AN ACT CONCERNING THE OPPORTUNITY GAP.

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

Section 1. Section 10-266q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) On or before September fifteenth of each fiscal year in which payment is to be made, the State Board of Education shall authorize grant awards. Grant awards shall be authorized only after proposals for such grants have been submitted to the commissioner by the school districts described in section 10-266p, as amended by this act, at such time and in such manner as the commissioner shall prescribe, and after the commissioner and each such school district have reached agreement regarding how such grant shall be utilized. Each proposal shall be based on a three-year project plan and include, but not be limited to, an explanation of project goals, objectives, evaluation strategies and budget which shall identify local funding and other resource contributions for the three-year period provided proposals shall give priority to the development or expansion of extended-day kindergarten programs.

(b) [A] Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d) of this section, a priority school district grant shall be payable to the local board of education for the school districts described in section 10-266p,
as amended by this act, which shall use the funds for any of the following: (1) The creation or expansion of programs or activities related to dropout prevention, (2) alternative and transitional programs for students having difficulty succeeding in traditional educational programs, (3) academic enrichment, tutorial and recreation programs or activities in school buildings during nonschool hours and during the summer, (4) development or expansion of extended-day kindergarten programs, (5) [development or expansion of early reading intervention programs] implementation of the intensive reading instruction program, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-14u, including summer and after-school programs, (6) enhancement of the use of technology to support instruction or improve parent and teacher communication, (7) initiatives to strengthen parent involvement in the education of children, and parent and other community involvement in school and school district programs, activities and educational policies, which may be in accordance with the provisions of section 10-4g, [or] (8) for purposes of obtaining accreditation for elementary and middle schools from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, or (9) support to chronically absent children, as defined in section 10-198c, and reducing the district chronic absenteeism rate, as defined in section 10-198c. Each such board of education shall use at least twenty per cent of its grant for [early reading intervention programs] implementation of the intensive reading instruction program. Each such board of education shall use its grant to supplement existing programs or create new programs. If the State Board of Education finds that any such grant is being used for other purposes or is being used to decrease the local share of support for schools, it may require repayment of such grant to the state.

(c) Each priority school district grant shall be awarded by the State Board of Education on an annual basis. Funding in subsequent years shall be based on funds available, annual application and program evaluation.
(d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, and each fiscal year thereafter, the State Board of Education shall award grants under this section as follows:

(1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, the Commissioner of Education shall determine whether the performance index, as defined in section 10-223e, for English language arts and the accountability index, as defined in section 10-223e, for attendance and chronic absenteeism for a local board of education for a school district described in section 10-266p, as amended by this act, has consistently and continually improved during the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2019, inclusive.

(2) Any such board whose performance index for English language arts and the accountability index for attendance and chronic absenteeism has consistently and continually improved during the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2019, inclusive, shall receive one hundred per cent of the amount of the priority school district grant such board is entitled under section 10-266p, as amended by this act. Such board shall continue to receive one hundred per cent of the amount of the priority school district grant such board is entitled under section 10-266p, as amended by this act, in each subsequent fiscal year if such board’s performance index for English language arts and the accountability index for attendance and chronic absenteeism improves from the prior fiscal year. If such board’s performance index for English language arts and the accountability index for attendance and chronic absenteeism does not improve from the prior fiscal year, the priority school district grant shall be awarded in a manner described in subdivision (3) of this subsection.

(3) Any such board whose performance index for English language arts and the accountability index for attendance and chronic absenteeism has not consistently and continually improved during the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, to June 30, 2019, inclusive, shall be awarded a grant under this section as follows:
(A) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, such board shall receive one hundred per cent of the amount of the priority school district grant such board is entitled under section 10-266p, as amended by this act, provided such board expends fifty per cent of such grant for the purpose of implementing the intensive reading instruction program, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-14u, and the other fifty per cent to provide support to chronically absent children, as defined in section 10-198c, and reducing the district chronic absenteeism rate, as defined in section 10-198c.

(B) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, (i) if the performance index for English language arts and the accountability index for attendance and chronic absenteeism for such board has improved from the prior fiscal year, such board shall receive one hundred per cent of the amount of the priority school district grant such board is entitled under section 10-266p, as amended by this act, provided such board shall continue to expend fifty per cent of such grant for the purpose of implementing the intensive reading instruction program, or (ii) if the performance index for English language arts and the accountability index for attendance and chronic absenteeism for such board has not improved from the prior fiscal year, such board shall receive fifty per cent of the amount of the priority school district grant such board is entitled under section 10-266p, as amended by this act, provided such board expends one hundred per cent of such grant received for the purpose of implementing the intensive reading instruction program.

