



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1033

January Session, 2021



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
AND FINANCIAL LITERACY AS PART OF THE HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-221a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (a) For classes graduating from 1988 to 2003, inclusive, no local or
4 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
5 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily
6 completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than four of which
7 shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics, not fewer than
8 three in social studies, not fewer than two in science, not fewer than one
9 in the arts or vocational education and not fewer than one in physical
10 education.

11 (b) For classes graduating from 2004 to 2022, inclusive, no local or
12 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
13 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily
14 completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than four of which
15 shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics, not fewer than
16 three in social studies, including at least a one-half credit course on
17 civics and American government, not fewer than two in science, not

18 fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and not fewer than
19 one in physical education.

20 (c) [Commencing with] For classes graduating in 2023 and 2024, and
21 for each graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of
22 education shall permit any student to graduate from high school or
23 grant a diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily completed a
24 minimum of twenty-five credits, including not fewer than: (1) Nine
25 credits in the humanities, including civics and the arts; (2) nine credits
26 in science, technology, engineering and mathematics; (3) one credit in
27 physical education and wellness; (4) one credit in health and safety
28 education, as described in section 10-16b; (5) one credit in world
29 languages, subject to the provisions of subsection [(g)] (h) of this section;
30 and (6) a one credit mastery-based diploma assessment.

31 (d) Commencing with classes graduating in 2023, and for each
32 graduating class thereafter, local and regional boards of education shall
33 provide adequate student support and remedial services for students
34 beginning in grade seven. Such student support and remedial services
35 shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of the high
36 school graduation requirements described in subsection (c) or (e) of this
37 section, if such student is unable to satisfactorily complete any of the
38 required courses or exams. Such student support and remedial services
39 shall include, but not be limited to, (1) allowing students to retake
40 courses in summer school or through an on-line course; (2) allowing
41 students to enroll in a class offered at a constituent unit of the state
42 system of higher education, as defined in section 10a-1, pursuant to
43 subdivision (4) of subsection [(g)] (h) of this section; (3) allowing
44 students who received a failing score, as determined by the
45 Commissioner of Education, on an end of the school year exam to take
46 an alternate form of the exam; and (4) allowing those students whose
47 individualized education programs state that such students are eligible
48 for an alternate assessment to demonstrate competency on any of the
49 five core courses through success on such alternate assessment.

50 (e) Commencing with classes graduating in 2025, and for each

51 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education shall
52 permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to
53 any student who has not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty-
54 five credits, including not fewer than: (1) Nine credits in the humanities,
55 including civics and the arts; (2) nine credits in science, technology,
56 engineering and mathematics, including computer science; (3) one
57 credit in physical education and wellness; (4) one credit in health and
58 safety education, as described in section 10-16b; (5) one credit in world
59 languages, subject to the provisions of subsection (h) of this section; and
60 (6) a one-credit mastery-based diploma assessment. At least one credit,
61 which may count toward the requirement described in subdivision (2)
62 of this subsection shall be in personal financial management.

63 [(e)] (f) Any student who presents a certificate from a physician or
64 advanced practice registered nurse stating that, in the opinion of the
65 physician or advanced practice registered nurse, participation in
66 physical education is medically contraindicated because of the physical
67 condition of such student, shall be excused from the physical education
68 requirement, provided the credit for physical education may be fulfilled
69 by an elective.

70 [(f)] (g) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of
71 the local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of
72 the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject
73 matter of the specified course requirements. The local or regional board
74 of education may permit a student to graduate during a period of
75 expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the
76 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to
77 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student
78 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when the
79 planning and placement team for such student determines the
80 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, a credit
81 shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute class period
82 for each school day of a school year except for a credit or part of a credit
83 toward high school graduation earned (1) at an institution accredited by

84 the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher
85 Education or regionally accredited, (2) through on-line coursework that
86 is in accordance with a policy adopted pursuant to subsection [(g)] (h)
87 of this section, or (3) through a demonstration of mastery based on
88 competency and performance standards, in accordance with guidelines
89 adopted by the State Board of Education.

