



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 654**

February Session, 2022

Substitute Senate Bill No. 427

*Senate, April 26, 2022*

The Committee on Appropriations reported through SEN. OSTEN of the 19th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE OPEN CHOICE PROGRAM AND CREATION OF THE STATE TEACHER SHORTAGE AND RETENTION TASK FORCE.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 10-266aa of the 2022 supplement  
2 to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

4 (c) The program shall be phased in as provided in this subsection. (1)  
5 For the school year commencing in 1998, and for each school year  
6 thereafter, the program shall be in operation in the Hartford, New  
7 Haven and Bridgeport regions. The Hartford program shall operate as  
8 a continuation of the program described in section 10-266j. Students  
9 who reside in Hartford, New Haven or Bridgeport may attend school in  
10 another school district in the region and students who reside in such  
11 other school districts may attend school in Hartford, New Haven or  
12 Bridgeport, provided, beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, the  
13 proportion of students who are not minority students to the total

14 number of students leaving Hartford, Bridgeport or New Haven to  
15 participate in the program shall not be greater than the proportion of  
16 students who were not minority students in the prior school year to the  
17 total number of students enrolled in Hartford, Bridgeport or New  
18 Haven in the prior school year. The regional educational service center  
19 operating the program shall make program participation decisions in  
20 accordance with the requirements of this subdivision. (2) For the school  
21 year commencing in 2000, and for each school year thereafter, the  
22 program shall be in operation in New London, provided beginning with  
23 the 2001-2002 school year, the proportion of students who are not  
24 minority students to the total number of students leaving New London  
25 to participate in the program shall not be greater than the proportion of  
26 students who were not minority students in the prior year to the total  
27 number of students enrolled in New London in the prior school year.  
28 The regional educational service center operating the program shall  
29 make program participation decisions in accordance with this  
30 subdivision. (3) The Department of Education may provide, within  
31 available appropriations, grants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003,  
32 to the remaining regional educational service centers to assist school  
33 districts in planning for a voluntary program of student enrollment in  
34 every priority school district, pursuant to section 10-266p, which is  
35 interested in participating in accordance with this subdivision. For the  
36 school year commencing in 2003, and for each school year thereafter, the  
37 voluntary enrollment program may be in operation in every priority  
38 school district in the state. Students from other school districts in the  
39 area of a priority school district, as determined by the regional  
40 educational service center pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, may  
41 attend school in the priority school district, provided such students  
42 bring racial, ethnic and economic diversity to the priority school district  
43 and do not increase the racial, ethnic and economic isolation in the  
44 priority school district. (4) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022,  
45 there shall be a pilot program in operation in Danbury and Norwalk.  
46 The pilot program shall serve (A) up to fifty students who reside in  
47 Danbury, and such students may attend school in the school districts for  
48 the towns of New Fairfield, Brookfield, Bethel, Ridgefield and Redding,

49 and (B) up to fifty students who reside in Norwalk, and such students  
50 may attend school in the school districts for the towns of Darien, New  
51 Canaan, Wilton, Weston and Westport. School districts which receive  
52 students from Danbury and Norwalk under the pilot program during  
53 the school year commencing July 1, 2022, shall allow such students to  
54 attend school in the district until they graduate from high school. (5) For  
55 the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year  
56 thereafter, the town of Guilford shall be eligible to participate in the  
57 program as a receiving district and a sending district with New Haven.

58 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established the state teacher  
59 shortage and retention task force. The task force shall develop a  
60 comprehensive report that includes recommendations that address (1)  
61 strategies to address attrition rates of teachers leaving the teaching  
62 profession, (2) the retention of teachers, (3) teacher shortages across  
63 subject matter disciplines, (4) the impact of retention and shortages in  
64 financially distressed school districts, and (5) streamlining teacher  
65 certification without diminishing standards or the professional value of  
66 a teaching certificate. In developing the report, the task force shall  
67 address issues relating to equity, diversity and inclusion, and examine  
68 strategies being used in other states to address teacher shortages and to  
69 attract and retain teachers.

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

71 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
72 one of whom is a certified teacher teaching in grades six to twelve,  
73 inclusive, and recommended by the Connecticut Education Association,  
74 and one of whom is a certified teacher teaching in grades six to twelve,  
75 inclusive, and recommended by the American Federation of Teachers-  
76 Connecticut;

77 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of  
78 whom is a certified teacher teaching in grades kindergarten to five,  
79 inclusive, and recommended by the Connecticut Education Association,  
80 and one of whom is a certified teacher teaching in grades kindergarten  
81 to five, inclusive, and recommended by the American Federation of

82 Teachers-Connecticut;

83 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
84 Representatives, who is a certified teacher teaching in a priority school  
85 district, as described in section 10-266p of the general statutes, and  
86 recommended by the Connecticut Education Association;

87 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is a  
88 certified teacher teaching in a priority school district and recommended  
89 by the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut;

90 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
91 Representatives, who is a certified administrator and recommended by  
92 the Connecticut Association of Schools;

93 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a  
94 certified administrator serving as the principal of a school located in a  
95 priority school district and recommended by the Connecticut  
96 Association of Schools;

97 (7) One appointed by the House chairperson of the joint standing  
98 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
99 relating to education, who is a certified teacher and is serving as a  
100 member of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Policy Oversight Council,  
101 established pursuant to section 10-156bb of the general statutes;

