



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2021

LCO No. 9924



Offered by:

SEN. MCCRORY, 2nd Dist.

REP. SANCHEZ, 25th Dist.

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To: Senate Bill No. 1032

File No. 405

Cal. No. 242

**"AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE
EDUCATION STATUTES."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than December 1,
4 2021, and annually thereafter, any local or regional board of education
5 that participates in the National School Lunch Program, in which at least
6 one school under the jurisdiction of such board qualifies for the
7 maximum federal reimbursement for all school meals served under the
8 federal Community Eligibility Provision, but does not implement the
9 Community Eligibility Provision, shall submit a report to the
10 Department of Education that notifies the department that such board
11 is not implementing the Community Eligibility Provision and the
12 reasons for why such board is not implementing the Community
13 Eligibility Provision. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, a
14 description of the specific impediments to implementing the

15 Community Eligibility Provision, any actions that are needed to remove
16 those impediments and a plan for implementation of the Community
17 Eligibility Provision during the following school year, if possible. As
18 used in this section, "Community Eligibility Provision" means the
19 federal meal reimbursement program administered by the United States
20 Department of Agriculture, as set forth in 7 CFR 245.9, as amended from
21 time to time.

22 Sec. 2. Section 10-76xx of the general statutes is repealed and the
23 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

24 (a) A local or regional board of education shall, upon the
25 identification of a student as gifted and talented, provide electronic
26 notice of such identification to the parent or guardian of such student.
27 Such notice shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) an explanation
28 of how such student was identified as gifted and talented, and (2) the
29 contact information for (A) the employee of the school district in charge
30 of the provision of services to gifted and talented students, or, if there is
31 no such employee, the employee of the school district in charge of the
32 provision of special education and related services, (B) the employee at
33 the Department of Education who has been designated as responsible
34 for providing information and assistance to boards of education and
35 parents or guardians of students related to gifted and talented students,
36 pursuant to section 10-3e, and (C) any associations in the state that
37 provide support to gifted and talented students.

38 (b) Not later than July 1, 2022, each local and regional board of
39 education shall adopt a policy for the equitable identification of gifted
40 and talented students. Such policy shall require the use of multiple
41 methods of identification of gifted and talented students that are in
42 compliance with guidance provided by the Department of Education.

43 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section:

44 (1) "Advanced course or program" means an honors class, advanced
45 placement class, International Baccalaureate program, Cambridge
46 International program, dual enrollment, dual credit, early college or any

47 other advanced or accelerated course or program offered by a local or
48 regional board of education in grades nine to twelve, inclusive; and

49 (2) "Prior academic performance" means the course or courses that a
50 student has taken, the grades received for such course or courses and a
51 student's grade point average.

52 (b) Not later than July 1, 2022, each local and regional board of
53 education shall adopt a policy, or revise an existing policy, concerning
54 the eligibility criteria for student enrollment in an advanced course or
55 program. Such policy shall provide for multiple methods by which a
56 student may satisfy the eligibility criteria for enrollment in an advanced
57 course or program, including, but not limited to, recommendations
58 from teachers, administrators, school counselors or other school
59 personnel. Such eligibility criteria shall not be based exclusively on a
60 student's prior academic performance and that any use of a student's
61 prior academic performance shall rely on evidence-based indicators of
62 how a student will perform in an advanced course or program.

63 (c) Any policy adopted or revised and implemented under this
64 section shall be in accordance with guidance provided by the
65 Department of Education.

66 Sec. 4. Subsection (j) of section 10-221a of the general statutes is
67 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
68 *2021*):

69 (j) For the school year commencing July 1, 2012, and each school year
70 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall create a
71 student success plan for each student enrolled in a public school,
72 beginning in grade six. Such student success plan shall include a
73 student's career and academic choices in grades six to twelve, inclusive.
74 Beginning in grade six, such student success plan shall provide evidence
75 of career exploration in each grade including, but not limited to, careers
76 in manufacturing. The Department of Education shall revise and issue
77 to local and regional boards of education guidance regarding changes
78 to such student success plans. On and after July 1, 2020, in creating such

79 student success plans, consideration shall be given to career and
80 academic choices in computer science, science, technology, engineering
81 and mathematics. On and after July 1, 2021, such student success plans
82 shall be created, if possible, in collaboration with each student and the
83 parent or guardian of such student. On and after July 1, 2022, such
84 student success plans shall, to the extent it does not conflict with the
85 career choices of the student or such student's parent or guardian,
86 include an academic plan that is in compliance with the challenging
87 curriculum policy adopted by the local or regional board of education
88 pursuant to section 5 of this act.

