



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 378

LCO No. 2572



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS TASK FORCE.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-221a of the 2016 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

4 (a) For classes graduating from 1988 to 2003, inclusive, no local or
5 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
6 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not
7 satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than
8 four of which shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics,
9 not fewer than three in social studies, not fewer than two in science,
10 not fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and not fewer
11 than one in physical education.

12 (b) For classes graduating from 2004 to 2020, inclusive, no local or
13 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
14 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not

15 satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than
16 four of which shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics,
17 not fewer than three in social studies, including at least a one-half
18 credit course on civics and American government, not fewer than two
19 in science, not fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and
20 not fewer than one in physical education.

21 (c) Commencing with classes graduating in 2021, and for each
22 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education
23 shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a
24 diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily completed [(1)] a
25 minimum of twenty-five credits, including not fewer than: [(A)] (1)
26 Nine credits in the humanities; [, including not fewer than (i) four
27 credits in English, including composition; (ii) three credits in social
28 studies, including at least one credit in American history and at least
29 one-half credit in civics and American government; (iii)] (2) one credit
30 in fine arts or performing arts; [and (iv) one credit in a humanities
31 elective; (B) eight] (3) nine credits in science, technology, engineering
32 and mathematics; [, including not fewer than (i) four credits in
33 mathematics, including algebra I, geometry and algebra II or
34 probability and statistics; (ii) three credits in science, including at least
35 one credit in life science and at least one credit in physical science; and
36 (iii) one credit in a science, technology, engineering and mathematics
37 elective; (C) three and one-half credits in career and life skills,
38 including not fewer than (i)] (4) one credit in physical education; [(ii)
39 one-half credit in health and safety education, as described in section
40 10-16b; and (iii) two credits in career and life skills electives, such as
41 career and technical education, English as a second language,
42 community service, personal finance, public speaking and nutrition
43 and physical activity; (D) two credits] and (5) one credit in world
44 languages, subject to the provisions of subsection [(g)] (h) of this
45 section. [, and (E) a one credit senior demonstration project or its
46 equivalent, as approved by the State Board of Education; and (2) end
47 of the school year examinations for the following courses: (A) Algebra

48 I, (B) geometry, (C) biology, (D) American history, and (E) grade ten
49 English.]

50 (d) Commencing with the classes graduating in 2021, and for each
51 graduating class thereafter, the Department of Education shall provide
52 guidance to local and regional boards of education regarding the high
53 school graduation requirements described in subsection (c) of this
54 section that will support and assist multiple methods for alignment
55 with standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

56 [(d)] (e) Commencing with classes graduating in 2021, and for each
57 graduating class thereafter, local and regional boards of education
58 shall provide adequate student support and remedial services for
59 students beginning in grade seven. Such student support and remedial
60 services shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of
61 the high school graduation requirements, [or end of the school year
62 examinations described in subsection (c) of this section,] if such
63 student is unable to satisfactorily complete any of the required courses,
64 [or exams.] Such student support and remedial services shall include,
65 but not be limited to, (1) allowing students to retake courses in
66 summer school or through an on-line course; and (2) allowing students
67 to enroll in a class offered at a constituent unit of the state system of
68 higher education, as defined in section 10a-1, pursuant to subdivision
69 (4) of subsection [(g)] (h) of this section. [; (3) allowing students who
70 received a failing score, as determined by the Commissioner of
71 Education, on an end of the school year exam to take an alternate form
72 of the exam; and (4) allowing those students whose individualized
73 education programs state that such students are eligible for an
74 alternate assessment to demonstrate competency on any of the five
75 core courses through success on such alternate assessment.]

76 [(e)] (f) Any student who presents a certificate from a physician or
77 advanced practice registered nurse stating that, in the opinion of the
78 physician or advanced practice registered nurse, participation in
79 physical education is medically contraindicated because of the physical

80 condition of such student, shall be excused from the physical
81 education requirement, provided the credit for physical education may
82 be fulfilled by an elective.

83 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of
84 the local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of
85 the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject
86 matter of the specified course requirements. The local or regional
87 board of education may permit a student to graduate during a period
88 of expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the
89 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to
90 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student
91 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when
92 the planning and placement team for such student determines the
93 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, a
94 credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute
95 class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or
96 part of a credit toward high school graduation earned (1) at an
97 institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or
98 Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited, (2) through on-
99 line coursework that is in accordance with a policy adopted pursuant
100 to subsection ~~[(g)]~~ (h) of this section, or (3) through a demonstration of
101 mastery based on competency and performance standards, in
102 accordance with guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education.

103 ~~[(g)]~~ (h) Only courses taken in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, shall
104 satisfy the graduation requirements set forth in this section, except that
105 a local or regional board of education may grant a student credit (1)
106 toward meeting a specified course requirement upon the successful
107 completion in grade seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of
108 which corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course
109 requirement in grades nine to twelve, inclusive; (2) toward meeting the
110 high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of
111 a world language course (A) in grade six, seven or eight, (B) through
112 on-line coursework, or (C) offered privately through a nonprofit