(C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, (i) if the performance index for English language arts and the accountability index for attendance and chronic absenteeism for such board has improved from the prior fiscal year, such board shall receive one hundred per cent of the amount of the priority school district grant such board is entitled under section 10-266p, as amended by this act, provided such board expends fifty per cent of such grant for the purpose of implementing the intensive reading instruction program, or (ii) if the performance index for English language arts and the accountability index for
attendance and chronic absenteeism for such board has not improved from the prior fiscal year, such board shall not receive any of the priority school district grant such board is entitled under section 10-266p, as amended by this act.

(4) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year thereafter, any such board that (A) did not receive a priority school district grant for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, or (B) did not receive a priority school district grant for the prior fiscal year, shall no longer be eligible to receive a priority school district grant.

(e) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, and each fiscal year thereafter, the State Board of Education shall award any unallocated priority school district grant funds on a pro rata basis to each local board of education for a school district described in section 10-266p, as amended by this act, whose performance index for English language arts and the accountability index for attendance and chronic absenteeism has improved from the prior fiscal year.

Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 10-266u of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(d) Each such district shall prepare an annual program report which describes and documents program operation, student participation and [other indicators of success and] whether such program is improving student achievement and enhancing educational opportunities in such district. Each such district shall submit the report to the Commissioner of Education in such form and at such time as [he] the commissioner prescribes.

Sec. 3. Section 10-266r of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) The State Board of Education shall prepare an evaluation of the priority school district grant program not later than December 15, 1990, and triennially thereafter.
(b) Each school district participating in the [project] program shall prepare an annual [project] program evaluation, which shall include a description of program activities and [documentation of program improvement and student achievement] whether such program is improving student achievement and enhancing educational opportunities in such district. Each such evaluation shall be submitted to the [commissioner] Commissioner of Education on or before August fifteenth of the fiscal year following each fiscal year in which the school district participated in the priority school district program.

(c) [Within] Not later than sixty days after the close of the school year, each local board of education which received a priority school district grant shall file with the commissioner a financial statement of expenditures in such form as the commissioner shall prescribe. The State Board of Education shall periodically review grant payments made pursuant to this section in order to determine that such state funds received are being used for the purposes specified in the application. On or before December thirty-first of the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which payment was received, each local board which received a priority school district grant shall file with the commissioner a financial audit in such form as prescribed by the commissioner.

Sec. 4. Section 10-266p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) The State Board of Education shall administer a priority school district grant program to assist certain school districts to improve student achievement and enhance educational opportunities. The grant program shall include the priority school district portions of the grant programs established pursuant to sections 10-265f, 10-265m and 10-266t. [The] Subject to the provisions of section 10-266q, as amended by this act, the grant program and its component parts shall be for school districts in (1) the eight towns in the state with the largest population, based on the most recent federal decennial census, (2) towns which rank for the first fiscal year of each biennium from one to
eleven when all towns are ranked in descending order from one to one
hundred sixty-nine based on the number of children under the
temporary family assistance program, as defined in subdivision (17) of
section 10-262f, plus the mastery count of the town, as defined in
subdivision (13) of section 10-262f, and (3) towns which rank for the
first fiscal year of each biennium one to eleven when all towns are
ranked in descending order from one to one hundred sixty-nine based
on the ratio of the number of children under the temporary family
assistance program as so defined to the resident students of such town,
as defined in subdivision (22) of section 10-262f, plus the grant mastery
percentage of the town, as defined in subdivision (12) of section 10-
262f. The State Board of Education shall utilize the categorical grant
program established under this section and sections 10-266q, as
amended by this act, and 10-266r, as amended by this act, and other
educational resources of the state to work cooperatively with such
school districts during any school year to improve their educational
programs or early reading intervention programs. The component
parts of the grant shall be allocated according to the provisions of
sections 10-265f, 10-265m and 10-266t. Subject to the provisions of
subsection (c) of section 10-276a and section 10-266q, as amended by
this act, the State Board of Education shall allocate one million dollars
to each of the eight towns described in subdivision (1) of this
subsection and five hundred thousand dollars to each of the towns
described in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection, except the
towns described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not receive
any additional allocation if they are also described in subdivision (2) or
(3) of this subsection.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
any town which received a grant pursuant to this section for the fiscal
year ending June 30, 1999, and which does not qualify for a grant
pursuant to subsection (a) of this section for the fiscal year ending June
30, 2000, shall receive grants for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2000,
June 30, 2001, and June 30, 2002, in amounts determined in accordance
with this subsection. (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, in an
amount equal to the difference between (A) the amount of the grant such town received pursuant to this section for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, and (B) an amount equal to twenty-five per cent of the difference between (i) the amount of the grant such town received pursuant to this section for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, and (ii) the amount of the grants received by transitional school districts pursuant to section 10-263c. (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, in an amount equal to the difference between (A) the amount of the grant such town received pursuant to this section for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, and (B) an amount equal to fifty per cent of the difference between (i) the amount of the grant such town received pursuant to this section for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, and (ii) the amount of the grants received by transitional school districts pursuant to section 10-263c. (3) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, in an amount equal to the difference between (A) the amount of the grant such town received pursuant to this section for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, and (B) an amount equal to seventy-five per cent of the difference between (i) the amount of the grant such town received pursuant to this section for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, and (ii) the amount of the grants received by transitional school districts pursuant to section 10-263c.

