

Education-Related Task Forces and Working Groups

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Issue

Describe any education-related task forces and working groups that (1) are ongoing and have not yet submitted final reports to the General Assembly or (2) were created by the legislature in the 2019 session. Indicate whether Education Committee chairpersons and ranking members are also members of these groups.

Summary

With the help of the Legislative Library, we identified five such task forces, one working group, and one commission created during the 2016-2018 legislative sessions that appear to be “ongoing” (i.e., have not completed their statutory charge). We identified two such task forces and two working groups created during the recently adjourned 2019 session. Of these eleven groups, only one requires education committee leadership (i.e., committee chairpersons or ranking members) to serve. Some allow legislators to serve.

(Please note that this report does not include any groups (1) housed within state agencies or (2) pertaining to higher education unless they relate to teacher preparation.)

Ongoing Task Forces and Working Groups

Table 1 describes education-related task forces, working groups, and commissions created in the years prior to the most recent legislative session, including their enabling legislation, charge, committee leader membership, and status.

Table 1: Task Forces and Working Groups Created in 2016-2018 Legislative Sessions

<i>Name</i>	<i>Enabling Legislation</i>	<i>Charge</i>	<i>Required Education Committee Membership</i>	<i>Status</i>
School Climate Task Force	PA 16-188 , § 5	Review, streamline, and align state policies related to school climate, bullying, school safety, and social-emotional learning	Committee co-chairs both serve on the task force	Last meeting held on December 22, 2016; no final report available (report was due to the Education Committee by January 1, 2017)
Recruitment of Manufacturing Teachers Task Force	SA 16-9 , § 1	Examine (1) the need for manufacturing teachers at various grade levels in schools, (2) the interest in teaching among persons employed in manufacturing, (3) obstacles and constraints that inhibit the recruitment of manufacturing teachers, and (4) potential state actions to improve such recruitment	None	Unclear if meetings held; no final report available
Task Force to Study Alternative Methods for Special Education Funding	PA 17-2 , June Special Session (JSS), § 70	Conduct a feasibility study of alternative methods of funding special education, addressing factors impacting the increasing cost and predictability of special education services Examine a state special education predictable cost cooperative model and other alternative funding models used in other states	None	Currently holding meetings (last one held June 25, 2019); no final report available (report was due to the Education and Appropriations committees by January 1, 2019)

Connecticut Achievement and Resource Equity in Schools Commission	PA 17-2 , JSS, § 71	Develop a strategic plan with recommendations for implementing a system for distributing state public education funding that (1) includes a formula that (a) uses an appropriate foundation level, (b) addresses unequal local tax burdens and reduces the reliance on unequal local property taxation to fund services, (c) increases equity and fairness, and (d) reduces segregation; (2) depends on a stable, fair, reliable, and identifiable funding source; (3) addresses students' educational needs; and (4) provides predictability and sustainability in grant allocations to towns and school districts	None	Unclear if meetings held; no final report available (report was due to the Appropriations and Education committees, the governor, and the Office of Policy and Management secretary by April 1, 2018)
Minority Teacher Recruitment and Retention Task Force	CGS 10-156aa , as amended by PA 18-34 , § 5 and PA 19-117 , § 117	Study and develop strategies to increase and improve the recruitment, preparation, and retention of minority teachers in public schools, including (1) an analysis of the causes of minority teacher shortages in the state, (2) an examination of current statewide and school district demographics, and (3) a review of best practices	None required; one task force member must be a legislator	Ongoing through the end of 2025
High School Interscholastic Athletics Task Force	PA 18-182 , § 14	Study high school interscholastic athletics programs, including issues related to governance, financing, and the role of such programs at high schools	None required; members may be legislators	Unclear if meetings held; no final report available (report was due to the Education Committee by January 1, 2019)
Working Group to Study Issues Relating to Search and Seizure of Students' Personal Electronic Devices	SA 18-28	Study and make recommendations on the search and seizure of students' personal electronic devices	None	Ongoing (report was due to the Education Committee by January 1, 2019)

Newly Created Task Forces and Working Groups

Table 2 describes education-related task forces and working groups created in the recently adjourned legislative session, including their enabling legislation, charge, and committee leader membership.

Table 2: Task Forces and Working Groups Created in 2019 Legislative Session

<i>Name</i>	<i>Enabling Legislation</i>	<i>Charge</i>	<i>Required Education Committee Membership</i>
Task Force to Study Issues Relating to the Implementation of Laws Governing Dyslexia Instruction and Training	SA 19-8	Examine whether (1) colleges are providing teacher preparation students with the amount of dyslexia instruction and practicum hours required by law and (2) teacher in-service training and professional development models meet the needs of students with dyslexia	None
Undirected Play Task Force	PA 19-173, § 2	Make recommendations on reading assessments, teacher preparation, and dyslexia screening	None
Birth to Three Transition Working Group	PA 19-184, § 2	Study issues relating to, and the feasibility of, including undirected playtime during the regular school day in public elementary schools	None
edTPA Working Group	PA 19-139, § 3	Study issues relating to the provision of special education and related services during the period in which a child is no longer eligible for Birth to Three program services but is not yet enrolled in kindergarten	None
edTPA Working Group	PA 19-139, § 3	Study issues relating to edTPA, a pre-service teacher performance assessment adopted by SBE; among other topics, examine (1) how teacher preparation programs are implementing the program, particularly the associated financial costs for higher education institutions and students, and (2) whether the program is evidence-based or a best practice	None

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