amended by this act, and whose term shall be for one school year, except that the State Board of Education may extend such period; or (O) any combination of the actions described in this subdivision or similar, closely related actions.

Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 10-223h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

(d) Following the operations and instructional audit for the school selected to participate in the commissioner's network of schools, the turnaround committee shall develop a turnaround plan for such school. The school governance council for each turnaround school may recommend to the turnaround committee for the school district one of the turnaround models described in subparagraphs (A) to (F), inclusive, of subdivision (3) of this subsection. The turnaround committee may accept such recommendation or may choose a different turnaround model for inclusion in the turnaround plan submitted under this subsection. The turnaround plan for such school shall (1) include a description of how such turnaround plan will improve student academic achievement in the school, (2) address deficiencies identified in the operations and instructional audit, and (3) utilize one of the following turnaround models: (A) A CommPACT school, as described in section 10-74g, (B) a social development model, (C) the management, administration or governance of the school to be the responsibility of a regional educational service center, a public or private institution of higher education located in the state, or, subject to the provisions of subsection (e) of this section, an approved educational management organization, (D) a school described in

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section 10-74f, (E) a model developed by the turnaround committee that utilizes strategies, methods and best practices that have been proven to be effective in improving student academic performance, including, but not limited to, strategies, methods and best practices used at public schools, interdistrict magnet schools and charter schools or collected by the commissioner pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, (F) a community school, as described in section 10-74i, or (G) a model developed in consultation with the commissioner or by the commissioner subject to the provisions of subsection (e) of this section. The turnaround plan shall not assign the management, administration or governance of such school to a (i) for-profit corporation, or (ii) a private not-for-profit organization that is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, other than a public or private institution of higher education located in the state or, subject to the provisions of subsection (e) of this section, an approved not-for-profit educational management organization, as defined in subsection (e) of this section. Such turnaround plan may include proposals changing the hours and schedules of teachers and administrators at such school, the length and schedule of the school day, the length and calendar of the school year, the amount of time teachers shall be present in the school beyond the regular school day and the hiring or reassignment of teachers or administrators at such school. If a turnaround committee does not develop a turnaround plan, or if the commissioner determines that a turnaround plan developed by a turnaround committee is deficient, the commissioner may develop a turnaround plan for such school in accordance with the provisions of this subsection and, if the commissioner deems necessary, the commissioner may appoint a [special master] district improvement officer for such school to implement the provisions of the turnaround plan developed by the commissioner. The turnaround plan shall direct all resources and funding to programs and services delivered at such

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school for the educational benefit of the students enrolled at such school and be transparent and accountable to the local community. The State Board of Education shall approve the turnaround plan developed by a turnaround committee before a school may implement such turnaround plan.

Sec. 3. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 138 of public act 11-61 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

(a) The State Board of Education shall assign a [special master] district improvement officer to administer the educational operations for the town of Windham to assist the school district in making adequate yearly progress for whole district performance in both reading and mathematics under the No Child Left Behind Act, P. L. 107-110. Such [special master] district improvement officer shall (1) work collaboratively with the local board of education for Windham and the Windham superintendent of schools to implement the provisions of the improvement plan for the school district, developed pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-223e of the general statutes; (2) implement the provisions of subparagraphs (A), (C), (D), (E), (F), (H), (I), (J), (L) and (M) of subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of section 10-223e of the general statutes; (3) manage and allocate any federal, state and local education funds of the school district; and (4) report regularly to the State Board of Education on matters relating to the progress of implementing the improvement plan for the school district and the effectiveness of the local board of education and the superintendent of schools. The [special master] district improvement officer shall serve at the pleasure of the State Board of Education for a period not to exceed one school year following the school year that the Windham school district makes adequate yearly progress for whole district performance in both reading and mathematics under the No Child Left Behind Act, P. L. 107-110.

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(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 1-210 and 10-151c of the general statutes, the [special master] district improvement officer and the State Board of Education shall have access to all records, facilities, communications and meetings, including, but not limited to, executive sessions of the local board of education, that may be relevant to implementing the provisions of this section.

Sec. 4. Section 10-214 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

(a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide annually to each pupil in kindergarten [,] and grades one [to six, inclusive, and grade nine] and three to five, inclusive, a vision screening, using a Snellen chart, or equivalent screening. The superintendent of schools shall give written notice to the parent or guardian of each pupil (1) who is found to have any defect of vision or disease of the eyes, with a brief statement describing such defect or disease, and (2) who did not receive such vision screening, with a brief statement explaining why such pupil did not receive such vision screening.

(b) Each local or regional board of education shall provide annually audiometric screening for hearing to each pupil in kindergarten [to grade three, inclusive, grade five and grade eight] and grades one and three to five, inclusive. The superintendent of schools shall give written notice to the parent or guardian of each pupil (1) found to have any impairment or defect of hearing, with a brief statement describing such impairment or defect, and (2) who did not receive an audiometric screening for hearing, with a brief statement explaining why such pupil did not receive an audiometric screening for hearing.

(c) Each local or regional board of education shall provide [annual] postural screenings for (1) each female pupil in grades five [to nine] and seven, and (2) each male pupil in grade eight or nine. The superintendent of schools shall give written notice to the parent or

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guardian of each pupil (A) who evidences any postural problem, with a brief statement describing such evidence, and (B) who did not receive a postural screening, with a brief statement explaining why such pupil did not receive such postural screening.