89 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2022,
90 each local and regional board of education shall adopt a challenging
91 curriculum policy. A challenging curriculum policy shall include, but
92 need not be limited to, (1) criteria for the identification of students in
93 grades eight and nine who may be eligible to take or enroll in an
94 advanced course or program, as defined in section 3 of this act, and (2)
95 a provision requiring the creation of an academic plan, in accordance
96 with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section.

97 (b) Each local and regional board of education shall create an
98 academic plan for each student identified under the criteria described in
99 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section. In creating an academic
100 plan for a student, such plan shall be designed to enroll such student in
101 one or more advanced course or programs and allow such student to
102 earn college credit or result in career readiness. Each academic plan shall
103 be aligned with (1) the courses or programs offered by the local or
104 regional board of education, (2) such student's student success plan
105 created pursuant to subsection (j) of section 10-221a of the general
106 statutes, as amended by this act, (3) the high school graduation
107 requirements under section 10-221a of the general statutes, as amended
108 by this act, and (4) any other policies or standards adopted by the board
109 relating to the eligibility for student enrollment in advanced courses or
110 programs. A student, or the parent or guardian of a student, may decline
111 to implement the provisions of an academic plan created for such
112 student.

113 (c) A challenging curriculum policy adopted and implemented under
114 this section shall be in accordance with guidance provided by the
115 Department of Education.

116 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) For the school year commencing
117 July 1, 2021, and each school year thereafter, each local and regional
118 board of education shall provide assistance to students enrolled in grade
119 twelve in a high school under the jurisdiction of such board or an adult
120 education program maintained by such board pursuant to section 10-69
121 of the general statutes, and, as applicable, the parent and guardians of
122 such students in completing the Free Application for Federal Student
123 Aid. Such assistance shall be offered during times that are convenient
124 for student and parents and guardians, including, but not limited to,
125 during the regular school day, after school and in the evening. A local
126 or regional board of education may accept gifts, grants and donations,
127 including in-kind donations, to implement the provisions of this section.

128 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than July 1, 2022, each
129 local and regional board of education shall adopt a policy to improve
130 completion rates of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid by
131 students enrolled in grade twelve in a high school under the jurisdiction
132 of such board or an adult education program maintained by such board
133 pursuant to section 10-69 of the general statutes. A local or regional
134 board of education may accept gifts, grants and donations, including in-
135 kind donations, to implement the provisions of a policy adopted under
136 this section.

137 Sec. 8. Subsection (d) of section 10-262u of the general statutes is
138 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
139 *2021*):

140 (d) The local or regional board of education for a town designated as
141 an alliance district may apply to the Commissioner of Education, at such
142 time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes, to receive any
143 increase in funds received over the amount the town received for the
144 prior fiscal year pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-262i.

145 Applications pursuant to this subsection shall include objectives and
146 performance targets and a plan that are developed, in part, on the
147 strategic use of student academic performance data. Such plan may
148 include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) A tiered system of
149 interventions for the schools under the jurisdiction of such board based
150 on the needs of such schools, (2) ways to strengthen the foundational
151 programs in reading, through the intensive reading instruction program
152 pursuant to section 10-14u, to ensure reading mastery in kindergarten
153 to grade three, inclusive, with a focus on standards and instruction,
154 proper use of data, intervention strategies, current information for
155 teachers, parental engagement, and teacher professional development,
156 (3) additional learning time, including extended school day or school
157 year programming administered by school personnel or external
158 partners, (4) a talent strategy that includes, but is not limited to, teacher
159 and school leader recruitment and assignment, career ladder policies
160 that draw upon guidelines for a model teacher evaluation program
161 adopted by the State Board of Education, pursuant to section 10-151b,
162 and adopted by each local or regional board of education. Such talent
163 strategy may include provisions that demonstrate increased ability to
164 attract, retain, promote and bolster the performance of staff in
165 accordance with performance evaluation findings and, in the case of
166 new personnel, other indicators of effectiveness, (5) training for school
167 leaders and other staff on new teacher evaluation models, (6) provisions
168 for the cooperation and coordination with early childhood education
169 providers to ensure alignment with district expectations for student
170 entry into kindergarten, including funding for an existing local Head
171 Start program, (7) provisions for the cooperation and coordination with
172 other governmental and community programs to ensure that students
173 receive adequate support and wraparound services, including
174 community school models, (8) provisions for implementing and
175 furthering state-wide education standards adopted by the State Board
176 of Education and all activities and initiatives associated with such
177 standards, (9) strategies for attracting and recruiting minority teachers
178 and administrators, (10) provisions for the enhancement of bilingual
179 education programs, pursuant to section 10-17f, or other language

