



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 175**

February Session, 2016

\* SB00175ED 031716 \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-5 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall, in accordance with this  
4 section, issue a state high school diploma to any person (1) who  
5 successfully completes an examination approved by the commissioner,  
6 or (2) who (A) is seventeen years of age and has been officially  
7 withdrawn from school in accordance with the provisions of section  
8 10-184 or is eighteen years of age or older, and (B) presents to the  
9 commissioner evidence demonstrating educational qualifications  
10 which the commissioner deems equivalent to those required for  
11 graduation from a public high school. Application for such a diploma  
12 shall be made in the manner and form prescribed by the commissioner  
13 provided, at the time of application to take the examination described  
14 in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the applicant is seventeen years of  
15 age or older, has been officially withdrawn from school, in accordance  
16 with section 10-184, for at least six months and has been advised, in  
17 such manner as may be prescribed by the commissioner, of the other  
18 options for high school completion and other available educational  
19 programs. For good cause shown, the commissioner may allow a

20 person who is sixteen years of age to apply to take the examination,  
21 provided the commissioner may not issue a state high school diploma  
22 to such person until the person has attained seventeen years of age.

23 (b) Application to take or retake the examination described in  
24 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section shall be accompanied  
25 by a money order or certified check in the nonrefundable amount of  
26 thirteen dollars. This amount shall include the fee for the state high  
27 school diploma.

28 (c) No veteran, member of the armed forces, as defined in section  
29 27-103, or any person under twenty-one years of age shall be required  
30 to pay the fees described in subsection (b) of this section. The  
31 commissioner may waive any fee described in subsection (b) upon the  
32 submission of evidence indicating an inability to pay.

33 (d) The Commissioner of Education shall keep a correct account of  
34 all money received under the provisions of this section and shall  
35 deposit with the State Treasurer all such money received by said  
36 commissioner. Funds paid to a local or regional board of education  
37 under this section shall be deposited in the school activity fund  
38 established under section 10-237 and expended to defray the costs of  
39 such testing and related administration and information.

40 (e) The commissioner shall establish criteria by which an "honors  
41 diploma" may be issued for exemplary performance on the  
42 examination.

43 (f) Not later than September 1, 2017, the State Board of Education  
44 shall establish criteria by which a local or regional board of education  
45 may affix the Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy on a diploma  
46 awarded to a student who has achieved a high level of proficiency in  
47 English and one or more foreign languages. For purposes of this  
48 subsection, "foreign language" means a world language other than  
49 English and includes American Sign Language and any language  
50 spoken by a federally recognized Native American tribe.

51 Sec. 2. Section 10-221a of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes  
52 is amended by adding subsection (k) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

53 (NEW) (k) Commencing with classes graduating in 2018, and for  
54 each graduating class thereafter, a local or regional board of education  
55 may affix the Connecticut State Seal of Bilingual Literacy, as described in  
56 subsection (f) of section 10-5, as amended by this act, to a diploma  
57 awarded to a student who has achieved a high level of proficiency in  
58 English and one or more foreign languages, as defined in said  
59 subsection (f). The local or regional board of education shall include on  
60 such student's transcript a designation that the student received the  
61 Connecticut State Seal of Bilingual Literacy.

62 Sec. 3. Section 10-146c of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes  
63 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
64 *1, 2016*):

65 (a) As used in this section:

66 (1) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of  
67 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or territories or  
68 possessions of the United States; and

69 (2) "Educator preparation program" means a program designed to  
70 qualify an individual for professional certification as an educator  
71 provided by institutions of higher education or other providers,  
72 including, but not limited to, an alternate route to certification  
73 program.

74 (b) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee,  
75 as agent for the state shall establish or join interstate agreements with  
76 other states to facilitate the certification of qualified educators from  
77 other states, [ territories or possessions of the United States, or the  
78 District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, provided]  
79 Any such interstate agreement shall include provisions requiring  
80 candidates for certification to, at a minimum, (1) hold a bachelor's  
81 degree from a regionally accredited college or university, (2) have

82 fulfilled post preparation assessments as approved by the  
83 commissioner, [have taught under an appropriate certificate issued by  
84 another state, territory or possession of the United States or the District  
85 of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and meet all  
86 conditions as mandated by such interstate agreement] and (3) have  
87 successfully completed an approved educator preparation program.  
88 Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 10-145b and 10-145f, the  
89 State Board of Education shall issue [an initial educator] the  
90 appropriate professional certificate to any [person] applicant, based on  
91 such applicant's qualifications, who satisfies the requirements of [this  
92 section and] the appropriate interstate agreement.