(d) Test results or treatment provided as a result of the screenings pursuant to this section shall be recorded on forms pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-206.

(e) The State Board of Education, with the technical advice and assistance of the Department of Public Health, shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 for screenings pursuant to this section.

Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 10-235 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Each board of education shall protect and save harmless any member of such board or any teacher or other employee thereof or any member of its supervisory or administrative staff, and the State Board of Education, the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the board of trustees of each state institution and each state agency which employs any teacher, and the managing board of any public school, as defined in section 10-183b, including the governing council of any charter school, shall protect and save harmless any member of such boards, or any teacher or other employee thereof or any member of its supervisory or administrative staff employed by it, from financial loss and expense, including legal fees and costs, if any, arising out of any claim, demand, suit or judgment by reason of alleged negligence or other act resulting in accidental bodily injury to or death of any person, or in accidental damage to or destruction of property, within or without the school building, or any other acts, including but not limited to infringement of any person's civil rights, resulting in any

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injury, which acts are not wanton, reckless or malicious, provided such teacher, member or employee, at the time of the acts resulting in such injury, damage or destruction, was acting in the discharge of his or her duties or within the scope of employment or under the direction of such board of education, the Board of Regents for Higher Education, board of trustees, state agency, department or managing board; provided that the provisions of this section shall not limit or otherwise affect application of section 4-165 concerning immunity from personal liability. For the purposes of this section, the terms "teacher" and "other employee" shall include (1) any person who is a cooperating teacher pursuant to section 10-220a, as amended by this act, teacher mentor or reviewer, (2) any student teacher doing practice teaching under the direction of a teacher employed by a local or regional board of education or by the State Board of Education or Board of Regents for Higher Education, (3) any student enrolled in a technical high school who is engaged in a supervised health-related field placement program which constitutes all or part of a course of instruction for credit by a technical high school, provided such health-related field placement program is part of the curriculum of such technical high school, and provided further such course is a requirement for graduation or professional licensure or certification, (4) any volunteer approved by a board of education to carry out a duty prescribed by said board and under the direction of a certificated staff member including any person, partnership, limited liability company or corporation providing students with community-based career education, (5) any volunteer approved by a board of education to carry out the duties of a school bus safety monitor as prescribed by said board, (6) any member of the faculty or staff or any student employed by The University of Connecticut Health Center or health services, (7) any student enrolled in a constituent unit of the state system of higher education who is engaged in a supervised program of field work or clinical practice which constitutes all or part of a course of instruction for credit by a constituent unit, provided such course of instruction is

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part of the curriculum of a constituent unit, and provided further such course (i) is a requirement for an academic degree or professional licensure or (ii) is offered by the constituent unit in partial fulfillment of its accreditation obligations, and (8) any student enrolled in a constituent unit of the state system of higher education who is acting in the capacity of a member of a student discipline committee established pursuant to section 4-188a.

Sec. 6. Subsection (c) of section 10-144e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(c) The initial terms for the members appointed by the Governor, the State Board of Education, the president pro tempore of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives and two of the members appointed by the Connecticut Federation of School Administrators and one of the members appointed by the Connecticut Association of Schools shall terminate on January 15, 1994. The initial terms for all other members shall terminate on January 15, 1995. [Terms following the initial terms] The term for any member appointed before the effective date of this section shall be for two years. The term for any member appointed on or after the effective date of this section shall be for four years.

Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 10-5c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

(a) The Department of Education shall establish an academic advancement program to allow local and regional boards of education to permit students in grades eleven and twelve to substitute (1) achievement of a passing score on an existing [national] nationally recognized examination, [as determined] approved by the [department] State Board of Education, or series of examinations

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approved by the State Board of Education, (2) a cumulative grade point average determined by the State Board of Education, and (3) at least three letters of recommendation from school professionals, as defined in section 10-66dd, for the high school graduation requirements pursuant to section 10-221a. The State Board of Education shall issue an academic advancement program certificate to any student who has successfully completed such program. Such academic advancement program certificate shall be considered in the same manner as a high school diploma for purposes of determining eligibility of a student for enrollment at a public institution of higher education in this state.

Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 10-65 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

(a) Each local or regional school district operating an agricultural science and technology education center approved by the State Board of Education for program, educational need, location and area to be served shall be eligible for the following grants: (1) In accordance with the provisions of chapter 173, through progress payments in accordance with the provisions of section 10-287i, (A) for projects for which an application was filed prior to July 1, 2011, ninety-five per cent, and (B) for projects for which an application was filed on or after July 1, 2011, eighty per cent of the net eligible costs of constructing, acquiring, renovating and equipping approved facilities to be used exclusively for such agricultural science and technology education center, for the expansion or improvement of existing facilities or for the replacement or improvement of equipment therein, and (2) subject to the provisions of section 10-65b, in an amount equal to three thousand two hundred dollars per student for every secondary school student who was enrolled in such center on October first of the previous year.

