AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) There is established a Commission on Shared School Services that shall develop recommendations in accordance with the provisions of section 2 of this act.

(b) The commission 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 American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut and one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education;

(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 a chief elected official of a municipality;

(3) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives who shall be a representative of the Connecticut School Transportation Association;

(4) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate who shall be a representative of a regional school district;

(5) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives who shall be a representative of the RESC Alliance;
(6) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate who shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents;

(7) Six appointed by the Governor, each such appointment shall be a resident from each of the regions served by a regional educational service center, and at least one of whom is a parent of a student enrolled in a public school, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Schools and one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials;

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

(9) The Commissioner of Administrative Services, or the commissioner's designee; and

(10) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee.

(c) All appointments to the commission shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. The Commissioner of Education shall schedule the first meeting of the commission, which shall be held not later than forty-five days after the effective date of this section.

(d) There shall be two chairpersons of the commission as follows: (1) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee, and (2) a member of the commission who is selected by a majority of members of the commission at the first meeting of the commission.

(e) The Department of Education shall provide administrative support to the commission, including, but not limited to, administrative staff and supplies. The department may retain consultants, as necessary, to assist the commission in carrying out its duties.

(f) The commission shall terminate on June 30, 2027.
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Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) The Commission on Shared School Services, established pursuant to section 1 of this act, shall develop recommendations for the sharing of school services and additional collaborations within and among school districts. In developing such recommendations and to assist in the completion of the reports required pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the chairpersons of the commission may, as needed, (1) establish subcommittees and working groups of the members, and (2) hold public hearings or conduct any other outreach, including consultations with the Connecticut Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, established pursuant to section 2-79a of the general statutes.

(b) The commission shall:

(1) Not later than December 1, 2019, develop a report concerning existing school districts, including, but not limited to, (A) the sizes of existing school districts, including enrollment data and the number of certified and noncertified employees, (B) the types and administrative structures of existing school districts, such as local boards of education, regional boards of education, regional educational services centers, state and local charter schools, incorporated or endowed high schools or academies, the Technical Education and Career System and regional agricultural science and technology education centers, (C) the number of schools, including school building size and capacity, enrollment data and grade ranges, as reported to the Department of Administrative Services in such form and manner as prescribed by the office of school grants and review within the department.

(2) Not later than November 1, 2019, develop a report concerning existing shared services between school districts and employment of superintendents of schools, including, but not limited to, existing cooperative arrangements pursuant to section 10-158a of the general statutes and instances of the joint employment of a superintendent of schools pursuant to section 10-157a of the general statutes;

(3) Not later than November 15, 2019, develop a report concerning academic and support services provided by school districts, as
reported to the Department of Education in such form and manner as
prescribed by the Commissioner of Education;

(4) Not later than February 1, 2020, develop a report containing
preliminary recommendations concerning additional collaborations
among school districts and with municipalities;

(5) Not later than April 1, 2020, develop a report containing a review
of the current services provided by regional educational service centers
and preliminary recommendations concerning the role of regional
educational service centers in shared service efforts;

(6) Not later than April 15, 2020, develop a report containing a review of existing labor contracts within each of the various types of
school districts described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this
subsection, and preliminary recommendations concerning how future
labor contracts should be negotiated as additional education services
are shared and additional collaboration occurs;

(7) Not later than June 1, 2020, develop, in consultation with the
Connecticut Association of School Business Officials, a report
containing a review of existing school transportation service contracts
within each of the various types of school districts described in
subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, and preliminary
recommendations concerning the establishment of shared school
transportation contracts, including time spent by students on school
buses, hours of such transportation services, tiers of schools and any
other related issues;