93 (c) If the commissioner is unable to establish or join an interstate  
94 agreement with another state, the commissioner may create and make  
95 available a recognition statement that specifies the states, assessments  
96 and educator preparation programs that the commissioner will  
97 recognize for purposes of issuing professional certification under  
98 sections 10-145b and 10-145f.

99 Sec. 4. Section 10-145h of the general statutes is repealed and the  
100 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

101 (a) [On and after July 1, 2015, the] The State Board of Education  
102 shall require an applicant for certification as a bilingual education  
103 teacher to demonstrate written and oral competency in English and  
104 [written and oral competency] in the other language of instruction as a  
105 condition of certification. Written competency in English shall be  
106 demonstrated by successful passage of the essential skills test  
107 approved by the State Board of Education. Written competency in the  
108 other language shall be demonstrated on an examination, if available,  
109 of comparable difficulty as specified by the Department of Education.  
110 If such an examination is not available, competency shall be  
111 demonstrated by an appropriate alternative method as specified by the  
112 department. Oral competency [in the other language] shall be  
113 demonstrated by an appropriate method specified by the Department  
114 of Education.

115 (b) [On and after July 1, 2015, the] The State Board of Education  
116 shall require persons seeking to become (1) elementary level bilingual  
117 education teachers to meet coursework requirements in elementary  
118 education and bilingual education, and (2) secondary level bilingual  
119 education teachers to meet coursework requirements in both the  
120 subject area they will teach and in bilingual education. The State Board  
121 of Education may issue an endorsement in bilingual education to an  
122 applicant who has (A) completed coursework requirements in (i)  
123 elementary education and bilingual education, or (ii) the subject area  
124 they will teach and bilingual education, and (B) successful passage of  
125 examination requirements for bilingual education, as approved by the  
126 State Board of Education.

127 (c) [On and after July 1, 2000, the] The State Board of Education shall  
128 require bilingual education teachers holding provisional educator  
129 certificates to meet the requirements of this subsection in order to  
130 qualify for a professional educator certificate to teach bilingual  
131 education. (1) Such bilingual education teachers who teach on the  
132 elementary level shall take fifteen credit hours in bilingual education  
133 and fifteen credit hours in language arts, reading and mathematics. (2)  
134 Such bilingual education teachers who teach on the middle or  
135 secondary level shall take fifteen credit hours in bilingual education  
136 and fifteen credit hours in the subject matter that they teach. Such  
137 professional educator certificate shall be valid for bilingual education  
138 and the grade level and content area of preparation.

139 (d) Certification in elementary bilingual education shall be valid for  
140 grades kindergarten to eight, inclusive.

141 Sec. 5. Subsection (h) of section 10-262u of the 2016 supplement to  
142 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
143 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

144 (h) Any balance remaining for each local or regional board of  
145 education at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward for such  
146 local or regional board of education for the next fiscal year for use in

147 accordance with the plan approved pursuant to subsection (d) of this  
148 section and the provisions of subsection (c) of section 10-262i.

149       Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) For the fiscal year ending June  
150 30, 2017, the Department of Education shall administer a parent  
151 university program to provide grants to educational reform districts,  
152 as defined in section 10-262u of the general statutes, as amended by  
153 this act, selected by the Commissioner of Education, for the  
154 establishment of a parent university. Each parent university  
155 established under this section shall provide district-wide educational  
156 opportunities for parents and educational opportunities for parents of  
157 students enrolled in certain schools and who reside in certain  
158 neighborhoods. The local or regional board of education for an  
159 educational reform district or a nonprofit organization partnering with  
160 such board of education may apply to the commissioner for a grant  
161 under this section at such time and in such manner as the  
162 commissioner prescribes. The department may accept private  
163 donations for purposes of the parent university program, provided  
164 such donations do not limit the scope of parent university program  
165 grants pursuant to this section.

166       Sec. 7. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of  
167 section 19 of public act 15-1 of the June special session, grants-in-aid  
168 for capital start-up costs paid to the Capitol Region Education Council,  
169 in accordance with subdivision (1) of subsection (i) of section 13 of  
170 public act 15-1 of the June special session and used pursuant to said  
171 subsection (i), shall not be subject to lien or repayment.

172       (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 38 of public act 15-1 of  
173 the June special session, grants-in-aid for capital start-up costs paid to  
174 the Capitol Region Education Council, in accordance with subdivision  
175 (1) of subsection (k) of section 32 of public act 15-1 of the June special  
176 session and used pursuant to said subsection (k), shall not be subject to  
177 lien or repayment.