Sec. 9. Subsection (m) of section 10-264l of the general statutes is

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repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

(m) (1) On or before May 15, 2010, and annually thereafter, each interdistrict magnet school operator shall provide written notification to any school district that is otherwise responsible for educating a student who resides in such school district and will be enrolled in an interdistrict magnet school under the operator's control for the following school year. Such notification shall include the number of any such students, by grade, who will be enrolled in an interdistrict magnet school under the control of such operator, the name of the school in which such student has been placed and the amount of tuition to be charged to the local or regional board of education for such student. Such notification shall represent an estimate of the number of students expected to attend such interdistrict magnet schools in the following school year, but shall not be deemed to limit the number of students who may enroll in such interdistrict magnet schools for such year.

(2) Not later than two weeks following an enrollment lottery for an interdistrict magnet school conducted by a magnet school operator, the parent or guardian of a student (A) who will enroll in such interdistrict magnet school in the following school year, or (B) whose name has been placed on a waiting list for enrollment in such interdistrict magnet school for the following school year, shall provide written notification of such prospective enrollment or waiting list placement to the school district in which such student resides and is otherwise responsible for educating such student.

Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Internship" means supervised practical training of a student intern that is comprised of curriculum and workplace standards approved by the Department of Education and the Labor Department;

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(2) "Internship provider" means a person, as defined in section 1-79 of the general statutes, who provides an internship to a student intern pursuant to an agreement with (A) a local or regional board of education that operates an agricultural science and technology education center, and (B) the local or regional board of education otherwise responsible for educating such student intern if such board of education does not maintain an agricultural science and technology education center; and

(3) "Student intern" means a student enrolled in an agricultural science and technology education center participating in an internship offered or provided by an internship provider.

(b) No internship provider shall be liable to a student intern or a parent or guardian of a student intern for civil damages for any personal injury that results from acts or omissions of such internship provider offering or providing an internship to a student intern that may constitute ordinary negligence, provided such internship provider exercised reasonable care in the provision of the internship and was in compliance with any applicable safety and health standards established under any federal, state and local laws and regulations and any industry codes. The immunity provided in this subsection does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, reckless, wilful or wanton negligence.

Sec. 11. Subsection (b) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

(b) Not later than a date prescribed by the commissioner, each local and regional board of education shall establish a professional development and evaluation committee, [consisting of certified employees] Such professional development and evaluation committee shall consist of (1) at least one teacher, as defined in subsection (a) of

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section 10-144d, selected by the exclusive bargaining representative for certified employees chosen pursuant to section 10-153b, (2) at least one administrator, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10-144e, selected by the exclusive bargaining representative for certified employees chosen pursuant to section 10-153b, and (3) such other school personnel as the board deems appropriate. [including representatives selected by the exclusive bargaining representative for such employees chosen pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-153.] The duties of such committees shall include, but not be limited to, participation in the development or adoption of a teacher evaluation and support program for the district, pursuant to section 10-151b, and the development, evaluation and annual updating of a comprehensive local professional development plan for certified employees of the district. Such plan shall: [(1)] (A) Be directly related to the educational goals prepared by the local or regional board of education pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-220, [(2)] (B) on and after July 1, 2011, be developed with full consideration of the priorities and needs related to student outcomes as determined by the State Board of Education, and [(3)] (C) provide for the ongoing and systematic assessment and improvement of both teacher evaluation and professional development of the professional staff members of each such board, including personnel management and evaluation training or experience for administrators, shall be related to regular and special student needs and may include provisions concerning career incentives and parent involvement. The State Board of Education shall develop guidelines to assist local and regional boards of education in determining the objectives of the plans and in coordinating staff development activities with student needs and school programs.

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

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(a) The Department of Education shall review and approve proposals for alternate route to certification programs for school administrators. In order to be approved, a proposal shall provide that the alternate route to certification program (1) be provided by a public or independent institution of higher education, a local or regional board of education, a regional educational service center or a private, nonprofit teacher or administrator training organization approved by the State Board of Education; (2) accept only those participants who (A) hold a bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited, (B) (i) have at least forty school months teaching experience, of which at least ten school months are in a position requiring certification at a public school, in this state or another state, or (ii) have less than ten months teaching experience in a public school in another state while holding professional certification, provided (I) such participant provides a statement of justification for participation in such alternate route to certification program and receives approval from the department for such participant's participation in such alternate route to certification program, and (II) the number of such participants shall not be greater than ten per cent of the total number of participants in such alternate route to certification program for a school year, and (C) are recommended by the immediate supervisor or district administrator of such person on the basis of such person's performance; (3) require each participant to (A) complete a one-year residency that requires such person to serve (i) in a position requiring an intermediate administrator or supervisor endorsement, and (ii) in a full-time position for ten school months at a local or regional board of education in the state under the supervision of (I) a certified administrator, and (II) a supervisor from an institution or organization described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, or (B) have ten school months experience in a full-time position as an administrator in a public or nonpublic school in another state that is approved by the appropriate

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state board of education in such other state; and (4) meet such other criteria as the department requires.

Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) Not later than October 1, 2015, the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Social Services, shall provide information about the supplemental nutrition assistance program pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to local and regional boards of education. Such information shall include, (1) information about how to qualify for the program, (2) where to obtain applications, and (3) where to get help completing applications.