(8) Not later than July 1, 2020, develop, in consultation with the
Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference, a report containing a
review of interscholastic athletic schedules and arrangements within
and among each of the various types of school districts described in
subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, and preliminary
recommendations concerning the development of interscholastic
athletic schedules and related issues, including transportation services
to interscholastic athletic events and school hours;
(9) Not later than July 1, 2020, develop, in consultation with the Connecticut After School Network, a report containing a review of existing after-school programs and arrangements within and among each of the various types of school districts described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, and preliminary recommendations concerning the potential impact and changes to such after-school programs and arrangements following the sharing of services, on such issues as transportation and school hours;

(10) Not later than August 1, 2020, develop a report containing a review of the current school choice program structures and unified enrollment systems, and preliminary recommendations on those programs in a system of shared services and additional school district collaborations;

(11) Not later than August 15, 2020, develop a report containing preliminary recommendations concerning the impact that additional collaborations may have on the provision of special education services not otherwise addressed in any of the previous preliminary recommendations required under this section;

(12) Not later than August 15, 2020, develop a report containing preliminary recommendations concerning the impact that additional collaborations may have on early childhood care and education programs within and among each of the various types of school districts described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection;

(13) Not later than September 1, 2020, develop a report containing preliminary recommendations concerning school building usage within and among each of the various types of school districts described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection;

(14) Not later than October 1, 2020, develop a report containing preliminary recommendations concerning the use of incentives, grants or tax changes to accomplish any of the other preliminary recommendations developed pursuant to this section; and
(15) Not later than December 1, 2020, develop a comprehensive report concerning the preliminary recommendations developed pursuant to this section, including financial projections on savings and costs resulting from additional collaborations among school districts.

(c) Not later than December 15, 2020, the chairpersons of the commission shall hold a public hearing on the comprehensive report developed pursuant to subdivision (15) of subsection (b) of this section.

(d) The commission may continue to develop additional recommendations following the submission of any report required under subsection (b) of this section.

(e) All reports and recommendations developed pursuant to this section shall be submitted to the Governor, State Board of Education and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

(f) The Commissioner of Education shall make all such reports and recommendations available to the public on the Internet web site of the Department of Education.

Sec. 3. (Effective from passage) Not later than March 1, 2020, the Commissioner of Education shall solicit proposals, through a request for information, for cooperative and additional collaborative arrangements of education services and incentives for the establishment of such cooperative and additional collaborative arrangements of education services. The commissioner shall submit a report on the results of such request for information to the Commission on Shared School Services, established pursuant to section 1 of this act.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) (1) Not later than September 15, 2019, each municipality and the local or regional board of education for such municipality shall develop a report on which
services have been shared or consolidated (A) between the municipality and its local or regional board of education, and (B) with other municipalities or local and regional boards of education, including, but not limited to, human resources, accounting, payroll, procurement, finance, information technology, risk management, health care and retirement benefits, insurance and claims administration and buildings and grounds. Such report shall include a detailed cost-benefit analysis of such consolidations.

(2) Each municipality shall submit such report, on a form and in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, to the secretary, Commissioner of Education and Commissioner of Administrative Services. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall forward such reports to the Commission on Shared School Services, established pursuant to section 1 of this act, and the Connecticut Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, established pursuant to section 2-79a of the general statutes.

(b) (1) Not later than January 1, 2020, each municipality and the local or regional board of education for such municipality shall, in consultation with the Commission on Shared School Services and the Connecticut Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, develop a report on which services will be shared or consolidated (A) between the municipality and its local or regional board of education, and (B) with other municipalities or local and regional boards of education, including, but not limited to, human resources, accounting, payroll, procurement, finance, information technology, risk management, health care and retirement benefits, insurance and claims administration, and buildings and grounds. Such report shall include a (i) detailed cost-benefit analysis of such consolidations, (ii) a schedule for implementation to be completed on or before July 1, 2022, and (iii) an explanation of when services and consolidations are not being implemented.

(2) Each municipality shall submit such report, on a form and in a
manner prescribed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, to the secretary, Commissioner of Education and Commissioner of Administrative Services. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall forward such reports to the Commission on Shared School Services and the Connecticut Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

Sec. 5. Section 10-15e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) All provisions of the general statutes concerning teachers shall apply to teachers employed by incorporated or endowed high schools or academies approved under the provisions of section 10-34, as amended by this act. Teachers who are not certified and employed by such high schools or academies prior to June 30, 1983, shall be excluded from the provisions of this section until certified.