178       Sec. 8. Subsections (f) and (g) of section 10-266p of the 2016

179 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is  
180 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

181 (f) In addition to the amounts allocated in subsection (a), and  
182 subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of this section, for the fiscal year  
183 ending June 30, 2006, the State Board of Education shall allocate two  
184 million thirty-nine thousand six hundred eighty-six dollars to the  
185 towns that rank one to three, inclusive, in population pursuant to  
186 subdivision (1) of said subsection (a), and for the fiscal [years] year  
187 ending June 30, 2007, [to June 30, 2015] and each fiscal year thereafter,  
188 the State Board of Education shall allocate two million six hundred ten  
189 thousand seven hundred ninety-eight dollars to the towns that rank  
190 one to three, inclusive, in population pursuant to subdivision (1) of  
191 said subsection (a).

192 (g) In addition to the amounts allocated in subsection (a) and  
193 subsections (c) to (f), inclusive, of this section, for [the fiscal year  
194 ending June 30, 2012, the State Board of Education shall allocate three  
195 million two hundred sixteen thousand nine hundred eight dollars as  
196 follows: Each priority school district shall receive an allocation based  
197 on the ratio of the amount it is eligible to receive pursuant to  
198 subsection (a) and subsections (c) to (f), inclusive, of this section to the  
199 total amount all priority school districts are eligible to receive pursuant  
200 to said subsection (a) and said subsections (c) to (f), inclusive. For the  
201 fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, the State Board of Education shall  
202 allocate two million nine hundred twenty-five thousand four hundred  
203 eighty-one dollars as follows: Each priority school district shall receive  
204 an allocation based on the ratio of the amount it is eligible to receive  
205 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and subsections (c) to (f),  
206 inclusive, of this section to the total amount all priority school districts  
207 are eligible to receive pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and  
208 subsections (c) to (f), inclusive, of this section. For] the fiscal year  
209 ending June 30, 2015, and each fiscal year thereafter, the State Board of  
210 Education shall allocate two million eight hundred eighty-two  
211 thousand three hundred sixty-eight dollars as follows: Each priority

212 school district shall receive an allocation based on the ratio of the  
213 amount it is eligible to receive pursuant to subsection (a) of this section  
214 and subsections (c) to (f), inclusive, of this section to the total amount  
215 all priority school districts are eligible to receive pursuant to  
216 subsection (a) of this section and subsections (c) to (f), inclusive, of this  
217 section. For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2014] 2016, a priority school  
218 district may carry forward any unexpended funds allocated after May  
219 1, [2014] 2016, pursuant to this subsection, into the fiscal year ending  
220 June 30, [2015] 2017.

221 Sec. 9. Subsection (i) of section 10-266p of the 2016 supplement to  
222 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
223 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

224 (i) In addition to the amounts allocated in subsection (a) and  
225 subsections (c) to (h), inclusive, of this section, for the fiscal year  
226 ending June 30, 2008, and each fiscal year thereafter, the State Board of  
227 Education shall allocate two million twenty thousand dollars to the  
228 town ranked sixth when all towns are ranked from highest to lowest in  
229 population, based on the most recent federal decennial census, except  
230 that for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, the State Board of  
231 Education shall allocate two million two hundred seventy thousand  
232 [seventy] dollars to said town.

233 Sec. 10. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 10-264i of the  
234 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
235 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

236 (4) In addition to the grants otherwise provided pursuant to this  
237 section, the Commissioner of Education may provide supplemental  
238 transportation grants to regional educational service centers for the  
239 purposes of transportation to interdistrict magnet schools. Any such  
240 grant shall be provided within available appropriations and after the  
241 commissioner has reviewed and approved the total interdistrict  
242 magnet school transportation budget for a regional educational service  
243 center, including all revenue and expenditure estimates. [For the fiscal