180 acquisition services to English language learners, including, but not
181 limited to, participation in the English language learner pilot program,
182 established pursuant to section 10-17n, (11) entering into the model
183 school district responsibilities agreement, described in section 10-223l,
184 (12) leadership succession plans that provide training and learning
185 opportunities for administrators and are designed to assist in the
186 seamless transition of school and district personnel in and out of
187 leadership positions in the school district and the continuous
188 implementation of plans developed under this subsection, (13)
189 providing assistance to students enrolled in grade twelve in a high
190 school under the jurisdiction of such board or an adult education
191 program maintained by such board pursuant to section 10-69, and, as
192 applicable, the parent and guardians of such students in completing the
193 Free Application for Federal Student Aid in accordance with the
194 provisions of section 6 of this act, and implementing the policy adopted
195 pursuant to section 7 of this act to improve completion rates of the Free
196 Application for Federal Student Aid by such students, and [(13)] (14)
197 any additional categories or goals as determined by the commissioner.
198 Such plan shall demonstrate collaboration with key stakeholders, as
199 identified by the commissioner, with the goal of achieving efficiencies
200 and the alignment of intent and practice of current programs with
201 conditional programs identified in this subsection. The commissioner
202 may (A) require changes in any plan submitted by a local or regional
203 board of education before the commissioner approves an application
204 under this subsection, and (B) permit a local or regional board of
205 education, as part of such plan, to use a portion of any funds received
206 under this section for the purposes of paying tuition charged to such
207 board pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (k) of section 10-264l or
208 subsection (b) of section 10-264o.

209 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than July 1, 2024, and
210 annually thereafter, the Department of Education shall publish and
211 make available on its Internet web site the student completion rate of
212 the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for the graduating class for
213 each high school and each school district. The department may exclude

214 the completion data of certain subgroups of students for the purposes
215 of publishing such data under this section if the career choices of the
216 students in such subgroup are not relevant or applicable to the
217 completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

218 Sec. 10. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Education shall
219 establish a working group to develop strategies and recommendations
220 to improve the rates of student completion of the Free Application for
221 Federal Student Aid. The membership of the working group shall
222 include, but need not be limited to, (1) the executive director of the
223 Office of Higher Education, or the executive director's designee, (2) the
224 president of Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, or the
225 president's designee, (3) the president of The University of Connecticut,
226 or the president's designee, and (4) one representative from each of the
227 following associations or organizations, designated by the association
228 or organization, the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, the
229 Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, the
230 Connecticut Education Association, the American Federation of
231 Teachers-Connecticut, the Connecticut Association of Schools, the RESC
232 Alliance, the Connecticut School Counselor Association and the
233 Connecticut Students for a DREAM. Not later than December 1, 2024,
234 the working group shall submit a report on its strategies and
235 recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General
236 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and
237 higher education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of
238 the general statutes.

239 Sec. 11. Section 10-184 of the general statutes is repealed and the
240 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

241 All parents and those who have the care of children shall bring them
242 up in some lawful and honest employment and instruct them or cause
243 them to be instructed in reading, writing, spelling, English grammar,
244 geography, arithmetic and United States history and in citizenship,
245 including a study of the town, state and federal governments. Subject to
246 the provisions of this section and section 10-15c, each parent or other