(b) All provisions of the general statutes concerning education, except those provisions relating to the eligibility for noncompetitive state aid unless otherwise provided, shall apply to the operation of an incorporated or endowed high school or academy.

Sec. 6. Section 10-34 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) The State Board of Education may examine any incorporated or endowed high school or academy in this state and, if it appears that such school or academy meets the requirements of the State Board of Education for the approval of public high schools, said board may approve such school or academy under the provisions of this part, and any town in which a high school is not maintained shall pay the whole of the tuition fees of pupils attending such school or academy, except if it is a school under ecclesiastical control.

(b) Each incorporated or endowed high school or academy approved by the State Board of Education shall be operated by a governing board. The membership of such governing board shall
include, but need not be limited to, a representative selected by each local or regional board of education that sends more than fifty students to such incorporated or endowed high school or academy. Such representative may be the superintendent of schools employed by such board of education.

(c) The governing board of each incorporated or endowed high school or academy approved by the State Board of Education shall post on any Internet web site the governing board operates the (1) schedule, (2) agenda, and (3) minutes of each meeting, including any meeting of subcommittees of the governing board.

(d) Each incorporated or endowed high school or academy approved by the State Board of Education shall submit annually, to the Commissioner of Education, (1) a certified audit statement of all revenues from public and private sources and expenditures related to such governing board's function as a governing board of an incorporated or endowed high school or academy in this state, and (2) a complete copy of such governing board's most recently completed Internal Revenue Service form 990, including all parts and schedules, other than Schedule B of such form.

(e) The Commissioner of Education shall post any reports, certified audit statements and forms submitted to the Department of Education regarding an incorporated or endowed high school or academy approved by the State Board of Education on the department's Internet web site not later than thirty days after receiving such reports, statements or forms. The commissioner shall identify any governing board of an incorporated or endowed high school or academy that did not submit a report, certified audit statement or form for the current reporting period and post such information on the department's Internet web site not later than thirty days after failing to receive such reports, statements or forms.

(f) Prior to the adoption of an annual budget by the governing board of an incorporated or endowed high school or academy approved by the State Board of Education, the sections of such budget that receive
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Sec. 7. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 10-233d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) (1) Any local or regional board of education, at a meeting at which three or more members of such board are present, or the impartial hearing board established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, may expel, subject to the provisions of this subsection, any pupil in grades three to twelve, inclusive, whose conduct on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity is violative of a publicized policy of such board [or] and is seriously disruptive of the educational process or endangers persons or property or whose conduct off school grounds is violative of such policy and is seriously disruptive of the educational process, provided a majority of the board members sitting in the expulsion hearing vote to expel and that at least three affirmative votes for expulsion are cast. In making a determination as to whether conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process, the board of education or impartial hearing board may consider, but such consideration shall not be limited to: (A) Whether the incident occurred within close proximity of a school; (B) whether other students from the school were involved or whether there was any gang involvement; (C) whether the conduct involved violence, threats of violence or the unlawful use of a weapon, as defined in section 29-38, and whether any injuries occurred; and (D) whether the conduct involved the use of alcohol.

Sec. 8. (Effective from passage) (a) The Department of Education, in consultation with the Office of Early Childhood, Department of Children and Families, Department of Public Health, Office of Higher Education, parents of students receiving special education services and representatives from school districts, regional educational service centers, the Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of
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Pediatrics and the Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center, shall, within available appropriations, conduct a study and make recommendations concerning the (1) development of training and reporting requirements for pediatricians and child care providers to better identify a child's need for special education services, (2) incorporation of training on trauma, behavior and social-emotional learning into teacher preparation programs and professional development for certified teachers, and (3) improvement of efforts to meet the needs of students with special needs and students receiving special education services.