(b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and each school year thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall use the information about the supplemental nutrition assistance program pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, provided by the department pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, to provide notice to the parents or guardians of students about said supplemental nutrition assistance program.

Sec. 14. Section 10-95i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

(a) Not later than January 1, [1990] 2020, and every five years thereafter, the [State Board of Education] technical high school system board shall adopt a long-range plan of priorities and goals for the technical high school system. The plan shall address coordination with other providers of vocational, technical or technological education or training and shall include (1) an analysis of the activities described in subsections (b) and (c) of this section and how such activities relate to the long-range plan of priorities and goals, and (2) a summary of activities related to capital improvements and equipment pursuant to subsection (d) of this section. Upon adoption of the plan, the [state] board shall file the plan directly with the joint standing committees of

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the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, finance, revenue and bonding and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a. The state board shall use the plan in preparing its five-year comprehensive plan pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-4.

(b) During the five-year period beginning January 1, [1990] 2020, and during each five-year period thereafter, the [State Board of Education] board shall evaluate each existing technical high school trade program in accordance with a schedule which the [state] board shall establish. A trade program may be reauthorized for a period of not more than five years following each evaluation on the basis of: The projected employment demand for students enrolled in the trade program, including consideration of the employment of graduates of the program during the preceding five years; anticipated technological changes; the availability of qualified instructors; the existence of similar programs at other educational institutions; and student interest in the trade program. As part of the evaluation, the [state] board shall consider geographic differences that may make a trade program feasible at one school and not another and whether certain combinations of program offerings shall be required. Prior to any final decision on the reauthorization of a trade program, the [state] board shall consult with the craft committees for the trade program being evaluated.

(c) The [state] board shall consider the addition of new trade programs. Decisions by the [state] board to add such programs shall at a minimum be based on the projected employment demand for graduates of the program, the cost of establishing the program, the availability of qualified instructors, the existence of similar programs at other educational institutions and the interest of students in the trade. The [state] board shall authorize new trade programs for a maximum of five years. The [state] board shall provide a process for

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the public, including, but not limited to, employers, parents, students or teachers, to request consideration of the establishment of a new trade program.

(d) The [State Board of Education] board shall maintain a rolling [five-year] three-year capital improvement and capital equipment plan that identifies: (1) Alterations, renovations and repairs that each technical high school is expected to need, including, but not limited to, grounds and athletic fields, heating and ventilation systems, wiring, roofs, and windows, and the cost of such projects, (2) recommendations for energy efficiency improvements to each school and the cost of such improvements, and (3) the specific equipment each technical high school is expected to need, based on the useful life of existing equipment and projections of changing technology and the estimated cost of the equipment. The [State Board of Education] board shall submit such plan, annually, directly to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, finance, revenue and bonding and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

Sec. 15. Section 10-95k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

(a) Not later than January 1, [1995] 2017, and biennially thereafter, the [State Board of Education] technical high school system board shall prepare a summary report concerning the technical high school system and shall submit the report directly to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a. The report shall include demographic information for the preceding two school years on applicants for admission, students enrolled and graduates, and a summary of the capital and operating expenditures. Such information shall be provided for the technical high school

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system and for each technical high school and satellite facility. Enrollment information shall be reported by race and sex and by specific trade programs. Applicant information shall include the number of applicants, the number accepted and the number enrolled reported by race and sex. Enrollment capacity for each school and projected enrollment capacity for the subsequent school year shall be developed on the basis of a standardized format and shall be reported for each school and satellite facility. The report shall also include assessment of student outcomes including, but not limited to, mastery examination results pursuant to section 10-14n, retention and completion rates, and postsecondary education or employment based on graduate follow-up and, for purposes of employment placement, state unemployment insurance wage records.

(b) Reports prepared and submitted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section on and after January 1, [1995] 2017, shall identify each technical high school for which enrollment on the preceding October first was less than seventy per cent of the enrollment capacity identified in the report pursuant to this section for the prior year. For each such school the report shall include an analysis of: (1) The reasons for such enrollment, including, but not limited to, the interest in the specific trade programs offered, the resources needed to serve special education students, demographic changes and the existence of alternative vocational, technical and technological educational training programs in the region in which the school is located; (2) the likelihood that enrollment will increase or decrease in the future; (3) any alternative uses for unused space in the facility; and (4) a recommendation on the steps to be taken to improve enrollment or a timetable for closing the school. In preparing the analysis, the [State Board of Education] technical high school system board shall provide an opportunity for public comment.

Sec. 16. Subsection (a) of section 10-145 of the general statutes is

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repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

(a) No teacher, supervisor, administrator, special service staff member or school superintendent, except as provided for in section 10-157, shall be employed in any of the schools of any local or regional board of education unless such person possesses an appropriate state certificate, nor shall any such person be entitled to any salary unless such person can produce such certificate dated [previous] prior to or on the first day of employment, except as provided for in section 10-157; provided nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the board of education from prescribing qualifications additional to those prescribed by the regulations of the State Board of Education and provided nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent any local or regional board of education from contracting with a licensed drivers' school approved by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles for the behind-the-wheel instruction of a driver instruction course, to be given by driving instructors licensed by the Department of Motor Vehicles. No person shall be employed in any of the schools of any local or regional board of education as a substitute teacher unless such person holds a bachelor's degree, provided the Commissioner of Education may waive such requirement for good cause upon the request of a superintendent of schools.