247 person having control of a child five years of age and over and under
248 eighteen years of age shall cause such child to attend a public school
249 regularly during the hours and terms the public school in the district in
250 which such child resides is in session, unless such child is a high school
251 graduate or the parent or person having control of such child is able to
252 show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the
253 studies taught in the public schools. For the school [year] years
254 commencing July 1, 2011, [and each school year thereafter] to July 1,
255 2022, inclusive, the parent or person having control of a child seventeen
256 years of age may consent, as provided in this section, to such child's
257 withdrawal from school. For the school year commencing July 1, 2023,
258 and each school year thereafter, a student who is eighteen years of age
259 or older may withdraw from school. Such parent, [or] person or student
260 shall personally appear at the school district office and sign a
261 withdrawal form. Such withdrawal form shall include an attestation
262 from a guidance counselor, school counselor or school administrator of
263 the school that such school district has provided such parent, [or] person
264 or student with information on the educational options available in the
265 school system and in the community. The parent or person having
266 control of a child seventeen years of age may withdraw such child from
267 school and enroll such child in an adult education program pursuant to
268 section 10-69. Such parent or person shall personally appear at the
269 school district office and sign an adult education withdrawal and
270 enrollment form. Such adult education withdrawal and enrollment form
271 shall include an attestation (1) from a school counselor or school
272 administrator of the school that such school district has provided such
273 parent or person with information on the educational options available
274 in the school system and in the community, and (2) from such parent or
275 person that such child will be enrolled in an adult education program
276 upon such child's withdrawal from school. The parent or person having
277 control of a child five years of age shall have the option of not sending
278 the child to school until the child is six years of age and the parent or
279 person having control of a child six years of age shall have the option of
280 not sending the child to school until the child is seven years of age. The
281 parent or person shall exercise such option by personally appearing at

282 the school district office and signing an option form. The school district
283 shall provide the parent or person with information on the educational
284 opportunities available in the school system.

285 Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 10-5 of the general statutes is
286 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
287 *2021*):

288 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall, in accordance with this
289 section, issue a state high school diploma to any person (1) who
290 successfully completes an examination approved by the commissioner,
291 or (2) who (A) is [seventeen] eighteen years of age or older and has been
292 officially withdrawn from school in accordance with the provisions of
293 section 10-184, as amended by this act, [or is eighteen years of age or
294 older,] and (B) presents to the commissioner evidence demonstrating
295 educational qualifications which the commissioner deems equivalent to
296 those required for graduation from a public high school. Application for
297 such a diploma shall be made in the manner and form prescribed by the
298 commissioner provided, at the time of application to take the
299 examination described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the
300 applicant [is seventeen years of age or older,] has been officially
301 withdrawn from school, in accordance with section 10-184, as amended
302 by this act, for at least six months and has been advised, in such manner
303 as may be prescribed by the commissioner, of the other options for high
304 school completion and other available educational programs. For good
305 cause shown, the commissioner may allow a person who is [sixteen]
306 seventeen years of age to apply to take the examination. [, provided the
307 commissioner may not issue a state high school diploma to such person
308 until the person has attained seventeen years of age.]

309 Sec. 13. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2022, the
310 Commissioner of Education, upon approval of the State Board of
311 Education, may submit to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
312 Management and to the joint standing committee of the General
313 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in
314 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,

315 recommendations concerning: (1) Providing information to students
 316 and their families about the net cost of attending college, how applying
 317 for federal Pell grants can make college more affordable for students,
 318 and the varying income potential of different college and certificate
 319 programs; (2) strategies to remove barriers and simplify access to high-
 320 quality postsecondary education and training options, including, but
 321 not limited to, non-degree programs; (3) the feasibility of establishing
 322 an early graduation program in which a student who graduates from
 323 high school in three years receives a scholarship from the local or
 324 regional board of education responsible for educating such student to
 325 attend an undergraduate, in-person program at a nonprofit institution
 326 of higher education in the state; and (4) the feasibility of developing a
 327 standardized exit survey for all students in grade twelve in the state. In
 328 developing such recommendations, the commissioner shall consult with
 329 the parents of students, teachers and school administrators, and may
 330 establish a working group with members selected by the commissioner.

331 Sec. 14. Section 10-220g of the general statutes is repealed and the
 332 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

333 Each local and regional board of education shall establish, and
 334 update as necessary, a written policy concerning [weighted grading for
 335 honors and advanced placement classes] the manner in which students'
 336 grade point averages are calculated, including whether such grade point
 337 average is weighted or not weighted. The policy shall provide that
 338 parents and students are advised as to whether a grade in an honors
 339 class, [or an] advanced placement class, International Baccalaureate
 340 program, Cambridge International program, dual enrollment, dual
 341 credit or early college is or is not given added weight for purposes of
 342 calculating grade point average and determining class rank."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2021	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2021	10-76xx
Sec. 3	July 1, 2021	New section

Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-221a(j)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-262u(d)
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-184
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-5(a)
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-220g