(b) Not later than December 15, 2019, the Commissioner of Education shall submit the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and any recommendations accompanying such study to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

(c) As part of the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Department of Education shall collaborate with local and regional boards of education and regional educational service centers to improve efforts to meet the needs of students receiving special education and related services. The department shall evaluate existing models and services and cooperative models and funding mechanisms for the provision of special education services, including special education services provided by a board of education individually or cooperatively or by a regional educational service center. Following such evaluation, the department shall make any recommendations for (1) improving the provision of special education services to students, (2) enhancing cooperation among boards of education and regional educational service centers, (3) creating cost efficiencies for such services, (4) establishing Centers for Excellence, which may include arrangements between and among boards of education and regional educational service centers, (5) expanding the regional model for the provision of special education services related to transportation, training and therapeutic services developed pursuant to section 10-66r of the general statutes, and (6) establishing a process by which the
Department of Education reviews and approves programs for the provision of special education services and the Department of Administrative Services reviews and approves the construction of schools and spaces for the provision of cooperative and regional special education services to meet the needs of such programs approved by the Department of Education.

(d) Not later than December 15, 2019, the department shall submit its evaluation and recommendations to the Governor, State Board of Education, Office of Policy and Management and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

(e) The department shall make the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and any recommendations accompanying such study, and the evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and any recommendations accompanying such evaluation, available on its Internet web site.

Sec. 9. Section 10-66b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) The operation and management of any regional educational service center shall be the responsibility of the board of such center to be composed of the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee, and at least one member from each participating board of education, selected by such board of education. The board of the regional educational service center may designate from its membership an executive board which shall have such powers as the board of the regional educational service center may delegate and which are consistent with this part. The term of office of members of the board of the regional educational service center shall not exceed four years. Members of the board of the regional educational service center shall receive no compensation for services rendered as such, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses in the course of their duties. The director of the regional educational service center shall serve as
the executive agent of the board of the regional educational service center.

(b) Prior to the submission of an application for a school building project grant, pursuant to section 10-283, as amended by this act, the board of the regional educational service center and the Commissioner of Education shall consult with the Department of Administrative Services on the proposed school building project.

Sec. 10. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1) the nature and the relationship of alcohol and drugs, as defined in subdivision (17) of section 21a-240, to health and personality development, and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health and mental health risk reduction education that includes, but need not be limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in section 19a-581, violence, teen dating violence, domestic violence and child abuse, (3) school violence prevention, conflict resolution, the prevention of and response to youth suicide and the identification and prevention of and response to bullying, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10-222d, except that those boards of education that implement any evidence-based model approach that is approved by the Department of Education and is consistent with subsection (c) of section 10-145a, sections 10-222d, 10-222g and 10-222h, subsection (g) of section 10-233c and sections 1 and 3 of public act 08-160, shall not be required to provide in-service training on the identification and prevention of and response to bullying, (4) cardiopulmonary
resuscitation and other emergency life saving procedures, (5) the
requirements and obligations of a mandated reporter, [and] (6) the
detection and recognition of, and evidence-based structured literacy
interventions for, students with dyslexia, as defined in section 10-3d,
and (7) social-emotional learning, trauma-informed instruction and
behavior management strategies, in accordance with the provisions of
section 11 of this act. Each local or regional board of education may
allow any paraprofessional or noncertified employee to participate, on
a voluntary basis, in any in-service training program provided
pursuant to this section.

Sec. 11. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2019) For the school year
commencing July 1, 2019, and each school year thereafter, each local
and regional board of education shall include social-emotional
learning, trauma-informed instruction and behavior management
strategies as part of its in-service training program for the school
district, pursuant to section 10-220a of the general statutes, as amended
by this act. Such in-service training shall (1) align with professional
learning guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education, (2)
include deescalation techniques, (3) outline of how mentor teachers
will train teachers in social-emotional learning, and (4) inform school
principals on how to evaluate classrooms and teacher performance in
implementing strategies provided through such in-service training.

