



**Substitute House Bill No. 7250**

**Public Act No. 19-173**

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

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

Section 1. Section 10-221o of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

(a) Each local and regional board of education shall require each school under its jurisdiction to (1) offer all full day students a daily lunch period of not less than twenty minutes, and (2) include in the regular school day for each student enrolled in elementary school time devoted to physical exercise of not less than twenty minutes in total, except that a planning and placement team may develop a different schedule for a child requiring special education and related services in accordance with chapter 164 and the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1400 et seq., as amended from time to time. In the event of a conflict with this section and any provision of chapter 164, such other provision of chapter 164 shall be deemed controlling. Nothing in this subsection shall prevent a local or regional board of education from including an additional amount of time, beyond the twenty minutes required for physical exercise, devoted to undirected play during the regular school day for each student enrolled in

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elementary school.

(b) Not later than October 1, [2013] 2019, each local and regional board of education shall adopt a policy, as the board deems appropriate, concerning the issue regarding any school employee being involved in preventing a student from participating in the entire time devoted to physical exercise or undirected play in the regular school day, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, as a form of discipline. For purposes of this section, "school employee" means (1) a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, school counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional or coach employed by a local or regional board of education or working in a public elementary, middle or high school; or (2) any other individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high school, pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of education.

Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to study the issues relating to and the feasibility of including time devoted to undirected play during the regular school day in public elementary schools.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and one of whom is the parent or guardian of a student enrolled in a public school;

(2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Education Association and one of whom is the parent or guardian of a student enrolled in a

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public school;

(3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who is a representative of the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut;

(4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents;

(5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who is a representative of the Connecticut Association of School Administrators;

(6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Schools; and

(7) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

(c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

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(g) Not later than January 1, 2020, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations 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. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2020, whichever is later.

Approved July 12, 2019