Sec. 17. Subsection (a) of section 10-221 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

(a) Boards of education shall prescribe rules for the management, studies, classification and discipline of the public schools and, subject to the control of the State Board of Education, the textbooks to be used; shall make rules for the control, within their respective jurisdictions, of school library media centers, including Internet access and content, and approve the selection of books and other educational media

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therefor, and shall approve plans for public school buildings and superintend any high or graded school in the manner specified in this title.

Sec. 18. Section 10-230a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 166 relating to professional certification, a local or regional board of education may employ any person certified by the United States armed forces to be an instructor or assistant instructor of a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program to serve as an instructor or assistant instructor of a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program in a school, except that if such certified person is unavailable, a local or regional board of education may employ any person enrolled in a program of certification to be an instructor or assistant instructor of a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program administered by the United States armed forces.

Sec. 19. Section 10-262j of the general statutes, as amended by section 1 of public act 15-99, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

(a) Except as otherwise provided under the provisions of subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of this section, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, the budgeted appropriation for education shall be not less than the budgeted appropriation for education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, plus any aid increase described in subsection (d) of section 10-262i, except that a town may reduce its budgeted appropriation for education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, by one or more of the following:

(1) Any district with (A) a resident student population in which the number of students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches

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pursuant to federal law and regulations is equal to or greater than twenty per cent, and (B) a resident student count for October 1, 2014, using the data of record as of January 31, 2015, that is lower than such district's resident student count for October 1, 2013, using the data of record as of January 31, 2015, may reduce such district's budgeted appropriation for education by the difference in the number of resident students for such years multiplied by fifty per cent of the net current expenditures per resident student of such district, provided such reduction shall not exceed one and one-half per cent of the district's budgeted appropriation for education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, except that the Commissioner of Education may, following a review of a town's proposed reductions to its budgeted appropriation for education, permit a town to reduce its budgeted appropriation for education in an amount greater than one and one-half per cent if the board of education for such town has approved, by vote at a meeting duly called, such proposed reductions;

(2) Any district with (A) a resident student population in which the number of students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches pursuant to federal law and regulations is less than twenty per cent, and (B) a resident student count for October 1, 2014, using the data of record as of January 31, 2015, that is lower than such district's resident student count for October 1, 2013, using the data of record as of January 31, 2015, may reduce such district's budgeted appropriation for education by the difference in the number of resident students for such years multiplied by fifty per cent of the net current expenditures per resident student of such district, provided such reduction shall not exceed three per cent of the district's budgeted appropriation for education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, except that the Commissioner of Education may, following a review of a town's proposed reductions to its budgeted appropriation for education, permit a town to reduce its budgeted appropriation for education in an amount greater than three per cent if the board of education for such

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town has approved, by vote at a meeting duly called, such proposed reductions;

(3) Any district (A) that does not maintain a high school and pays tuition to another school district pursuant to section 10-33 for resident students to attend high school in another district, and (B) in which the number of resident students attending high school for such district for October 1, 2014, using the data of record as of January 31, 2015, is lower than such district's number of resident students attending high school for October 1, 2013, using the data of record as of January 31, 2015, may reduce such district's budgeted appropriation for education by the difference in the number of resident students attending high school for such years multiplied by the amount of tuition paid per student pursuant to section 10-33; or

(4) Any district that realizes new and documentable savings through increased district efficiencies approved by the Commissioner of Education or through regional collaboration or cooperative arrangements pursuant to section 10-158a may reduce such district's budgeted appropriation for education in an amount equal to half of the amount of savings experienced as a result of such district efficiencies, regional collaboration or cooperative arrangement, provided such reduction shall not exceed one-half of one per cent of the district's budgeted appropriation for education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

(b) Except as otherwise provided under the provisions of subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of this section, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, the budgeted appropriation for education shall be not less than the budgeted appropriation for education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, plus any aid increase received pursuant to subsection (d) of section 10-262i, except that a town may reduce its budgeted appropriation for education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, by one or more of the following:

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(1) Any district with (A) a resident student population in which the number of students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches pursuant to federal law and regulations is equal to or greater than twenty per cent, and (B) a resident student count for October 1, 2015, using the data of record as of January 31, 2016, that is lower than such district's resident student count for October 1, 2014, using the data of record as of January 31, 2016, may reduce such district's budgeted appropriation for education by the difference in the number of resident students for such years multiplied by fifty per cent of the net current expenditures per resident student of such district, provided such reduction shall not exceed one and one-half per cent of the district's budgeted appropriation for education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, except that the Commissioner of Education may, following a review of a town's proposed reductions to its budgeted appropriation for education, permit a town to reduce its budgeted appropriation for education in an amount greater than one and one-half per cent if the board of education for such town has approved, by vote at a meeting duly called, such proposed reductions;