244 year ending June 30, 2010, in addition to the grants otherwise provided  
245 pursuant to this section, the Commissioner of Education, with the  
246 approval of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, may  
247 provide supplemental transportation grants to the Hartford school  
248 district and the Capitol Region Education Council for the purposes of  
249 transportation of students who are not residents of Hartford to  
250 interdistrict magnet schools operated by the Capitol Region Education  
251 Council or the Hartford school district. For the fiscal year ending June  
252 30, 2012, in addition to the grants otherwise provided pursuant to this  
253 section, the Commissioner of Education may provide supplemental  
254 transportation grants to regional educational service centers for the  
255 purposes of transportation to interdistrict magnet schools that assist  
256 the state in meeting the goals of the 2008 stipulation and order for Milo  
257 Sheff, et al. v. William A. O'Neill, et al. Any such grant shall be  
258 provided within available appropriations and upon a comprehensive  
259 financial review of all transportation activities as prescribed by the  
260 commissioner. The commissioner may require the regional educational  
261 service center to provide an independent financial review, by an  
262 auditor selected by the Commissioner of Education, the costs of which  
263 may be paid from funds that are part of the supplemental  
264 transportation grant. Any such grant shall be paid as follows: Up to  
265 fifty per cent of the grant on or before June 30, 2012, and the balance on  
266 or before September 1, 2012, upon completion of the comprehensive  
267 financial review. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2013, to June 30,  
268 2015, inclusive, in addition to the grants otherwise provided pursuant  
269 to this section, the Commissioner of Education may provide  
270 supplemental transportation to interdistrict magnet schools that assist  
271 the state in meeting the goals of the 2008 stipulation and order for Milo  
272 Sheff, et al. v. William A. O'Neill, et al., as extended, or the goals of the  
273 2013 stipulation and order for Milo Sheff, et al. v. William A. O'Neill, et  
274 al. and for transportation provided by EASTCONN to interdistrict  
275 magnet schools. Any such grant shall be provided within available  
276 appropriations and upon a comprehensive financial review, by an  
277 auditor selected by the Commissioner of Education, the costs of such  
278 review may be paid from funds that are part of the supplemental

279 transportation grant. Any such grant shall be paid as follows: For the  
280 fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, up to fifty per cent of the grant on or  
281 before June 30, 2013, and the balance on or before September 1, 2013,  
282 upon completion of the comprehensive financial review; for the fiscal  
283 year ending June 30, 2014, up to fifty per cent of the grant on or before  
284 June 30, 2014, and the balance on or before September 1, 2014, upon  
285 completion of the comprehensive financial review; and for the fiscal  
286 year ending June 30, 2015, up to fifty per cent of the grant on or before  
287 June 30, 2015, and the balance on or before September 1, 2015, upon  
288 completion of the comprehensive financial review] For the fiscal years  
289 ending June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2017, in addition to the grants  
290 otherwise provided pursuant to this section, the Commissioner of  
291 Education may provide supplemental transportation to the Capitol  
292 Region Education Council for the purposes of transportation of  
293 students to interdistrict magnet schools that assist the state in meeting  
294 the goals of the 2008 stipulation and order for Milo Sheff, et al. v.  
295 William A. O'Neill, et al., as extended, or the goals of the 2013  
296 stipulation and order for Milo Sheff, et al. v. William A. O'Neill, et al.,  
297 as extended. Any such grant shall be provided within available  
298 appropriations and upon a comprehensive financial review, by an  
299 auditor selected by the Commissioner of Education, the costs of such  
300 review may be paid from funds that are appropriated for the  
301 supplemental transportation grant. Any such grant shall be paid in the  
302 subsequent fiscal year, upon completion of the comprehensive  
303 financial review.

304 Sec. 11. Subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 10-264l of the  
305 2016 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following  
306 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

307 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, and each fiscal year  
308 thereafter, grants made pursuant to subparagraph (E) of subdivision  
309 (3) of subsection (c) of this section shall be paid as follows: Fifty per  
310 cent of the amount not later than September first based on estimated  
311 student enrollment for the first semester on [September] August first,

312 and another fifty per cent not later than May first of each fiscal year  
 313 based on actual student enrollment for the second semester on  
 314 February first. The May first payment shall be adjusted to reflect actual  
 315 interdistrict magnet school program enrollment for those students who  
 316 have been enrolled at such school for at least two semesters of the  
 317 school year, using the data of record, and actual student enrollment for  
 318 those students who have been enrolled at such school for only one  
 319 semester, using data of record. The May first payment shall be further  
 320 adjusted for the difference between the total grant received by the  
 321 magnet school operator in the prior fiscal year and the revised total  
 322 grant amount calculated for the prior fiscal year where the financial  
 323 audit submitted by the interdistrict magnet school operator pursuant  
 324 to subdivision (1) of subsection (n) of this section indicates an  
 325 overpayment by the department.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10-5
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10-221a
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10-146c
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10-145h
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10-262u(h)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	10-266p(f) and (g)
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	10-266p(i)
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	10-264i(a)(4)
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10-264l(d)(2)

**ED**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*