

**Proposed Substitute  
Bill No. 7020**

LCO No. 5843

**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11 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  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20 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  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  
39 the preschool experience survey, described in section 10-515, as  
40 amended by this act;

41 (B) Data relating to teachers shall include, but not be limited to, (i)  
42 teacher credentials, such as master's degrees, teacher preparation  
43 programs completed and certification levels and endorsement areas,  
44 (ii) teacher assessments, such as whether a teacher is deemed highly  
45 qualified pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, or  
46 deemed to meet such other designations as may be established by  
47 federal law or regulations for the purposes of tracking the equitable  
48 distribution of instructional staff, (iii) the presence of substitute  
49 teachers in a teacher's classroom, (iv) class size, (v) numbers relating to  
50 absenteeism in a teacher's classroom, and (vi) the presence of a

51 teacher's aide. The department shall assign a unique teacher identifier  
52 to each teacher prior to collecting such data in the public school  
53 information system;

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

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

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

68 Sec. 4. Subsection (g) of section 10-10a of the general statutes is  
69 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
70 *1, 2015*):

71 (g) Local and regional boards of education and preschool programs  
72 which receive state or federal funding shall participate, in a manner  
73 prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, in the state-wide public  
74 school information system described in subsection (b) of this section.  
75 Participation for purposes of this subsection shall include, but not be  
76 limited to, reporting on (1) student experiences in preschool by  
77 program type and by numbers of months in each such program, and  
78 (2) the readiness of students entering kindergarten using data collected  
79 from the kindergarten assessment tool, administered pursuant to  
80 section 1 of this act, and student progress in kindergarten. Such  
81 reporting shall be done by October 1, 2007, and annually thereafter.

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

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

103       (c) During a review and assessment pursuant to subdivision (4) of  
104 subsection (b) of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by  
105 this act, the office shall consult the results of the trend analysis  
106 conducted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section for the purpose of  
107 determining whether the degree of an individual with a bachelor's  
108 degree in early childhood education or child development or a  
109 bachelor's degree and twelve credits or more in early childhood  
110 education or child development, other than those bachelor's degrees  
111 specified in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subdivision (2) of subsection  
112 (b) of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this act, has  
113 a sufficient concentration in early childhood education so as to satisfy  
114 the requirements set forth in said subparagraphs (B) and (C).

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

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

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

127 The Office of Early Childhood shall collaborate with and provide  
128 funding to local and regional early childhood councils [in] for the  
129 implementation of early care and education and child development  
130 programs at the local level. Such early childhood councils shall: (1)  
131 Develop and implement a comprehensive plan for an early childhood  
132 system for the community served by such early childhood council, (2)  
133 develop policy and program planning, (3) encourage community  
134 participation by emphasizing substantial parental involvement, (4)  
135 collect, analyze and evaluate data with a focus on program and service  
136 outcomes, (5) allocate resources, and (6) perform any other functions  
137 that will assist in the provision of early childhood programs and  
138 services. Such early childhood councils may enter into memoranda of  
139 agreement with the local or regional school readiness council,  
140 described in section 10-16r, of the town or region served by such early  
141 childhood council to perform the duties and functions of a school  
142 readiness council, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16r,  
143 or if no such local or regional school readiness council exists for the  
144 town or region of such early childhood council, perform the duties and  
145 functions of a school readiness council, in accordance with the  
146 provisions of section 10-16r.

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

165       Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) Not later than July first,  
166 annually, the Office of Early Childhood shall submit a report regarding  
167 the status of school readiness program providers' compliance with the  
168 staff qualifications requirement, described in subsection (b) of section  
169 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by this act, to the joint  
170 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
171 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of  
172 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

173       Sec. 10. Subsection (c) of section 10-506 of the general statutes is  
174 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
175 *passage*):

176       (c) A preschool program created or expanded under this section  
177 shall (1) contain a classroom with an individual who holds  
178 professional certification pursuant to [section 10-145b] chapter 166  
179 with an endorsement in early childhood education or early childhood

180 special education and is an employee of the board of education  
181 providing a preschool program under this section, (2) maintain a  
182 classroom size and teacher-child ratio that is in compliance with  
183 standards established by the National Association for the Education of  
184 Young Children, (3) obtain accreditation, as described in section 10-  
185 16p, as amended by this act, not later than three years after the creation  
186 or expansion of the preschool program, and (4) be located in a public  
187 school or in a space maintained by an early care and education and  
188 child development program provider, pursuant to an agreement  
189 between a board of education and such early care and education and  
190 child development program provider.