(2) Any district with (A) a resident student population in which the number of students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches pursuant to federal law and regulations is less than twenty per cent, and (B) a resident student count for October 1, 2015, using the data of record as of January 31, 2016, that is lower than such district's resident student count for October 1, 2014, using the data of record as of January 31, 2016, may reduce such district's budgeted appropriation for education by the difference in the number of resident students for such years multiplied by fifty per cent of the net current expenditures per resident student, as defined in subdivision (45) of section 10-262f of such district, provided such reduction shall not exceed three per cent of the district's budgeted appropriation for education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, except that the Commissioner of Education may, following a review of a town's proposed reductions to its budgeted

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appropriation for education, permit a town to reduce its budgeted appropriation for education in an amount greater than three per cent if the board of education for such town has approved, by vote at a meeting duly called, such proposed reductions;

(3) Any district (A) that does not maintain a high school and pays tuition to another school district pursuant to section 10-33 for resident students to attend high school in another district, and (B) in which the number of resident students attending high school for such district for October 1, 2015, using the data of record as of January 31, 2016, is lower than such district's number of resident students attending high school for October 1, 2014, using the data of record as of January 31, 2016, may reduce such district's budgeted appropriation for education by the difference in the number of resident students attending high school for such years multiplied by the amount of tuition paid per student pursuant to section 10-33; or

(4) Any district that realizes new and documentable savings through increased district efficiencies approved by the Commissioner of Education or through regional collaboration or cooperative arrangements pursuant to section 10-158a may reduce such district's budgeted appropriation for education in an amount equal to half of the amount of savings experienced as a result of such district efficiencies, regional collaboration or cooperative arrangement, provided such reduction shall not exceed one-half of one per cent of the district's budgeted appropriation for education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

(c) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2017, the Commissioner of Education may permit a town to reduce its budgeted appropriation for education in an amount determined by the commissioner if the school district in such town has permanently ceased operations and closed one or more schools in the school district due to declining enrollment at such closed school or schools in the

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fiscal years ending June 30, 2013, to June 30, 2016, inclusive.

(d) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2017, a town designated as an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u, shall not reduce its budgeted appropriation for education pursuant to this section.

(e) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2017, the provisions of this section shall not apply to any district that is in the top ten per cent of school districts based on the district performance index, as defined in section 10-262u.

(f) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2017, the provisions of this section shall not apply to the member towns of a regional school district during the first full fiscal year following the establishment of the regional school district, provided the budgeted appropriation for education for member towns of such regional school district for each subsequent fiscal year shall be determined in accordance with this section.

Sec. 20. Subsection (b) of section 10-51 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

(b) For the purposes of this section, "net expenses" means estimated expenditures, including estimated capital expenditures, less estimated receipts as presented in a regional school district budget. On the date or dates fixed by the board, each town in the district shall pay a share of the cost of capital outlay, including costs for school building projects under chapter 173, and current expenditures necessary for the operation of the district. The board shall determine the amount to be paid by each member town [. Such amount shall bear] as follows: (1) In an amount that bears the same ratio to the net expenses of the district as the number of pupils resident in such town in average daily

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membership in the regional school district during the preceding school year bears to the total number of such pupils in all the member towns, provided that the board may recalculate such amount based on the number of pupils in average daily membership in the regional school district for the current school year and may adjust each member town's payment to the regional school district for the following fiscal year by the difference between the last such payment and the recalculated amount, or (2) in an amount established pursuant to an agreement, approved by the State Board of Education, among such member towns, provided if the payment by any such member town deviates in an amount that is greater than or equal to one per cent of the amount established in such agreement, the state board shall review and may approve or reject such deviation. Until the regional school district has been in operation for one year, such amounts shall be based on the average daily membership of pupils in like grades from each of such towns at any school at which children were in attendance at the expense of such towns during the preceding school year or in accordance with the provisions of the agreement between the member towns described in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

Sec. 21. Subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of section 10-151 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(6) "Tenure" means:

(A) The completion of forty school months of full-time continuous employment for the same board of education, provided the superintendent offers the teacher a contract to return for the following school year on the basis of effective practice as informed by performance evaluations conducted pursuant to section 10-151b. For purposes of calculating continuous employment towards tenure, the following shall apply: (i) For a teacher who has not attained tenure, two school months of part-time continuous employment by such

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teacher shall equal one school month of full-time continuous employment except, for a teacher employed in a part-time position at a salary rate of less than twenty-five per cent of the salary rate of a teacher in such position, if such position were full-time, three school months of part-time continuous employment shall equal one school month of full-time continuous employment; (ii) a teacher who has not attained tenure shall not count layoff time towards tenure, except that if such teacher is reemployed by the same board of education within five calendar years of the layoff, such teacher may count the previous continuous employment immediately prior to the layoff towards tenure; (iii) a teacher who has not attained tenure shall not count authorized leave time towards tenure if such time exceeds ninety student school days in any one school year, provided only the student school days worked that year by such teacher shall count towards tenure and shall be computed on the basis of eighteen student school days or the greater fraction thereof equaling one school month; [and] (iv) for a teacher who has not attained tenure and who is employed by a local or regional board of education that enters into a cooperative arrangement pursuant to section 10-158a, such teacher may count the previous continuous employment with such board immediately prior to such cooperative arrangement towards tenure; and (v) for a teacher who has not attained tenure and who is employed by a local board of education or as part of a cooperative arrangement, pursuant to section 10-158a, and such board or cooperative arrangement joins a regional school district, such teacher may count the previous continuous employment with such local board or cooperative arrangement immediately prior to employment by the regional board of education towards tenure.

