General Assembly

**Raised Bill No. 1021**

January Session, 2019

LCO No. 5586

Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:

(ED)

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PILOT PROGRAM.**

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

Section 1. (Effective July 1, 2019) (a) As used in this section:

1. "Community school" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-74i of the general statutes;

2. "Lead partner agency" means a nonprofit organization that partners with school personnel to manage and lead the work of developing and sustaining a community school; and

3. "Community partner" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-74i of the general statutes; and

(b) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2020, and June 30, 2021, the Department of Education shall administer a comprehensive community schools pilot program that awards grants for the planning and implementation of a new community school or the expansion of an existing community school. The department shall annually award (1) sustainable community school start-up grants in an amount not to
exceed fifty thousand dollars per grant awarded to not more than four
applicants, and (2) sustainable community school implementation
grants in an amount not to exceed one hundred twenty-five thousand
dollars per grant awarded to not more than four applicants, provided
no more than two such implementation grants are awarded to an
applicant located in an educational reform district, as defined in
section 10-262u of the general statutes.

(c) (1) Prior to submitting an application under this subsection, an
applicant shall establish a community school planning and oversight
team that is responsible for developing school-specific programming
goals, assessing program needs and, if applicable, overseeing the
process of implementing expanded programming. Such team shall be
composed of at least twelve, but not more than eighteen, members as
follows: (A) At least four of whom are parents or guardians of students
who would be served by the proposed community school, (B) at least
four of whom are teachers at the proposed community school, (C) the
principal at the proposed community school, or the principal's
designee, (D) representatives from community partners who would
provide services at the proposed community school, and (E) representatives from civic or parent-teacher organizations selected by
the local or regional board of education that such board believes
represents the best interests of students and public education.

(2) Any local or regional board of education for a town designated
as an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u of the general
statutes and a lead partner agency may submit an application for a
sustainable community school start-up grant. An application
submitted under this subsection shall include evidence of support
from (A) the local or regional board of education, (B) a lead partner
agency, and (C) the parents or guardians of students who would be
served by the community school.

(d) (1) Prior to submitting an application under this subsection, an
applicant shall establish a community school planning and oversight
team, as described in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section,
and a school leadership team that is responsible for continually monitoring the development and implementation of a community school. The community school planning and oversight team and the school leadership team shall collaborate with the lead partner agency and school personnel at the community school to (A) conduct a baseline analysis of students' instructional and service needs within the school and the community, (B) provide for the coordinated delivery of instructional programming and services to students, and (C) address the ongoing responsiveness of the comprehensive community school pilot program. The school leadership team shall be composed of at least twelve, but not more than fifteen, members as follows: (i) The principal at the community school, or the principal's designee, (ii) parents or guardians of students who would be served by the community school, (iii) teachers and other school personnel providing direct services to students at the community school, (iv) representatives from community partners who would provide services at the community school, (v) in the case of a community school at a high school, at least one who is a student enrolled at such school, and (vi) at least two of whom are representatives from the neighborhoods served by such school.

(2) Any local or regional board of education for a town designated as an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u of the general statutes and a lead partner agency may submit an application for a sustainable community school implementation grant. An application submitted under this subsection shall include (A) a community school plan, as described in section 10-74i of the general statutes, (B) evidence of support from the local or regional board of education and a lead partner agency, and that the support from such lead partner agency is for a period of at least five years, (C) the creation of a position, or designation of an existing employee, at the school to be the community schools coordinator that will be integrated with the office of the school principal, (D) strategies that coordinate and integrate services provided to students and their families by family resource centers, established pursuant to section 10-4o of the general statutes, (E) a
sustainable funding plan for the community school, including the costs
and benefits of service coordination, sources of charitable revenue and
in-kind services and the feasibility of using funding received pursuant
to Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 USC 6301
et seq., as an on-going funding source, (F) evidence of sustained
parental engagement in the planning, implementation and planned
operation of the community school, (G) strategies for ensuring a
continuum of early childhood education opportunities, if the school
offers kindergarten, (H) evidence of support and commitment from the
exclusive bargaining unit for certified employees chosen pursuant to
section 10-153b of the general statutes, (I) a description of the structure
and composition of the community school planning and oversight
team, established pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, and (J)
a description of the school leadership team, established pursuant to
subdivision (1) of this section.

(e) On or before August 15, 2020, and August 15, 2021, the
Department of Education shall conduct an evaluation of the
comprehensive community school pilot program. Such evaluation
shall address (1) the overall effectiveness of the pilot program at each
community school based on measures of student engagement, student
academic achievement, parental engagement and noninstructional
services provided to students and their families, (2) any changes in the
number or percentage of students and nonstudents receiving services
at the community school, and the nature of such change, (3) any local
budget savings resulting from implementation of the community
school, (4) the nature and breadth of revenue sources utilized in the
provision of services through the community school, (5) the degree of
community stakeholder and institutional partner engagement, (6) any
increases in access to community services for students and their
families as a result of the community school, (7) any increased
collaboration between participating agencies and private partners, and
(8) any lessons learned regarding strategies to improve the future
delivery of community school services to students and their families.
The department shall submit such evaluation and any
recommendations for legislation to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, children and human services, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2019) (a) There is established the Connecticut Community Schools Consortium. The consortium shall serve as a network of local and regional boards of education and community partners participating in the operation of a community school, pursuant to section 10-74i of the general statutes or section 1 of this act, to share best practices, address common issues or problems, coordinate services and resources and seek collaboration across school districts. The consortium shall meet at least quarterly.

(b) The consortium shall be administered by a steering committee. The steering committee shall determine the operations and participants of the consortium. The steering committee shall consist of:

(1) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

(2) Two representatives from the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut, one of whom is an active community school participant or a certified educator;

(3) Two representatives from the Connecticut Education Association, one of whom is an active community school participant or a certified educator;

(4) An administrator from a community school or a school in which a community school is being planned, selected by the Connecticut Association of School Administrators;

(5) An administrator from a community school or a school in which a community school is being planned, selected by the Connecticut Federation of School Administrators; and

(6) A superintendent from a school district in which a community
school is located or a community school is being planned, selected by the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents.

(c) The steering committee shall be convened by the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee, not later than September 15, 2019. The commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, shall select two chairpersons from among the membership of the steering committee. The steering committee may invite additional participants to join the consortium, including, but not limited to, state and national experts, representatives from charitable organizations, local or regional service providers, mental health providers and regional chambers of commerce or business entities with an interest in a local community school initiative.

(d) On or before January 1, 2021, and annually thereafter, the steering committee shall submit a report concerning the consortium's activities for the previous year to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

(e) The Connecticut Community Schools Consortium shall be within the Department of Education for administrative purposes only.

| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |
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| Section 1         | July 1, 2019      | New section |
| Sec. 2            | July 1, 2019      | New section |

ED Joint Favorable C/R APP