102 (8) One appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing  
103 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
104 relating to education, who is a certified teacher and is serving, or has  
105 served, as a member of the minority teacher recruitment task force,  
106 established pursuant to section 10-156aa of the general statutes;

107 (9) One appointed jointly by the House and Senate ranking members  
108 of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
109 cognizance of matters relating to education, who is a faculty member of  
110 an institution of higher education in the state and has expertise in  
111 teacher recruitment strategies and is recommended by the Connecticut  
112 chapter of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education;

113 (10) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

114 (11) The chief administrator of the Teachers' Retirement Board, or the  
115 chief administrator's designee; and

116 (12) Four persons appointed by the Governor, one of whom is a  
117 member of the State Board of Education, one of whom is a member of  
118 the Technical Education and Career System board, and two of whom are  
119 representatives of the Connecticut Association for Public School  
120 Superintendents.

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

124 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
125 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force  
126 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall  
127 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later  
128 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

129 (e) 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 (f) Not later than January 4, 2023, the task force shall submit a report  
133 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of  
134 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
135 education and children, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
136 4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that  
137 it submits such report or January 4, 2023, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	10-266aa(c)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

***ED***      *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

APP

***APP***      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Guilford	Revenue Gain	less than 50,000	less than 50,000

**Explanation**

The bill makes Guilford eligible to participate in the Open Choice Program, beginning with the 2022-23 school year. This results in a cost to the state and a corresponding revenue gain to Guilford. However, it is anticipated that in FY 23 the costs and corresponding revenue gain would be less than \$50,000, and the Open Choice account has the funds available to cover this additional expense. The bill also establishes a state teacher shortage and retention task force, which is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 427*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF THE OPEN CHOICE PROGRAM AND CREATION OF THE STATE TEACHER SHORTAGE AND RETENTION TASK FORCE.*****SUMMARY**

Beginning with the 2022-23 school year, this bill makes Guilford public schools eligible to participate in the Open Choice Program as a receiving and sending district paired with New Haven public schools. Although Guilford and New Haven are currently served by different Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs), generally, as part of the program, students only attend public schools in the same RESC region.

Open Choice is a voluntary interdistrict attendance program that allows students from large urban districts to attend suburban schools and vice versa on a space-available basis. Its purpose is to reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation; improve academic achievement; and provide public school choice. In consultation with RESCs, receiving districts determine whether they will participate in the program and how many seats they will make available to students.

The bill also creates the state teacher shortage and retention task force and makes it responsible for reporting on recommendations that address, among other things, (1) teacher attrition and retention, (2) teacher shortages across subject matter disciplines, and (3) issues relating to equity and diversity.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022, except the task force provision is effective upon passage.

**STATE TEACHER SHORTAGE AND RETENTION TASK FORCE**

The bill creates the state teacher shortage and retention task force and



requires it to develop a comprehensive report with recommendations addressing (1) teacher attrition rates and retention, (2) teacher shortages across subject matter disciplines, (3) the impact of retention and shortages on financially distressed school districts, and (4) streamlining teacher certification without diminishing standards or the professional value of a teaching certificate.

In developing the report, the task force must (1) address issues relating to equity, diversity, and inclusion and (2) examine strategies other states use to address teacher shortages and to attract and retain teachers.

The task force must submit its report to the Education and Children's committees by January 4, 2023. The task force terminates on that date or when it submits its report, whichever is later.

### ***Membership and Appointments***

The 17-member task force consists of the following members:

1. two appointed by the House speaker who are certified teachers for grades 6 to 12, one each recommended by the (a) Connecticut Education Association and (b) American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut;
2. two appointed by the Senate president pro tempore who are certified teachers teaching in grades kindergarten to five, one each recommended by the (a) Connecticut Education Association and (b) American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut;
3. one appointed by the House majority leader who is a certified teacher in a priority school district and recommended by the Connecticut Education Association;
4. one appointed by the Senate majority leader who is a certified teacher in a priority school district and recommended by the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut;
5. one appointed by the House minority leader who is a certified

- administrator and recommended by the Connecticut Association of Schools;
6. one appointed by the Senate minority leader who is a certified administrator serving as the principal of a school located in a priority school district and recommended by the Connecticut Association of Schools;
  7. one appointed by the Education Committee's House chairperson who is a certified teacher and is serving as a member of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Policy Oversight Council;
  8. one appointed by the Education Committee's Senate chairperson who is a certified teacher and is serving, or has served, as a member of the minority teacher recruitment task force;
  9. one appointed jointly by the Education Committee's House and Senate ranking members who is a faculty member at a Connecticut higher education institution and has expertise in teacher recruitment strategies and is recommended by the Connecticut chapter of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education;
  10. the education commissioner or her designee;
  11. the Teachers' Retirement Board's chief administrator or her designee; and
  12. four gubernatorial appointments, (a) one who is a State Board of Education member, (b) one who is a Technical Education and Career System board member, and (c) two who represent the Connecticut Association for Public School Superintendents.

Appointing authorities must make their appointments within 30 days after the bill's passage and fill any vacancies. The House speaker and Senate president pro tempore must select the chairpersons from among the task force's membership. The chairpersons must schedule the first meeting within 60 days after the bill's passage.

The Education Committee’s administrative staff serve as the task force’s administrative staff.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference - APP

Yea 39 Nay 0 (03/25/2022)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 50 Nay 0 (04/07/2022)