



PA 19-139—HB 7113

Education Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION ISSUES

SUMMARY: This act makes the following unrelated changes in the education statutes:

1. removes the requirement that boards of education enter into written contracts with private special education providers in order to receive certain state reimbursement grants (§ 1);
2. repeals an expedited teacher tenure provision for teachers or administrators who were previously tenured in one district and subsequently transfer into a priority school district (§ 2);
3. establishes a working group to study issues related to implementing the pre-service teacher performance assessment known as “edTPA,” which the State Board of Education (SBE) adopted (§ 3); and
4. allows non-*Sheff* magnet schools that are not in compliance with the state’s minority student enrollment requirements to continue to be eligible for magnet school operating grants for FYs 20 and 21 if the schools submit a compliance plan to the education commissioner and he approves it (§ 4).

The act also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019, except the edTPA working group provisions take effect upon passage.

§ 1 — SPECIAL EDUCATION REIMBURSEMENT GRANTS

The act removes the requirement that local and regional boards of education enter into written contracts with private special education providers in order to receive the following grants for the costs of these providers’ services:

1. full reimbursement (i.e., 100% of costs) for providing special education services to “no nexus” students placed in private residential facilities by a public agency or in a facility operated by the Department of Children and Families (such students’ public school district of origin cannot be determined) and
2. a supplemental special education grant (which is no longer funded in practice).

Existing law, unchanged by the act, requires such contracts for an excess cost grant for students receiving special education services whose costs exceeded 4.5 times the per pupil cost for a board to educate a student.

§ 2 — TENURE FOR PRIORITY SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHERS

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The act repeals a provision that allowed a certified teacher or administrator who previously earned tenure in a Connecticut or out-of-state school district to be awarded tenure at a priority school district after teaching there for one school year. Thus, such a teacher or administrator must teach for two school years at the priority school district to be eligible for tenure, as is generally required under existing law for teachers moving from one district to another.

§ 3 — PRE-SERVICE TEACHER PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The act establishes a working group to study issues related to implementing the pre-service teacher performance assessment known as edTPA. (SBE adopted a resolution on December 7, 2016, requiring teacher preparation programs to use edTPA.) The working group must submit its findings and recommendations to the Education Committee by January 1, 2020.

The working group must examine how teacher preparation programs in the state are implementing the edTPA assessment and in particular:

1. the associated financial costs for colleges, universities, and enrolled students;
2. whether it is evidence-based or a best practice;
3. whether other states are using edTPA as part of teacher preparation programs or requiring it for professional certification; and
4. any effect on world language instruction.

Working Group Members and Chairperson Selection

The group consists of seven members, listed in the table below with their qualifications and appointing authorities.

Membership of the edTPA Working Group

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Appointee Qualifications</i>
House speaker	Connecticut teacher preparation program professor
Senate president pro tempore	Connecticut teacher preparation program dean
House majority leader	Person with expertise in teacher preparation pre-service performance assessments
Senate majority leader	Connecticut teacher preparation program student
House minority leader	Connecticut teacher preparation program student
Senate minority leader	Connecticut teacher preparation program recent graduate
N/A	Education Commissioner or his designee

Under the act, appointments must be made by August 8, 2019. Vacancies are filled by the appointing authority.

The education commissioner or his designee must schedule the first meeting,

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which must be held by September 7, 2019. The working group members elect the chairperson from among the members at the first meeting. The Education Committee's administrative staff must serve in that capacity for the working group.

The working group terminates when it submits its report or January 1, 2020, whichever is later.

§ 4 — MAGNET SCHOOL NON-COMPLIANCE PLAN

The act permits a non-*Sheff* magnet school that is not in compliance with the state's minority student enrollment requirements (i.e., integration requirements) to continue to be eligible for magnet school operating grants in FYs 20 and 21 if the school submits a compliance plan to the education commissioner and he approves it. The act does not specify a deadline by which a school must submit its plan.