

Education Mandates Enacted in 2019

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Issue

This report summarizes the local education mandates the legislature enacted during the 2019 session.

Education Mandates

Table 1 lists the mandates that apply to all local and regional school districts. Not all the mandates included necessarily have a cost associated with them, but they place a requirement on the school district.

Many of the mandates add additional specifications or steps to an existing mandate (e.g., the mandates regarding “special education programs and services” and “teacher development and training”), and one provides more flexibility to an existing mandate (i.e., “establishment of a graduation date”). The table does not include obsolete and expired mandates and those that apply:

1. only to certain types of school districts, such as priority, alliance, or low-achieving school districts;
2. as a condition of receiving a state grant other than an Education Cost Sharing grant; or
3. to all public agencies, such as the Freedom of Information Act requirements.

Table 1: 2019 Statutory Mandates on All Local and Regional School Districts

STATUTE (CGS §) / PUBLIC ACT (PA)	MANDATE REQUIREMENTS
Victim Services Information	
10-10g , as amended by PA 19-146	Provide information from the Office of Victim Services regarding domestic violence services to any (1) student, parent, or guardian who expresses to a school employee that the student, parent, guardian, or a person residing with them does not feel safe at home because of domestic violence or (2) parent or guardian who authorizes the transfer of a student’s records to another school
Prescribed Courses of Study	
10-16b and 10-16ss , as amended by PA 19-12 , §§ 1 and 2	Include African-American and black studies and Puerto Rican and Latino studies in the curriculum, beginning in the 2021-2022 school year (existing law already required certain courses of study, including arts, career education, consumer education, health and safety, language arts, mathematics, physical education, science, and others)
Black and Latino Studies Course	
10-16uu , as amended by PA 19-12 , § 4	Offer a high school course in black and Latino studies in the 2022-2023 school year
Establishment of Graduation Date	
10-16l , as amended by PA 19-195	Must not schedule graduation ceremonies any time before the 180th day of the board-adopted school calendar (this is a modification of a requirement that under prior law prevented a board from setting a firm graduation date on the 180 th day until April 1. Before April 1, under the prior law, the board could set a firm date no earlier than the 185 day)
Special Education Programs and Services	
10-76d(a) , as amended by PA 19-49	Provide individualized education programs (IEPs) for children with autism, beginning at age 14, to include appropriate measurable postsecondary goals and transition services, including courses to assist the child in reaching the goals (prior law required this to begin when the child turned 16)
10-76d(i) , as amended by PA 19-184 , § 1	Prohibits boards from disciplining, suspending, terminating, or otherwise punishing an employee for making special education recommendations in planning and placement meetings
10-76jj , as amended by PA 19-184 , § 3	If a 504-accommodation plan (i.e., a plan under the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973) is for a child identified as deaf or hearing impaired, include a language and communication plan that addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • certain items stated in the law, such as assistive devices and services for the student (existing law already required these items for students with an IEP who are identified as deaf or hearing impaired) and procedures for notifying a student of an emergency and ensuring the student’s needs are met during the emergency

Table 1 (continued)

STATUTE (CGS §) / PUBLIC ACT (PA)	MANDATE REQUIREMENTS
PA 19-184, §4 (special act section)	Revise, by January 1, 2020, the school security and safety plan for each school under a board's jurisdiction to include provisions relating to emergency communication plans for students identified as deaf or hearing impaired
10-76xx, enacted by PA 19-184, § 7	Provide electronic notification to parents or guardians if the district identifies their child as gifted and talented and include certain information specified by the law
Teacher Development and Training	
10-148a and 10-220a , as amended by PA 19-100, §§ 1 and 2	Add culturally responsive pedagogy and practice to the required teacher professional development and in-service training that boards must offer
Boards of Education Duties	
10-220(b) , as amended by PA 19-58, §§ 1 and 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop career placement goals for students choosing not to pursue an advanced degree and include those goals in the board of education's statement of educational goals • Authorize guidance counselors to provide students with materials about manufacturing, military, and law enforcement careers when discussing career options
10-221a(j) , as amended by PA 19-58, § 3	As part of annual success plans that boards must create for each student (a pre-existing requirement), provide evidence of career exploration, including manufacturing careers, in each grade
10-221a(j) , as amended by PA 19-128, § 11	In annual success plans that boards must create for each student, give consideration to career and academic choices in computer science, science, technology, engineering, and math
Bullying	
10-222d , as amended by PA 19-166, § 3 ,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadens the existing anti-bullying law by eliminating from the definition of bullying the following two requirements (1) the action must occur more than once and (2) it has to be between students (effective July 1, 2021) • Include in the district's anti-bullying plan requirements regarding notifying parents after a bullying investigation is completed: (1) the results of the investigation and (2) inform parents of the plain language explanation of their legal rights regarding a local board that are posted on the local board's website (effective July 1, 2021)
10-222r , as amended by PA 19-166, § 4	Post on board of education's website, by June 30, 2021, a plain language explanation of parents' rights and remedies regarding a local board's failure to implement the educational interests of the state
10-222s , as amended by PA 19-166, § 5	Provide to the State Department of Education's website certain bullying prevention and intervention training materials for school administrators
Board of Education Expenses and Revenue	
10-248a , enacted by PA 19-117, § 290	Quarterly post online current and projected expenses and revenue and submit this information to the municipal legislative body or the board of selectmen, as applicable

Table 1 (continued)

STATUTE (CGS §) / PUBLIC ACT (PA)	MANDATE REQUIREMENTS
Homeless Youth	
10-186 , as amended by PA 19-179 , § 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add homeless youth (i.e., “unaccompanied youth” under federal law) to the list of people who, under the school accommodation law, must be notified when a district denies a student enrollment or other aspect of accommodation (in standard cases, only the parent or guardian is notified) • Modifies the burden of proof when a child claims to be homeless and establishes additional steps a board must take in these cases
10-253(f) , as amended by PA 19-179 , § 2	Grant homeless youths a hearing on denials for school accommodations because of residency
Smoking Prohibited on School Grounds	
19a-342 and -342a , as amended by PA 19-13 , §§ 17 and 18	Implement expanded ban on smoking (including vaping) in schools, which covers (1) when school is not in session or activities are being held and (2) school grounds

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