191 Sec. 11. Section 10-515 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
192 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

193 On or before March 1, 2015, the Commissioner of Early Childhood,  
194 in consultation with the Department of Education, shall develop a  
195 preschool experience survey that [may] shall be included in  
196 kindergarten registration materials provided by local and regional  
197 boards of education to parents or guardians of children enrolling in  
198 kindergarten pursuant to section 10-184. The board shall use such  
199 survey to collect information regarding (1) whether the child enrolling  
200 in kindergarten has participated in a preschool program, and (2) (A) if  
201 such child has participated in a preschool program, the nature, length  
202 and setting of such preschool program, or (B) if the child has not  
203 participated in a preschool program, the reasons why such child did  
204 not participate in a preschool program, including, but not limited to,  
205 financial difficulty, lack of transportation, parental choice regarding  
206 enrollment, limitations related to the hours of operation of available  
207 preschool programs and any other barriers to participation in a  
208 preschool program. A local or regional board of education shall not  
209 require any parent or guardian of such child to complete such survey  
210 as a condition of such child's enrollment in kindergarten.

211 Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 10-501 of the general statutes is  
212 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*

213 1, 2015):

214 (a) The Office of Early Childhood shall develop and implement an  
215 early childhood information system. Such early childhood information  
216 system shall facilitate and encourage the sharing of data between and  
217 among early childhood service providers by tracking (1) the health,  
218 safety and school readiness of all young children receiving early care  
219 and education services from (A) any local or regional board of  
220 education, including children enrolled in a preschool program under  
221 the Connecticut Smart Start competitive grant program, pursuant to  
222 section 10-506, as amended by this act, (B) school readiness program,  
223 as defined in section 10-16p, as amended by this act, or (C) any  
224 program receiving public funding, in a manner similar to the system  
225 described in section 10-10a, as amended by this act, (2) the  
226 characteristics of the existing and potential workforce serving such  
227 children, (3) the characteristics of such programs serving such children,  
228 and (4) data collected [, if any,] from the preschool experience survey,  
229 described in section 10-515, as amended by this act.

230 Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 10-16p of the general statutes is  
231 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
232 *passage*):

233 (b) (1) The office shall be the lead agency for school readiness. For  
234 purposes of this section and section 10-16u, school readiness program  
235 providers eligible for funding from the office shall include local and  
236 regional boards of education, regional educational service centers,  
237 family resource centers and providers of child day care centers, as  
238 defined in section 19a-77, Head Start programs, preschool programs  
239 and other programs that meet such standards established by the  
240 commissioner. The office shall establish standards for school readiness  
241 programs. The standards may include, but need not be limited to,  
242 guidelines for staff-child interactions, curriculum content, including  
243 preliteracy development, lesson plans, parent involvement, staff  
244 qualifications and training, transition to school and administration.  
245 The office shall develop age-appropriate developmental skills and

246 goals for children attending such programs. The commissioner, in  
247 consultation with the president of the Board of Regents for Higher  
248 Education, the Commissioners of Education and Social Services and  
249 other appropriate entities, shall develop a professional development  
250 program for the staff of school readiness programs.

251 (2) For purposes of this section:

252 (A) Prior to July 1, 2015, "staff qualifications" means there is in each  
253 classroom an individual who has at least the following: (i) A childhood  
254 development associate credential or an equivalent credential issued by  
255 an organization approved by the commissioner and twelve credits or  
256 more in early childhood education or child development, as  
257 determined by the commissioner or the president of the Board of  
258 Regents for Higher Education, after consultation with the  
259 commissioner, from an institution of higher education (I) accredited by  
260 the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher  
261 Education, and (II) regionally accredited; (ii) an associate's degree with  
262 twelve credits or more in early childhood education or child  
263 development, as determined by the commissioner or the president of  
264 the Board of Regents for Higher Education, after consultation with the  
265 commissioner, from such an institution; (iii) a four-year degree with  
266 twelve credits or more in early childhood education or child  
267 development, as determined by the commissioner or the president of  
268 the Board of Regents for Higher Education, after consultation with the  
269 commissioner, from such an institution; or (iv) certification pursuant to  
270 section 10-145b with an endorsement in early childhood education or  
271 special education;