(B) For a teacher who has attained tenure prior to layoff, tenure shall resume if such teacher is reemployed by the same board of education within five calendar years of the layoff.

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(C) Except as provided in subparagraphs (B), (D) and (E) of this subdivision, any teacher who has attained tenure with any one board of education and whose employment with such board ends for any reason and who is reemployed by such board or is subsequently employed by any other board, shall attain tenure after completion of twenty school months of continuous employment, provided the superintendent offers the teacher a contract to return for the following school year on the basis of effective practice as informed by performance evaluations conducted pursuant to section 10-151b. The provisions of this subparagraph shall not apply if, (i) prior to completion of the twentieth school month following commencement of employment by such board such teacher has been notified in writing that his or her contract will not be renewed for the following school year, or (ii) for a period of five or more calendar years immediately prior to such subsequent employment, such teacher has not been employed by any board of education.

(D) Any certified teacher or administrator employed by a local or regional board of education for a school district identified as a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p may attain tenure after ten months of employment in such priority school district, if such certified teacher or administrator previously attained tenure with another local or regional board of education in this state or another state.

(E) For a teacher who has attained tenure and is employed by a local or regional board of education that enters into a cooperative arrangement pursuant to section 10-158a, such teacher shall not experience a break in continuous employment for purposes of tenure as a result of such cooperative arrangement.

(F) For a teacher who has attained tenure and is employed by a local board of education or as part of a cooperative arrangement, pursuant to section 10-158a, and such board or cooperative arrangement joins a regional school district, such teacher shall not experience a break in

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continuous employment for purposes of tenure as a result of joining such regional school district.

Sec. 22. Section 10-212a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

(a) (1) A school nurse or, in the absence of such nurse, any other nurse licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 378, including a nurse employed by, or providing services under the direction of a local or regional board of education at, a school-based health clinic, who shall administer medical preparations only to students enrolled in such school-based health clinic in the absence of a school nurse, the principal, any teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, or coach of intramural and interscholastic athletics of a school may administer, subject to the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection, medicinal preparations, including such controlled drugs as the Commissioner of Consumer Protection may, by regulation, designate, to any student at such school pursuant to the written order of a physician licensed to practice medicine, or a dentist licensed to practice dental medicine in this or another state, or an optometrist licensed to practice optometry in this state under chapter 380, or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a, or a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-12d, and the written authorization of a parent or guardian of such child. The administration of medicinal preparations by a nurse licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 378, a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, or coach shall be under the general supervision of a school nurse. No such school nurse or other nurse, principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or school paraprofessional administering medication pursuant to this

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section shall be liable to such student or a parent or guardian of such student for civil damages for any personal injuries that result from acts or omissions of such school nurse or other nurse, principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or school paraprofessional administering medication pursuant to this section in administering such preparations that may constitute ordinary negligence. This immunity does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence.

(2) Each local and regional board of education that allows a school nurse or, in the absence of such nurse, any other nurse licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 378, including a nurse employed by, or providing services under the direction of a local or regional board of education at, a school-based health clinic, who shall administer medical preparations only to students enrolled in such school-based health clinic in the absence of a school nurse, the principal, any teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach of intramural and interscholastic athletics or school paraprofessional of a school to administer medicine or that allows a student to self-administer medicine, including medicine administered through the use of an asthmatic inhaler or an automatic prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment, shall adopt written policies and procedures, in accordance with this section and the regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, that shall be approved by the school medical advisor, if any, or other qualified licensed physician. Once so approved, such administration of medication shall be in accordance with such policies and procedures.

(3) A director of a school readiness program as defined in section 10-16p or a before or after school program exempt from licensure by the Department of Public Health pursuant to subdivision (1) of

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subsection (b) of section 19a-77, or the director's designee, may administer medications to a child enrolled in such a program in accordance with regulations adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. No individual administering medications pursuant to this subdivision shall be liable to such child or a parent or guardian of such child for civil damages for any personal injuries that result from acts or omissions of such individual in administering such medications which may constitute ordinary negligence. This immunity shall not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence.

(b) Each school wherein any controlled drug is administered under the provisions of this section shall keep such records thereof as are required of hospitals under the provisions of subsections (f) and (h) of section 21a-254 and shall store such drug in such manner as the Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall, by regulation, require.

(c) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, determined to be necessary by the board to carry out the provisions of this section, including, but not limited to, regulations that (1) specify conditions under which a coach of intramural and interscholastic athletics may administer medicinal preparations, including controlled drugs specified in the regulations adopted by the commissioner, to a child participating in such intramural and interscholastic athletics, (2) specify conditions and procedures for the administration of medication by school personnel to students, including the conditions and procedures for the storage and administration of epinephrine by school personnel to students for the purpose of emergency first aid to students who experience allergic reactions and who do not have a prior written authorization for the administration of epinephrine, in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section, and (3) specify

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conditions for self-administration of medication by students, including permitting a child diagnosed with: (A) Asthma to retain possession of an asthmatic inhaler at all times while attending school for prompt treatment of the child's asthma and to protect the child against serious harm or death provided a written authorization for self-administration of medication signed by the child's parent or guardian and an authorized prescriber is submitted to the school nurse; and (B) an allergic condition to retain possession of an automatic prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment at all times while attending school for prompt treatment of the child's allergic condition and to protect the child against serious harm or death provided a written authorization for self-administration of medication signed by the child's parent or guardian and an authorized prescriber is submitted to the school nurse. The regulations shall require authorization pursuant to: (i) The written order of a physician licensed to practice medicine in this or another state, a dentist licensed to practice dental medicine in this or another state, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under chapter 378, a physician assistant licensed under chapter 370, a podiatrist licensed under chapter 375, or an optometrist licensed under chapter 380; and (ii) the written authorization of a parent or guardian of such child.