Sec. 12. Section 10-148c of the general statutes is repealed and the
following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

The State Board of Education, within available appropriations and
utilizing available materials, shall make the following subject matter
available to local and regional boards of education: (1) Holocaust and
genocide education and awareness; (2) the historical events
surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (3) African-American
history; (4) Puerto Rican history; (5) Native American history; (6)
personal financial management; (7) domestic violence and teen dating
violence; (8) mental health first aid training; (9) [trauma-informed
practices] social-emotional learning, trauma-informed instruction and
behavior management strategies, including evidence-based best practices, for the school setting to enable teachers, administrators and pupil personnel to more adequately respond to students with mental, emotional or behavioral health needs; (10) second language acquisition, including, but not limited to, language development and culturally responsive pedagogy; and (11) topics approved by the state board upon the request of local or regional boards of education as part of in-service training programs pursuant to this subsection. A local or regional board of education may include any of the items described in subdivisions (1) to (11), inclusive, of this section in the in-service training program provided by such board, pursuant to section 10-220a as amended by this act.

Sec. 13. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2019) Each local and regional board of education shall utilize evidence-based best practices to promote social-emotional learning, trauma-informed instruction, behavior management and deescalation techniques for its teachers, administrators and pupil personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or professional educator certificate.

Sec. 14. Section 10-16oo of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

Not later than July 1, 2012, the Department of Education shall approve and make available model curricula and frameworks in reading and mathematics for grades prekindergarten to grade four, inclusive, for use by local and regional boards of education for school districts or individual schools identified by the department as having academic achievement gaps. Such curricula and frameworks shall be culturally relevant, research-based and aligned with student achievement standards adopted by the State Board of Education. The department shall make such curricula and frameworks available on its Internet web site. For purposes of this section, "achievement gaps" means the existence of a significant disparity in the academic performance of students among and between (1) racial groups, (2) ethnic groups, (3) socioeconomic groups, (4) genders, and (5) English
language learners and students whose primary language is English.

Sec. 15. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2020) Not later than August first of each year, each local and regional board of education shall make its grade level curriculum available on its Internet web site.