(c) [In] Subject to the provisions of section 10-266q, as amended by this act, in addition to the amount allocated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997, and each fiscal year thereafter, the State Board of Education shall allocate (1) seven hundred fifty thousand dollars to each town which ranks from one to three, inclusive, in population pursuant to subdivision (1) of said subsection (a) and three hundred thirty-four thousand dollars to each town which ranks from four to eight, inclusive, in population pursuant to said subdivision and (2) one hundred eighty thousand dollars to each of the towns described in subdivisions (2) and (3) of said subsection (a), except that the towns described in subdivision (1) of said subsection (a) shall not receive any additional allocation pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection if they are also described in}
subdivision (2) or (3) of said subsection (a).

(d) [In] Subject to the provisions of section 10-266q, as amended by this act, in addition to the amounts allocated pursuant to subsections (a) and (c) of this section, the State Board of Education shall allocate a share, in the same proportion as the total amount allocated pursuant to said subsections, of two million five hundred thousand dollars for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, and three million dollars for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, and each fiscal year thereafter, to each of the towns receiving a grant pursuant to this section.

(e) [In] Subject to the provisions of section 10-266q, as amended by this act, in addition to the amounts allocated pursuant to subsections (a), (c) and (d) of this section, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, and each fiscal year thereafter, the State Board of Education shall allocate (1) one million five hundred thousand dollars to the town which ranks one in population pursuant to subdivision (1) of said subsection (a), (2) one million dollars to each town which ranks from two to four, inclusive, in population pursuant to said subdivision (1), (3) six hundred thousand dollars to the town which ranks five in population pursuant to said subdivision (1), (4) five hundred thousand dollars to each town which ranks from six to eight, inclusive, in population pursuant to said subdivision (1), and (5) two hundred fifty thousand dollars to each of the towns described in subdivisions (2) and (3) of said subsection (a), except that the towns described in subdivision (1) of said subsection (a) shall not receive any additional allocation pursuant to subdivision (5) of this subsection if they are also described in subdivision (2) or (3) of said subsection (a).

(f) [In] Subject to the provisions of section 10-266q, as amended by this act, in addition to the amounts allocated in subsection (a), and subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of this section, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, the State Board of Education shall allocate two million thirty-nine thousand six hundred eighty-six dollars to the towns that rank one to three, inclusive, in population pursuant to subdivision (1) of said subsection (a), and for the fiscal year ending...

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June 30, 2007, and each fiscal year thereafter, the State Board of Education shall allocate two million six hundred ten thousand seven hundred ninety-eight dollars to the towns that rank one to three, inclusive, in population pursuant to subdivision (1) of said subsection (a).

(g) [In] Subject to the provisions of section 10-266q, as amended by this act, in addition to the amounts allocated in subsection (a) and subsections (c) to (f), inclusive, of this section, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, and each fiscal year thereafter, the State Board of Education shall allocate two million eight hundred eighty-two thousand three hundred sixty-eight dollars as follows: Each priority school district shall receive an allocation based on the ratio of the amount it is eligible to receive pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and subsections (c) to (f), inclusive, of this section to the total amount all priority school districts are eligible to receive pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and subsections (c) to (f), inclusive, of this section. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, a priority school district may carry forward any unexpended funds allocated after May 1, 2016, pursuant to this subsection, into the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017.

(h) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section and subject to the provisions of section 10-266q, as amended by this act, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, and for each fiscal year thereafter, no town receiving a grant pursuant to this section shall receive a grant that is in an amount that is less than one hundred fifty dollars per pupil. For the purposes of this subsection, the amount of the grant on a per pupil basis shall be determined by dividing the total amount that a town receives for a grant under this section by the number of resident students, as defined in subdivision (22) of section 10-262f, of the local or regional school district for which the town receives a grant under this section.

