

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 19-173—sHB 7250

*Education Committee*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL TIME DEVOTED TO UNDIRECTED PLAY TO THE REGULAR SCHOOL DAY**

**SUMMARY:** This act expressly allows local or regional boards of education to offer an additional amount of time for “undirected play” in public elementary schools beyond existing law’s requirement for at least 20 minutes of daily physical exercise. (The act does not define “undirected play.”)

It also requires each board of education to adopt a policy by October 1, 2019, addressing school employees who discipline elementary school students by preventing participation in the (1) undirected play period and (2) required physical activity period. Prior law required boards to adopt a policy by October 1, 2013, addressing only employees who discipline students using the second method.

Additionally, the act establishes a nine-member task force to study the issues related to, and the feasibility of, devoting time to undirected play during the regular public elementary school day. It requires the task force to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Education Committee by January 1, 2020, and terminate on that date or when it submits its report, whichever is later.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2019, except the task force provisions take effect upon passage.

**TASK FORCE**

The table below lists the appointing authorities and criteria for the task force members. Under the act, all appointments must be made by August 11, 2019. The appointing authorities may select General Assembly members who meet the act’s appointee criteria and must fill any vacancies that may arise.

**Task Force Members**

<b><i>Appointing Authority</i></b>	<b><i>Appointee Criteria</i></b>
House speaker	One Connecticut Association of Boards of Education representative One public school student’s parent or guardian
Senate president pro tempore	One Connecticut Education Association representative One public school student’s parent or guardian
House majority leader	One American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut representative
Senate majority leader	One Connecticut Association of Public School

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<b><i>Appointing Authority</i></b>	<b><i>Appointee Criteria</i></b>
	Superintendents representative
House minority leader	One Connecticut Association of School Administrators representative
Senate minority leader	One Connecticut Association of Schools representative
(N/A)	Education commissioner (or his designee)

The act requires the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore to select the task force chairpersons from among the appointees. The chairpersons must schedule the first meeting, which must be held by September 10, 2019.

Under the act, the Education Committee's administrative staff serves as the task force staff.