272 (B) From July 1, 2015, until June 30, 2020, "staff qualifications" means  
273 that for each early childhood education program accepting state funds  
274 for infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such  
275 program's child day care program or school readiness program, (i) at  
276 least fifty per cent of those individuals with the primary responsibility  
277 for a classroom of children hold (I) certification pursuant to section 10-  
278 145b with an endorsement in early childhood education or early

279 childhood special education, or (II) a bachelor's degree with a  
280 concentration in early childhood education, including, but not limited  
281 to, a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, child study, child  
282 development or human growth and development, from an institution  
283 of higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher  
284 Education or Office of Higher Education, and regionally accredited,  
285 provided such bachelor's degree program is approved by the Board of  
286 Regents for Higher Education or the Office of Higher Education and  
287 the Office of Early Childhood, and (ii) such remaining individuals with  
288 the primary responsibility for a classroom of children hold an associate  
289 degree with a concentration in early childhood education, including,  
290 but not limited to, an associate's degree in early childhood education,  
291 child study, child development or human growth and development,  
292 from an institution of higher education (I) accredited by the Board of  
293 Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education, and (II)  
294 regionally accredited, provided such associate degree program is  
295 approved by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or the Office  
296 of Higher Education and the Office of Early Childhood; and

297 (C) On and after July 1, 2020, "staff qualifications" means that for  
298 each early childhood education program accepting state funds for  
299 infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such program's  
300 child day care program or school readiness program, one hundred per  
301 cent of those individuals with the primary responsibility for a  
302 classroom of children hold (i) certification pursuant to section 10-145b  
303 with an endorsement in early childhood education or early childhood  
304 special education, or (ii) a bachelor's degree with a concentration in  
305 early childhood education, including, but not limited to, a bachelor's  
306 degree in early childhood education, child study, child development or  
307 human growth and development, from an institution of higher  
308 education (I) accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education  
309 or the Office of Higher Education, and (II) regionally accredited,  
310 provided such bachelor's degree program is approved by the Board of  
311 Regents for Higher Education or the Office of Higher Education and  
312 the Office of Early Childhood.

313 (3) Any individual with a bachelor's degree in early childhood  
314 education or child development or a bachelor's degree and twelve  
315 credits or more in early childhood education or child development,  
316 who, on or before June 30, 2015, is employed by an early childhood  
317 education program that accepts state funds for infant, toddler and  
318 preschool spaces associated with such program's child day care  
319 program or school readiness program shall be considered to meet the  
320 staff qualifications required under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of  
321 subdivision (2) of this subsection. No such early childhood education  
322 program shall terminate any such individual from employment for  
323 purposes of meeting the staff qualification requirements set forth in  
324 subparagraph (B) or (C) of subdivision (2) of this subsection.

325 (4) Any individual with a bachelor's degree in early childhood  
326 education or child development or a bachelor's degree and twelve  
327 credits or more in early childhood education or child development,  
328 other than those bachelor's degrees specified in subparagraphs (B) and  
329 (C) of subdivision (2) of this subsection, may submit documentation  
330 concerning such degree for review and assessment by the office as to  
331 whether such degree has a sufficient concentration in early childhood  
332 education so as to satisfy the requirements set forth in said  
333 subparagraphs (B) and (C).

334 (5) Any individual with an associate's degree with twelve credits or  
335 more in early childhood education or child development, as  
336 determined by the commissioner or the president of the Board of  
337 Regents for Higher Education, after consultation with the  
338 commissioner, from an institution of higher education (A) accredited  
339 by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher  
340 Education, and (B) regionally accredited, who has been employed in  
341 the same early childhood education program that accepts state funds  
342 for infant, toddler and preschool spaces associated with such  
343 program's child day care program or school readiness program since  
344 1995 shall be considered to meet the staff qualifications required under  
345 subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subdivision (2) of this subsection until  
346 June 30, 2025. On and after July 1, 2025, such individual shall hold a

347 childhood development associate credential or an equivalent  
348 credential, described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of this  
349 subsection, or otherwise meet the staff qualifications required under  
350 subparagraph (C) of subdivision (2) of this subsection. Any such  
351 individual who terminates his or her employment with such early  
352 childhood education program on or before June 30, 2025, and accepts a  
353 position at another early childhood education program accepting state  
354 funds for spaces associated with such program's child day care  
355 program or school readiness program shall submit documentation of  
356 such individual's progress toward meeting the staff qualification  
357 requirements set forth in subparagraph (B) or (C) of subdivision (2) of  
358 this subsection in a manner determined by the office.

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
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	10-506(c)
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-515
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-501(a)
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	10-16p(b)