(i) [In] Subject to the provisions of section 10-266q, as amended by this act, in addition to the amounts allocated in subsection (a) and
subsections (c) to (h), inclusive, of this section, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, and each fiscal year thereafter, the State Board of Education shall allocate two million twenty thousand dollars to the town ranked sixth when all towns are ranked from highest to lowest in population, based on the most recent federal decennial census, except that for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, and each fiscal year thereafter, the State Board of Education shall allocate two million two hundred seventy thousand dollars to said town.

(j) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount of the grants payable to local or regional boards of education in accordance with this section and section 10-266q, as amended by this act, shall be reduced proportionately if the total of such grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for the purposes of this section for such year.

Sec. 5. Section 10-262u of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) As used in this section and section 10-262i:

(1) "Alliance district" means a school district for a town that (A) is among the towns with the thirty lowest accountability index [scores], as calculated by the Department of Education, or (B) was previously designated as an alliance district by the Commissioner of Education for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2013, to June 30, 2017, inclusive.

(2) "Accountability index" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-223e.

(3) "Mastery test data of record" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-262f.

(4) "Educational reform district" means a school district that is in a town that is among the ten lowest accountability index [scores] when all towns are ranked highest to lowest in accountability index [scores].
[(b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, the Commissioner of Education shall designate thirty school districts as alliance districts. Any school district designated as an alliance district shall be so designated for a period of five years. On or before June 30, 2016, the Department of Education shall determine if there are any additional alliance districts.]

[(2)] (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, the commissioner shall designate thirty-three school districts as alliance districts. Any school district designated as an alliance district shall be so designated for a period of five years.

(c) (1) [(A) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, the Comptroller shall withhold from a town designated as an alliance district any increase in funds received over the amount the town received for the prior fiscal year pursuant to section 10-262h. The Comptroller shall transfer such funds to the Commissioner of Education. (B) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2014, to June 30, 2016, inclusive, the Comptroller shall withhold from a town designated as an alliance district any increase in funds received over the amount the town received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-262i. (C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, the Comptroller shall withhold from a town designated as an alliance district any increase in funds received over the amount the town received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-262i, minus the aid reduction, as described in subsection (d) of section 10-262i. (D) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Comptroller shall withhold from a town designated as an alliance district any increase in funds received over the amount the town received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-262i. The Comptroller shall transfer such funds to the Commissioner of Education.

(2) Upon receipt of an application pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, the Commissioner of Education shall determine whether the
accountability index for the local or regional board of education for a town designated as an alliance district has consistently and continually improved during the previous three fiscal years, and may pay such funds to the town designated as an alliance district. Such town shall pay all such funds to the local or regional board of education for such town on the condition that such funds shall be expended in accordance with the plan described in subsection (d) of this section, the provisions of subsection (c) of section 10-262i, any guidelines developed by the State Board of Education for such funds, and in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (3) of this subsection. Such funds shall be used to improve student achievement in such alliance district and to offset any other local education costs approved by the commissioner.

(3) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, and each fiscal year thereafter, if the commissioner determines that the accountability index for the local or regional board of education for a town designated as an alliance district has not consistently and continually improved during the previous three fiscal years, such board shall expend fifty per cent of the funds paid to such board by such town pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection for the purpose of implementing the intensive reading instruction program, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-14u, and the other fifty per cent on evidence-based strategies described in the evidence-based practice guides developed by the Department of Education.