Sec. 16. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-283 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(2) The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall assign each school building project to a category on the basis of whether such project is primarily required to: (A) Create new facilities or alter existing facilities to provide for mandatory instructional programs pursuant to this chapter, for physical education facilities in compliance with Title IX of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1972 where such programs or such compliance cannot be provided within existing facilities or for the correction of code violations which cannot be reasonably addressed within existing program space; (B) create new facilities or alter existing facilities to enhance mandatory instructional programs pursuant to this chapter or provide comparable facilities among schools to all students at the same grade level or levels within the school district unless such project is otherwise explicitly included in another category pursuant to this section; and (C) create new facilities or alter existing facilities to provide supportive services, provided in no event shall such supportive services include swimming pools, auditoriums, outdoor athletic facilities, tennis courts, elementary school playgrounds, site improvement or garages or storage, parking or general recreation areas. All applications submitted prior to July first shall be reviewed promptly by the Commissioner of Administrative Services. The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall estimate the amount of the grant for which such project is eligible, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-285a, as amended by this act, provided an application for a school building project determined by the Commissioner of Education to be a project that will assist the state in
meeting the goals of the 2008 stipulation and order for Milo Sheff, et al. v. William A. O’Neill, et al., as extended, or the goals of the 2013 stipulation and order for Milo Sheff, et al. v. William A. O’Neill, et al., as extended, shall have until September first to submit an application for such a project and may have until December first of the same year to secure and report all local and state approvals required to complete the grant application. The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall annually prepare a listing of all such eligible school building projects listed by category together with the amount of the estimated grants for such projects and shall submit the same to the Governor, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the General Assembly on or before the fifteenth day of December, except as provided in section 10-283a, with a request for authorization to enter into grant commitments. On or before December thirty-first annually, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management [shall] may submit comments and recommendations regarding each eligible project on such listing of eligible school building projects to the school construction committee, established pursuant to section 10-283a. Each such listing shall include a report on the following factors for each eligible project: (i) An enrollment projection and the capacity of the school, (ii) a substantiation of the estimated total project costs, (iii) the readiness of such eligible project to begin construction, (iv) efforts made by the local or regional board of education to redistrict, reconfigure, merge or close schools under the jurisdiction of such board prior to submitting an application under this section, (v) enrollment and capacity information for all of the schools under the jurisdiction of such board for the five years prior to application for a school building project grant, (vi) enrollment projections and capacity information for all of the schools under the jurisdiction of such board for the eight years following the date such application is submitted, [and] (vii) efforts made by such board to collaborate with other local or regional boards of education to reduce underenrollment in the schools under the jurisdiction of such board, (viii) the state’s education priorities relating to reducing racial and economic isolation for the school district, (ix) documentation that the application meets evidence-
based practices on a school's size, enrollment and academic program, and (x) documentation of the existing condition of the building that is the subject of a renovation, alteration or extension application. For the period beginning July 1, 2006, and ending June 30, 2012, no project, other than a project for a technical education and career school, may appear on the separate schedule of authorized projects which have changed in cost more than twice. On and after July 1, 2012, no project, other than a project for a technical education and career school, may appear on the separate schedule of authorized projects which have changed in cost more than once, except the Commissioner of Administrative Services may allow a project to appear on such separate schedule of authorized projects a second time if the town or regional school district for such project can demonstrate that exigent circumstances require such project to appear a second time on such separate schedule of authorized projects. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, no projects which have changed in scope or cost to the degree determined by the Commissioner of Administrative Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, shall be eligible for reimbursement under this chapter unless it appears on such list. The percentage determined pursuant to section 10-285a, as amended by this act, at the time a school building project on such schedule was originally authorized shall be used for purposes of the grant for such project. On and after July 1, 2006, a project that was not previously authorized as an interdistrict magnet school shall not receive a higher percentage for reimbursement than that determined pursuant to section 10-285a, as amended by this act, at the time a school building project on such schedule was originally authorized. The General Assembly shall annually authorize the Commissioner of Administrative Services to enter into grant commitments on behalf of the state in accordance with the commissioner's categorized listing for such projects as the General Assembly shall determine. The Commissioner of Administrative Services may not enter into any such grant commitments except pursuant to such legislative authorization. Any regional school district which assumes the responsibility for completion of a public school building project shall be eligible for a
grant pursuant to subdivision (5) or (6), as the case may be, of subsection (a) of section 10-286 when such project is completed and accepted by such regional school district.

Sec. 17. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2019) Any school building committee established by a town or regional school district to undertake a school building project, as defined in section 10-282 of the general statutes, shall include at least one member who has experience in the construction industry.

Sec. 18. Section 10-285a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) The percentage of school building project grant money a local board of education may be eligible to receive, under the provisions of section 10-286, shall be assigned by the Commissioner of Administrative Services in accordance with the percentage calculated by the Commissioner of Education as follows: (1) For grants approved pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-283 for which application is made on and after July 1, 1991, and before July 1, 2011, (A) each town shall be ranked in descending order from one to one hundred sixty-nine according to such town's adjusted equalized net grand list per capita, as defined in section 10-261; and (B) based upon such ranking, a percentage of not less than twenty nor more than eighty shall be determined for each town on a continuous scale; (2) for grants approved pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-283 for which application is made on and after July 1, 2011, and before July 1, 2017, (A) each town shall be ranked in descending order from one to one hundred sixty-nine according to such town's adjusted equalized net grand list per capita, as defined in section 10-261, and (B) based upon such ranking, (i) a percentage of not less than ten nor more than seventy shall be determined for new construction or replacement of a school building for each town on a continuous scale, and (ii) a percentage of not less than twenty nor more than eighty shall be determined for renovations, extensions, code violations, roof replacements and major alterations of an existing school building and
the new construction or replacement of a school building when a town
or regional school district can demonstrate that a new construction or
replacement is less expensive than a renovation, extension or major
alteration of an existing school building for each town on a continuous
scale; and (3) for grants approved pursuant to subsection (b) of section
10-283 for which application is made on and after July 1, 2017, (A) each
town shall be ranked in descending order from one to one hundred
sixty-nine according to the adjusted equalized net grand list per capita,
as defined in section 10-261, of the town two, three and four years
prior to the fiscal year in which application is made, and (B) based
upon such ranking, (i) a percentage of not less than ten nor more than
seventy shall be determined for new construction or replacement of a
school building for each town on a continuous scale, and (ii) a
percentage of not less than twenty nor more than eighty shall be
determined for renovations, extensions, code violations, roof
replacements and major alterations of an existing school building and
the new construction or replacement of a school building when a town
or regional school district can demonstrate that a new construction or
replacement is less expensive than a renovation, extension or major
alteration of an existing school building for each town on a continuous
scale.

