



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

Raised Bill No. 313

LCO No. 2147



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT RECONSTITUTING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP TASK FORCE.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-16mm of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 [(a) There is established a task force to address the academic
4 achievement gaps in Connecticut by considering effective approaches to
5 closing the achievement gaps in elementary, middle and high schools.
6 The task force shall develop, in consultation with the Department of
7 Education, the Connecticut State University System, the Interagency
8 Council for Ending the Achievement Gap established pursuant to
9 section 10-16nn, and the joint standing committee of the General
10 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, a master
11 plan to eliminate the academic achievement gaps by January 1, 2020.
12 Such master plan shall: (1) Identify the achievement gaps that exist
13 among and between (A) racial groups, (B) ethnic groups, (C)
14 socioeconomic groups, (D) genders, and (E) English language learners
15 and students whose primary language is English; (2) focus efforts on
16 closing the achievement gaps identified in subdivision (1) of this

17 subsection; (3) establish annual benchmarks for implementation of the
18 master plan and closing the achievement gaps; and (4) make
19 recommendations regarding the creation of a Secretary of Education.
20 The task force may amend such master plan at any time. For purposes
21 of this section, "achievement gaps" means the existence of a significant
22 disparity in the academic performance of students among and between
23 (A) racial groups, (B) ethnic groups, (C) socioeconomic groups, (D)
24 genders, and (E) English language learners and students whose primary
25 language is English.

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

27 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

28 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

29 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
30 Representatives;

31 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

32 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
33 Representatives;

34 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

35 (7) One appointed by the chairman of the Black and Puerto Rican
36 Caucus of the General Assembly;

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

39 (9) One appointed by the Governor.

40 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
41 (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) or (7) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
42 of the General Assembly.

43 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than

44 thirty days after July 8, 2011. Any vacancy shall be filled by the
45 appointing authority.

46 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
47 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
48 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
49 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
50 days after July 8, 2011.

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

54 (g) (1) Not later than January 15, 2013, the task force shall submit the
55 master plan described in subsection (a) of this section to the joint
56 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
57 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
58 section 11-4a, and the Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement
59 Gap described in section 10-16nn.

60 (2) Not later than July 1, 2013, and annually thereafter until January
61 1, 2020, the task force shall submit progress reports on the
62 implementation of the master plan described in subsection (a) of this
63 section and recommendations for implementing said master plan to the
64 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
65 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
66 section 11-4a.

67 (h) The task force shall terminate on January 1, 2020.]

68 (a) There is established a task force to address the educational
69 opportunity gaps in Connecticut by considering effective approaches to
70 closing the educational opportunity gaps in elementary, middle and
71 high schools. The task force shall, in consultation with the Department
72 of Education, the Office of Early Childhood, the Connecticut State
73 University System, the Two-Generational Advisory Board established
74 pursuant to section 17b-112l, and the joint standing committee of the

75 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
76 develop a master plan to eliminate the educational opportunity gaps by
77 October 1, 2021. Such master plan shall: (1) Identify the historical
78 persistence of educational opportunity gaps that exist among and
79 between (A) racial groups, (B) ethnic groups, (C) socioeconomic groups,
80 (D) genders, (E) English language learners and students whose primary
81 language is English, and (F) students with disabilities; (2) focus efforts
82 on closing the educational opportunity gaps identified in subdivision
83 (1) of this subsection; (3) establish annual benchmarks for
84 implementation of the master plan and closing the educational
85 opportunity gaps; and (4) develop a plan for improving literacy skills,
86 math and numeracy skills and performance for all students. The task
87 force may amend such master plan at any time. For purposes of this
88 section, "educational opportunity gaps" means the existence of a
89 significant disparity in the academic performance of students among
90 and between (A) racial groups, (B) ethnic groups, (C) socioeconomic
91 groups, (D) genders, (E) English language learners and students whose
92 primary language is English, and (F) students with disabilities.

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

94 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

95 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

96 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
97 Representatives;

98 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

99 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
100 Representatives;

101 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

102 (7) Two appointed by the chairperson of the Black and Puerto Rican
103 Caucus of the General Assembly;

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

105 (9) One appointed by the Governor;

106 (10) Three jointly appointed by the chairpersons of the joint standing
107 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
108 relating to education, one of whom is an advocate for students with
109 disabilities, one of whom is an advocate for racial equity, and one of
110 whom is an advocate for English language learners;

111 (11) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,
112 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee;
113 and

114 (12) A member of the Two-Generational Advisory Board, established
115 pursuant to section 17b-112l, designated by the chairpersons of said
116 board.

117 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
118 (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) or (10) of subsection (b) of this section may be a
119 member of the General Assembly.

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

123 (e) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,
124 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee,
125 shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not
126 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section. The members
127 of the task force shall elect three chairpersons from among the
128 membership of the task force at the first meeting.

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

132 (g) (1) Not later than October 1, 2021, the task force shall submit the

133 master plan described in subsection (a) of this section to the joint
134 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
135 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
136 section 11-4a, and to the Two-Generational Advisory Board.

137 (2) Not later than October 1, 2022, and annually thereafter until
138 October 1, 2025, the task force shall submit progress reports on the
139 implementation of the master plan described in subsection (a) of this
140 section and recommendations for implementing said master plan to the
141 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
142 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
143 section 11-4a.

144 (h) The task force shall terminate on October 1, 2026.

145 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-198d of the general statutes is
146 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
147 *passage*):

148 (a) Not later than January 1, 2016, the Department of Education [, in
149 consultation with the Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement
150 Gap established pursuant to section 10-16nn,] shall develop a chronic
151 absenteeism prevention and intervention plan for use by local and
152 regional boards of education to reduce chronic absenteeism in the school
153 district.

154 Sec. 3. Section 10-16nn of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*
155 *from passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10-16mm
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	10-198d(a)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To reconstitute the former Achievement Gap Task Force as the Educational Opportunity Gaps Task Force and to repeal the Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]