(d) The local or regional board of education for a town designated as an alliance district may apply to the Commissioner of Education, at such time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes, to receive any increase in funds received over the amount the town received for the prior fiscal year pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-262i. Applications pursuant to this subsection shall include objectives and performance targets and a plan that are developed, in part, on the strategic use of student academic performance data. Such plan may include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) A tiered...
system of interventions for the schools under the jurisdiction of such 
board based on the needs of such schools, (2) ways to strengthen the 
foundational programs in reading, through the intensive reading 
instruction program pursuant to section 10-14u, to ensure reading 
mastery in kindergarten to grade three, inclusive, with a focus on 
standards and instruction, proper use of data, intervention strategies, 
current information for teachers, parental engagement, and teacher 
professional development, (3) additional learning time, including 
extended school day or school year programming administered by 
school personnel or external partners, (4) a talent strategy that 
includes, but is not limited to, teacher and school leader recruitment 
and assignment, career ladder policies that draw upon guidelines for a 
model teacher evaluation program adopted by the State Board of 
Education, pursuant to section 10-151b, and adopted by each local or 
regional board of education. Such talent strategy may include 
provisions that demonstrate increased ability to attract, retain, 
promote and bolster the performance of staff in accordance with 
performance evaluation findings and, in the case of new personnel, 
other indicators of effectiveness, (5) training for school leaders and 
other staff on new teacher evaluation models, (6) provisions for the 
cooperation and coordination with early childhood education 
providers to ensure alignment with district expectations for student 
entry into kindergarten, including funding for an existing local Head 
Start program, (7) provisions for the cooperation and coordination 
with other governmental and community programs to ensure that 
students receive adequate support and wraparound services, including 
community school models, (8) provisions for implementing and 
furthering state-wide education standards adopted by the State Board 
of Education and all activities and initiatives associated with such 
standards, (9) strategies for attracting and recruiting minority teachers 
and administrators, (10) provisions for the enhancement of bilingual 
education programs, pursuant to section 10-17f, or other language 
acquisition services to English language learners, including, but not 
limited to, participation in the English language learner pilot program, 
established pursuant to section 10-17n, (11) entering into the model
school district responsibilities agreement, described in section 10-223l,
(12) leadership succession plans that provide training and learning
opportunities for administrators and are designed to assist in the
seamless transition of school and district personnel in and out of
leadership positions in the school district and the continuous
implementation of plans developed under this subsection, and (13) any
additional categories or goals as determined by the commissioner.
Such plan shall demonstrate collaboration with key stakeholders, as
identified by the commissioner, with the goal of achieving efficiencies
and the alignment of intent and practice of current programs with
conditional programs identified in this subsection. The commissioner
may (A) require changes in any plan submitted by a local or regional
board of education before the commissioner approves an application
under this subsection, and (B) permit a local or regional board of
education, as part of such plan, to use a portion of any funds received
under this section for the purposes of paying tuition charged to such
board pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (k) of section 10-264l or
subsection (b) of section 10-264o.

(e) The State Board of Education may develop guidelines and
criteria for the administration of such funds under this section.

(f) The commissioner may withhold such funds if the local or
regional board of education fails to comply with the provisions of this
section. The commissioner may renew such funding if the local or
regional board of education provides evidence that the school district
of such board is achieving the objectives and performance targets
approved by the commissioner stated in the plan submitted under this
section.

(g) (1) Any local or regional board of education receiving funding
under this section shall submit an annual expenditure report to the
commissioner on such form and in such manner as requested by the
commissioner. The commissioner shall determine if (1) the local or
regional board of education shall repay any funds not expended in
accordance with the approved application, or (2) such funding should
be reduced in a subsequent fiscal year up to an amount equal to the
amount that the commissioner determines is out of compliance with
the provisions of this subsection.

(2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, and each fiscal year
thereafter, any local or regional board of education receiving funding
under this section shall submit an annual academic performance
evaluation report to the commissioner on such form and in such
manner as requested by the commissioner. Such report shall indicate
whether the school district of such board is achieving the objectives
and performance targets approved by the commissioner as stated in
the plan submitted under this section.

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

Sec. 6. Subsection (h) of section 10-223h of the general statutes is
repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July
1, 2019):

(h) Each school participating in the commissioner's network of
schools shall participate for three school years, and may continue such
participation for an additional year, not to exceed two additional years,
upon approval from the State Board of Education. Before the end of
the third year that a school is participating in the commissioner's
network of schools, the commissioner shall conduct an evaluation to
determine whether such school is prepared to exit the commissioner's
network of schools. In determining whether such school may exit the
commissioner's network of schools, the commissioner shall determine
whether the accountability index for such school has consistently and
continually improved during such school's participation and consider
whether the local or regional board of education has the capacity to
ensure that such school will maintain or improve its student academic
performance. If the commissioner determines that such school is ready
to exit the commissioner's network of schools, the local or regional
board of education for such school shall develop, in consultation with
the commissioner, a plan, subject to the approval by the State Board of
Education, for the transition of such school back to full control by the
local or regional board of education. If the commissioner determines
that such school's participation in the commissioner's network of
schools is not likely to improve such school's accountability index,
such school may exit the commissioner's network of schools and the
local or regional board of education for such school shall develop, in
consultation with the commissioner, a plan, subject to the approval by
the State Board of Education, for the transition of such school back to
full control by the local or regional board of education. If the
commissioner determines that such school is not ready to exit the
commissioner's network of schools, [and participates] but would
benefit from an additional year of participation in the commissioner's
network of schools, [for an additional year,] the commissioner shall
conduct an evaluation in accordance with the provisions of this
subsection. Before the end of the fifth year that a school is participating
in the commissioner's network of schools, the commissioner shall
develop, in consultation with the local or regional board of education
for such school, a plan, subject to the approval by the State Board of
Education, for the transition of such school back to full control by the
local or regional board of education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following
sections:

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**ED** Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

**APP** Joint Favorable Subst.