(b) (1) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (2) of this
subsection, the percentage of school building project grant money a
regional board of education may be eligible to receive under the
provisions of section 10-286 shall be determined by its ranking. Such
ranking shall be determined by (A) multiplying the total population, as
defined in section 10-261, of each town in the district by such town's
ranking, as determined in subsection (a) of this section, (B) adding
together the figures determined under subparagraph (A) of this
subdivision, and (C) dividing the total computed under subparagraph
(B) of this subdivision by the total population of all towns in the
district. The ranking of each regional board of education shall be
rounded to the next higher whole number and each such board shall
receive the same reimbursement percentage as would a town with the
same rank plus (i) ten per cent, except that no such percentage shall
exceed eighty-five per cent, or (ii) if such school building project is for
the establishment or expansion of such regional school district, twenty-
five per cent, except that no such percentage shall exceed ninety-five
per cent.

(2) Any board of education of a regional school district established
or expanded on or after July 1, 2016, that submits an application for a
school building project (A) not later than ten years after the
establishment or expansion of such regional school district, and (B)
that is related to such establishment or expansion, may be eligible to
receive a percentage of school building project grant money, under the
provisions of section 10-286, as follows: The reimbursement percentage
of the town in such regional school district with the greatest
reimbursement percentage, as determined in subsection (a) of this
section, plus [ten] twenty-five per cent, except that no such percentage
shall exceed ninety-five per cent.

(c) The percentage of school building project grant money a regional
educational service center may be eligible to receive shall be
determined by its ranking. Such ranking shall be determined by (1)
multiplying the population of each member town in the regional
educational service center by such town’s ranking, as determined in
subsection (a) of this section; (2) adding together the figures for each
town determined under subdivision (1) of this subsection, and (3)
dividing the total computed under subdivision (2) of this subsection by
the total population of all member towns in the regional educational
service center. The ranking of each regional educational service center
shall be rounded to the next higher whole number and each such
center shall receive the same reimbursement percentage as would a
town with the same rank, except such reimbursement percentage may
be increased by twenty-five percentage points if such school building
project is for the purpose of sharing or consolidating education
services of member towns, provided no such percentage shall exceed
ninety-five per cent.

(d) The percentage of school building project grant money a
cooperative arrangement pursuant to section 10-158a, may be eligible
to receive shall be determined by its ranking. Such ranking shall be
determined by (1) multiplying the total population, as defined in
section 10-261, of each town in the cooperative arrangement by such
town's ranking, as determined in subsection (a) of this section, (2)
adding the products determined under subdivision (1) of this
subsection, and (3) dividing the total computed under subdivision (2)
of this subsection by the total population of all towns in the
cooperative arrangement. The ranking of each cooperative
arrangement shall be rounded to the next higher whole number and
each such cooperative arrangement shall receive the same
reimbursement percentage as would a town with the same rank plus
[ten percentage points] twenty-five per cent.