113 provider, provided such student achieves a passing grade on an
114 examination prescribed, within available appropriations, by the
115 Commissioner of Education and such credits do not exceed four; (3)
116 toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon
117 achievement of a passing grade on a subject area proficiency
118 examination identified and approved, within available appropriations,
119 by the Commissioner of Education, regardless of the number of hours
120 the student spent in a public school classroom learning such subject
121 matter; (4) toward meeting the high school graduation requirement
122 upon the successful completion of coursework during the school year
123 or summer months at an institution accredited by the Board of Regents
124 for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or regionally
125 accredited. One three-credit semester course, or its equivalent, at such
126 an institution shall equal one-half credit for purposes of this section; (5)
127 toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the
128 successful completion of on-line coursework, provided the local or
129 regional board of education has adopted a policy in accordance with
130 this subdivision for the granting of credit for on-line coursework. Such
131 a policy shall ensure, at a minimum, that (A) the workload required by
132 the on-line course is equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a
133 traditional classroom setting, (B) the content is rigorous and aligned
134 with curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education,
135 where appropriate, (C) the course engages students and has interactive
136 components, which may include, but are not limited to, required
137 interactions between students and their teachers, participation in on-
138 line demonstrations, discussion boards or virtual labs, (D) the program
139 of instruction for such on-line coursework is planned, ongoing and
140 systematic, and (E) the courses are (i) taught by teachers who are
141 certified in the state or another state and have received training on
142 teaching in an on-line environment, or (ii) offered by institutions of
143 higher education that are accredited by the Board of Regents for
144 Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or regionally
145 accredited; [or] (6) toward meeting the high school graduation
146 requirement upon the successful completion of the academic

147 advancement program, pursuant to section 10-5c; or (7) toward
148 meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful
149 completion of a demonstration project in grade eleven or twelve.

150 [(h)] (i) A local or regional board of education may offer one-half
151 credit in community service which, if satisfactorily completed, shall
152 qualify for high school graduation credit pursuant to this section,
153 provided such community service is supervised by a certified school
154 administrator or teacher and consists of not less than fifty hours of
155 actual service that may be performed at times when school is not
156 regularly in session and not less than ten hours of related classroom
157 instruction. For purposes of this section, community service does not
158 include partisan political activities. The State Board of Education shall
159 assist local and regional boards of education in meeting the
160 requirements of this section. The State Board of Education shall award
161 a community service recognition award to any student who
162 satisfactorily completes fifty hours or more of community service in
163 accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

164 [(i)] (j) (1) A local or regional board of education may award a
165 diploma to a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, of
166 World War II or the Korean hostilities, as described in section 51-49h,
167 or of the Vietnam Era, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103,
168 who withdrew from high school prior to graduation in order to serve
169 in the armed forces of the United States and did not receive a diploma
170 as a consequence of such service.

171 (2) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma to
172 any person who (A) withdrew from high school prior to graduation to
173 work in a job that assisted the war effort during World War II,
174 December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, inclusive, (B) did not receive a
175 diploma as a consequence of such work, and (C) has been a resident of
176 the state for at least fifty consecutive years.

177 [(j)] (k) For the school year commencing July 1, 2012, and each

178 school year thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall
179 create a student success plan for each student enrolled in a public
180 school, beginning in grade six. Such student success plan shall include
181 a student's career and academic choices in grades six to twelve,
182 inclusive.

183 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2016*) (a) There is established a High School
184 Graduation Requirements Council. Membership of the council shall
185 consist of: (1) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's
186 designee; (2) one representative from each of the following
187 associations, designated by the association, the Connecticut
188 Association of Boards of Education, the Connecticut Association of
189 Public School Superintendents, the Connecticut Federation of School
190 Administrators, the Connecticut Education Association, the American
191 Federation of Teachers-Connecticut, and the Connecticut Association
192 of Schools; and (3) persons selected by the Commissioner of Education
193 who shall include, but not be limited to, relevant personnel of the
194 Department of Education, representatives of the business community,
195 representatives of the education reform community, parents of high
196 school students, high school students and any other person the
197 commissioner deems appropriate.

198 (b) The council shall be responsible for (1) assisting the State Board
199 of Education in the development of a new set of high school
200 graduation requirements that are aligned with standards adopted by
201 the State Board of Education, (2) examining the high school graduation
202 requirements of other states and how other states are aligning their
203 high school graduation requirements with the standards adopted by
204 those states, and (3) incorporating the principles of a mastery-based,
205 personalized learning approach into the new set of high school
206 graduation requirements.

207 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2016*) Not later than January 1, 2017, the State
208 Board of Education shall develop, in consultation with the High School
209 Graduation Requirements Council established pursuant to section 2 of

210 this act, recommendations for high school graduation requirements for
211 classes graduating in 2021, and for each graduating class thereafter,
212 that are aligned with standards adopted by the state board. The state
213 board shall submit such recommendations to the joint standing
214 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
215 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
216 4a of the general statutes.

217 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 10-76ll of the 2016 supplement to the
218 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
219 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

220 (b) On or before July 1, 2015, the State Board of Education shall draft
221 a written bill of rights for parents of children receiving special
222 education services to guarantee that the rights of such parents and
223 children are adequately safeguarded and protected during the
224 provision of special education and related services under this chapter.
225 Such bill of rights shall inform parents of: (1) The right to request
226 consideration of the provision of transition services for a child
227 receiving special education services who is eighteen to twenty-one,
228 inclusive, years of age, (2) the right to receive transition resources and
229 materials from the department and the local or regional board of
230 education responsible for such child, (3) the requirement that the local
231 or regional board of education responsible for such child shall create a
232 student success plan for each student enrolled in a public school,
233 beginning in grade six, pursuant to subsection [(j)] (k) of section 10-
234 221a, as amended by this act, and (4) the right of such child to receive
235 realistic and specific postgraduation goals as part of such child's
236 individualized education program.

237 Sec. 5. Sections 10-5d and 10-5e of the general statutes are repealed.
238 (*Effective July 1, 2016*)

<p>This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:</p>
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10-221a
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10-7611(b)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To make changes to the high school graduation requirements, to establish the High School Graduation Requirements Council, and to require the State Board of Education to develop recommendations for a new set of high school graduation requirements.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]