(d) (1) (A) With the written authorization of a student's parent or guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order of a qualified medical professional, a school nurse and a school medical advisor, if any, may jointly approve and provide general supervision to an identified school paraprofessional to administer medication, including, but not limited to, medication administered with a cartridge injector, to a specific student with a medically diagnosed allergic condition that may require prompt treatment in order to protect the student against serious harm or death.

(2) A school nurse or, in the absence of a school nurse, a qualified

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school employee shall maintain epinephrine in cartridge injectors for the purpose of emergency first aid to students who experience allergic reactions and do not have a prior written authorization of a parent or guardian or a prior written order of a qualified medical professional for the administration of epinephrine. A school nurse or a school principal shall select qualified school employees to administer such epinephrine under this subdivision, and there shall be at least one such qualified school employee on the grounds of the school during regular school hours in the absence of a school nurse. A school nurse or, in the absence of such school nurse, such qualified school employee may administer such epinephrine under this subdivision, provided such administration of epinephrine is in accordance with policies and procedures adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such administration of epinephrine by a qualified school employee shall be limited to situations when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. No qualified school employee shall administer such epinephrine under this subdivision unless such qualified school employee annually completes the training program described in section 10-212g. The parent or guardian of a student may submit, in writing, to the school nurse and school medical advisor, if any, that epinephrine shall not be administered to such student under this subdivision.

(3) For purposes of this subsection, (A) "cartridge injector" means an automatic prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment used to deliver epinephrine in a standard dose for emergency first aid response to allergic reactions, (B) "qualified school employee" means a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or school paraprofessional, and (C) "qualified medical professional" means (i) a physician licensed under chapter 370, (ii) an optometrist licensed to practice optometry under chapter 380, (iii) an advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a, or (iv) a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in

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accordance with section 20-12d.

(e) (1) With the written authorization of a student's parent or guardian, and (2) pursuant to a written order of the student's physician licensed under chapter 370, a school nurse or a school principal shall select, and a school nurse shall provide general supervision to, a qualified school employee to administer medication with injectable equipment used to administer glucagon to a student with diabetes that may require prompt treatment in order to protect the student against serious harm or death. Such authorization shall be limited to situations when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. No qualified school employee shall administer medication under this subsection unless (A) such qualified school employee annually completes any training required by the school nurse and school medical advisor, if any, in the administration of medication with injectable equipment used to administer glucagon, (B) the school nurse and school medical advisor, if any, have attested, in writing, that such qualified school employee has completed such training, and (C) such qualified school employee voluntarily agrees to serve as a qualified school employee. For purposes of this subsection, "injectable equipment used to administer glucagon" means an injector or injectable equipment used to deliver glucagon in an appropriate dose for emergency first aid response to diabetes. For purposes of this subsection, "qualified school employee" means a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or school paraprofessional.

(f) (1) (A) With the written authorization of a student's parent or guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order of a physician licensed under chapter 370, a school nurse and a school medical advisor, if any, shall select, and a school nurse shall provide general supervision to, a qualified school employee to administer antiepileptic medication, including by rectal syringe, to a specific student with a medically

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diagnosed epileptic condition that requires prompt treatment in accordance with the student's individual seizure action plan. Such authorization shall be limited to situations when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. No qualified school employee shall administer medication under this subsection unless (i) such qualified school employee annually completes the training program described in subdivision (2) of this subsection, (ii) the school nurse and school medical advisor, if any, have attested, in writing, that such qualified school employee has completed such training, (iii) such qualified school employee receives monthly reviews by the school nurse to confirm such qualified school employee's competency to administer antiepileptic medication under this subsection, and (iv) such qualified school employee voluntarily agrees to serve as a qualified school employee. For purposes of this subsection, "qualified school employee" means a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or school paraprofessional.

(2) The Department of Education, in consultation with the School Nurse Advisory Council, established pursuant to section 10-212f, and the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut, shall develop an antiepileptic medication administrating training program. Such training program shall include instruction in (A) an overview of childhood epilepsy and types of seizure disorders, (B) interpretation of individual student's emergency seizure action plan and recognition of individual student's seizure activity, (C) emergency management procedures for seizure activity, including administration techniques for emergency seizure medication, (D) when to activate emergency medical services and postseizure procedures and follow-up, (E) reporting procedures after a student has required such delegated emergency seizure medication, and (F) any other relevant issues or topics related to emergency interventions for students who experience seizures.

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Approved June 30, 2015