(e) If an elementary school building project for a new building or for
the expansion of an existing building includes space for a school
readiness program, the percentage determined pursuant to this section
shall be increased by five percentage points, but shall not exceed one
hundred per cent, for the portion of the building used primarily for
such purpose. Recipient districts shall maintain full-day preschool
enrollment for at least ten years.

(f) The percentage determined pursuant to this section for a school
building project grant for the expansion, alteration or renovation of an
existing public school building to convert such building for use as a
lighthouse school, as defined in section 10-266cc, shall be increased by
ten percentage points.

(g) The percentage determined pursuant to this section for a school
building project grant shall be increased by the percentage of the total
projected enrollment of the school attributable to the number of spaces
made available for out-of-district students participating in the program
established pursuant to section 10-266aa, provided the maximum
increase shall not exceed ten percentage points.

(h) Subject to the provisions of section 10-285d, if an elementary
school building project for a school in a priority school district or for a
priority school is necessary in order to offer a full-day kindergarten program or a full-day preschool program or to reduce class size pursuant to section 10-265f, the percentage determined pursuant to this section shall be increased by ten percentage points for the portion of the building used primarily for such full-day kindergarten program, full-day preschool program or such reduced size classes. Recipient districts that receive an increase pursuant to this subsection in support of a full-day preschool program, shall maintain full-day preschool enrollment for at least ten years.

(i) For all projects authorized on or after July 1, 2007, all attorneys' fees and court costs related to litigation shall be eligible for state school construction grant assistance only if the grant applicant is the prevailing party in any such litigation.

(j) The percentage determined pursuant to this section for a school building project grant for a diversity school, approved pursuant to section 10-286h, as amended by this act, shall be increased by ten percentage points.

Sec. 19. Subsection (b) of section 10-285b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(b) The percentage of school building project grant money each incorporated or endowed high school or academy may be eligible to receive under the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall be determined by its ranking. The ranking shall be determined by (1) multiplying the total population, as defined in section 10-261, of each town which at the time of application for such school construction grant commitment has designated such school as the high school for such town for a period of not less than five years from the date of such application, by such town's percentile ranking, as determined in subsection (a) of section 10-285a, as amended by this act; (2) adding together the figures for each town determined under subdivision (1) of this subsection, and (3) dividing the total computed under subdivision (2) of this subsection by the total population of all towns which
designate the school as their high school under subdivision (1) of this subsection. The ranking determined pursuant to this subsection shall be rounded to the next higher whole number. Such high school or academy shall receive the reimbursement percentage of a town with the same rank increased by five per cent, except that the reimbursement percentage of such high school or academy shall not exceed [eighty-five per cent] the average of the reimbursement percentages of the towns that do not maintain a high school and pay tuition to such high school or academy.

Sec. 20. Section 10-285c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

For school building projects approved by the General Assembly after July 1, 1993, if state reimbursement pursuant to the provisions of this chapter or any public or special act, for the acquisition, purchase or construction of a building was for ninety-five or more per cent of the eligible costs of such acquisition, purchase or construction or for any amount that was provided to a regional educational service center and such building ceases to be used for the purpose for which the grant was provided within twenty years of the date of approval by the General Assembly of the project, title to the building shall revert to the state unless the Commissioner of [Education] Administrative Services decides otherwise for good cause.

Sec. 21. Subsection (c) of section 10-286h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(c) [Eligible local or regional boards of education, for purposes of a diversity school, shall be eligible for reimbursement of eighty per cent of the] The percentage determined pursuant to section 10-285a, as amended by this act, for a school building project grant, shall be increased by ten percentage points for the reasonable cost of any capital expenditure for the purchase, construction, extension, replacement, leasing or major alteration of diversity school facilities, including any expenditure for the purchase of equipment, in
acCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT UNDER
THIS SECTION, A DIVERSITY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT SHALL MEET THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR A SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT ESTABLISHED IN THIS CHAPTER,
EXCEPT THAT THE COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES MAY WAIVE
ANY REQUIREMENT IN THIS CHAPTER FOR GOOD CAUSE.

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