90 [(g)] (h) Only courses taken in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, and
91 that are in accordance with the state-wide subject matter content
92 standards, adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to section
93 10-4, shall satisfy the graduation requirements set forth in this section,
94 except that a local or regional board of education may grant a student
95 credit (1) toward meeting the high school graduation requirements
96 upon the successful demonstration of mastery of the subject matter
97 content described in this section achieved through educational
98 experiences and opportunities that provide flexible and multiple
99 pathways to learning, including cross-curricular graduation
100 requirements, career and technical education, virtual learning, work-
101 based learning, service learning, dual enrollment and early college,
102 courses taken in middle school, internships and student-designed
103 independent studies, provided such demonstration of mastery is in
104 accordance with such state-wide subject matter content standards; (2)
105 toward meeting a specified course requirement upon the successful
106 completion in grade seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of
107 which corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course
108 requirement in grades nine to twelve, inclusive; (3) toward meeting the
109 high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of
110 a world language course (A) in grade six, seven or eight, (B) through on-
111 line coursework, or (C) offered privately through a nonprofit provider,
112 provided such student achieves a passing grade on an examination
113 prescribed, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of
114 Education and such credits do not exceed four; (4) toward meeting the
115 high school graduation requirement upon achievement of a passing
116 grade on a subject area proficiency examination identified and
117 approved, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of

118 Education, regardless of the number of hours the student spent in a
119 public school classroom learning such subject matter; (5) toward
120 meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful
121 completion of coursework during the school year or summer months at
122 an institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education
123 or Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited. One three-credit
124 semester course, or its equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-
125 half credit for purposes of this section; (6) toward meeting the high
126 school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of on-
127 line coursework, provided the local or regional board of education has
128 adopted a policy in accordance with this subdivision for the granting of
129 credit for on-line coursework. Such a policy shall ensure, at a minimum,
130 that (A) the workload required by the on-line course is equivalent to that
131 of a similar course taught in a traditional classroom setting, (B) the
132 content is rigorous and aligned with curriculum guidelines approved
133 by the State Board of Education, where appropriate, (C) the course
134 engages students and has interactive components, which may include,
135 but are not limited to, required interactions between students and their
136 teachers, participation in on-line demonstrations, discussion boards or
137 virtual labs, (D) the program of instruction for such on-line coursework
138 is planned, ongoing and systematic, and (E) the courses are (i) taught by
139 teachers who are certified in the state or another state and have received
140 training on teaching in an on-line environment, or (ii) offered by
141 institutions of higher education that are accredited by the Board of
142 Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or
143 regionally accredited; or (7) toward meeting the high school graduation
144 requirement upon the successful completion of the academic
145 advancement program, pursuant to section 10-5c.

146 [(h)] (i) A local or regional board of education may offer one-half
147 credit in community service which, if satisfactorily completed, shall
148 qualify for high school graduation credit pursuant to this section,
149 provided such community service is supervised by a certified school
150 administrator or teacher and consists of not less than fifty hours of actual
151 service that may be performed at times when school is not regularly in

152 session and not less than ten hours of related classroom instruction. For
153 purposes of this section, community service does not include partisan
154 political activities. The State Board of Education shall assist local and
155 regional boards of education in meeting the requirements of this section.
156 The State Board of Education shall award a community service
157 recognition award to any student who satisfactorily completes fifty
158 hours or more of community service in accordance with the provisions
159 of this subsection.

160 [(i)] (j) (1) A local or regional board of education may award a
161 diploma to a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, or a
162 person with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has
163 received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active
164 service in the armed forces, which veteran or person served during
165 World War II or the Korean hostilities, as described in section 51-49h, or
166 during the Vietnam Era, as defined in section 27-103, withdrew from
167 high school prior to graduation in order to serve in the armed forces of
168 the United States and did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such
169 service.

170 (2) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma to
171 any person who (A) withdrew from high school prior to graduation to
172 work in a job that assisted the war effort during World War II, December
173 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, inclusive, (B) did not receive a diploma as
174 a consequence of such work, and (C) has been a resident of the state for
175 at least fifty consecutive years.

176 [(j)] (k) For the school year commencing July 1, 2012, and each school
177 year thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall create a
178 student success plan for each student enrolled in a public school,
179 beginning in grade six. Such student success plan shall include a
180 student's career and academic choices in grades six to twelve, inclusive.
181 Beginning in grade six, such student success plan shall provide evidence
182 of career exploration in each grade including, but not limited to, careers
183 in manufacturing. The Department of Education shall revise and issue
184 to local and regional boards of education guidance regarding changes

185 to such student success plans. On and after July 1, 2020, in creating such
186 student success plans, consideration shall be given to career and
187 academic choices in computer science, science, technology, engineering
188 and mathematics.

189 [(k)] (l) Commencing with classes graduating in 2018, and for each
190 graduating class thereafter, a local or regional board of education may
191 affix the Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy, as described in subsection
192 (f) of section 10-5, to a diploma awarded to a student who has achieved
193 a high level of proficiency in English and one or more foreign languages,
194 as defined in said subsection (f). The local or regional board of education
195 shall include on such student's transcript a designation that the student
196 received the Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy.

197 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) Notwithstanding the provisions
198 of subsection (g) of section 10-221a of the general statutes, as amended
199 by this act, for the school year commencing July 1, 2021, a local or
200 regional board of education may grant a credit in personal financial
201 management to any student who takes separate courses that meet the
202 provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section 10-221a of the
203 general statutes, as amended by this act, in grades nine to twelve,
204 inclusive. A credit so earned may be considered to cumulatively meet
205 the forty-minute class period for each school day requirement and shall
206 be considered a cross-curricular graduation requirement pursuant to
207 subsection (h) of said section 10-221a, as amended by this act, provided
208 a portion of the curriculum for such credits corresponds to the subject
209 matter of personal financial management.

210 Sec. 3. Section 10-5d of the general statutes is repealed and the
211 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

212 (a) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2012, and June 30, 2013,
213 inclusive, the Department of Education shall, within available
214 appropriations, provide technical assistance to any local or regional
215 board of education that begins implementation of the provisions of
216 subsections (c) and (d) of section 10-221a, as amended by this act.

217 (b) On or before November 1, 2013, and biennially thereafter, each
218 local or regional board of education receiving technical assistance from
219 the department pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall report to
220 the department on the status of the school district's implementation of
221 the provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of section 10-221a, as amended
222 by this act. On and after November 1, 2021, and biennially thereafter,
223 such report shall include the implementation of the provisions of
224 subsection (e) of section 10-221a, as amended by this act.

225 (c) On or before February 1, 2014, and biennially thereafter, the
226 department shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
227 4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
228 cognizance of matters relating to education on the status of
229 implementation of the provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of section
230 10-221a, as amended by this act, by local and regional boards of
231 education in the state. Such report shall include, (1) an explanation of
232 any existing state and federal funds currently available to assist in such
233 implementation, (2) recommendations regarding the appropriation of
234 additional state funds to support local and regional boards of education
235 in the implementation of subsections (c) and (d) of said section 10-221a,
236 and (3) recommendations for any statutory changes that would facilitate
237 implementation of subsections (c) and (d) of said section 10-221a by local
238 and regional boards of education. On and after February 1, 2022, such
239 report shall include such explanation and recommendations related to
240 the implementation of subsection (e) of section 10-221a, as amended by
241 this act.

242 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 10-76ll of the general statutes is
243 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
244 *2021*):

245 (b) On or before July 1, 2015, the State Board of Education shall draft
246 a written bill of rights for parents of children receiving special education
247 services to guarantee that the rights of such parents and children are
248 adequately safeguarded and protected during the provision of special
249 education and related services under this chapter. Such bill of rights

250 shall inform parents of: (1) The right to request consideration of the
251 provision of transition services for a child receiving special education
252 services who is eighteen to twenty-one, inclusive, years of age, (2) the
253 right to receive transition resources and materials from the department
254 and the local or regional board of education responsible for such child,
255 (3) the requirement that the local or regional board of education
256 responsible for such child shall create a student success plan for each
257 student enrolled in a public school, beginning in grade six, pursuant to
258 subsection [(j)] (k) of section 10-221a, as amended by this act, and (4) the
259 right of such child to receive realistic and specific postgraduation goals
260 as part of such child's individualized education program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-221a
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-5d
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-76ll(b)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Section 2 was redrafted for clarity and accuracy; and in Section 3, the final sentences in Subsecs. (b) and (c) were added for clarity and accuracy.

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*