



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

***Raised Bill No. 5280***

LCO No. 1698



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF BILINGUAL EDUCATION  
IN CONNECTICUT.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-17g of the 2022 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

4 For the fiscal [years] year ending [June 30, 2016, to] June 30, 2023,  
5 [inclusive] and each fiscal year thereafter, the board of education for  
6 each local and regional school district that is required to provide a  
7 program of bilingual education, pursuant to section 10-17f, may make  
8 application to the State Board of Education and shall annually receive,  
9 within available appropriations, a grant in an amount equal to the  
10 product obtained by multiplying [one million nine hundred sixteen  
11 thousand one hundred thirty] three million eight hundred thirty-two  
12 thousand two hundred sixty by the ratio which the number of eligible  
13 children in the school district bears to the total number of such eligible  
14 children state-wide. The board of education for each local and regional  
15 school district receiving funds pursuant to this section shall annually,

16 on or before September first, submit to the State Board of Education a  
17 progress report which shall include (1) measures of increased  
18 educational opportunities for eligible students, including language  
19 support services and language transition support services provided to  
20 such students, (2) program evaluation and measures of the effectiveness  
21 of its bilingual education and English as a second language programs,  
22 including data on students in bilingual education programs and  
23 students educated exclusively in English as a second language  
24 programs, and (3) certification by the board of education submitting the  
25 report that any funds received pursuant to this section have been used  
26 for the purposes specified. The State Board of Education shall annually  
27 evaluate programs conducted pursuant to section 10-17f. For purposes  
28 of this section, measures of the effectiveness of bilingual education and  
29 English as a second language programs include, but need not be limited  
30 to, mastery examination results, under section 10-14n, and graduation  
31 and school dropout rates. Any amount appropriated under this section  
32 in excess of [one million nine hundred sixteen thousand one hundred  
33 thirty] three million eight hundred thirty-two thousand two hundred  
34 sixty dollars shall be spent in accordance with the provisions of sections  
35 10-17k, 10-17n and 10-66t. Any unexpended funds, as of November first,  
36 appropriated to the Department of Education for purposes of providing  
37 a grant to a local or regional board of education for the provision of a  
38 program of bilingual education, pursuant to section 10-17f, shall be  
39 distributed on a pro rata basis to each local and regional board of  
40 education receiving a grant under this section. Notwithstanding the  
41 provisions of this section, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2009, to  
42 June 30, 2023, inclusive, the amount of grants payable to local or regional  
43 boards of education for the provision of a program of bilingual  
44 education under this section shall be reduced proportionately if the total  
45 of such grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for such  
46 grants for such year.

47 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) As used in this section:

48 (1) "Dual language program" means any program, including a two-

49 way immersion program or a one-way immersion program, that  
50 provides literacy and content instruction to all students through two  
51 languages and promotes bilingualism and biliteracy, grade-level  
52 academic achievement and socio-cultural competence for all students;

53 (2) "Two-way immersion program" means a dual language program  
54 in which two groups of students, one of which is composed of native  
55 English speakers and the other of which is composed of native speakers  
56 of a single other language, learn together in a systematic way so that  
57 both groups become bilingual and biliterate in the two languages; and

58 (3) "One-way immersion program" means a dual language program  
59 in which a group of students who speak one language are taught in the  
60 students' native language and English throughout the school day.

61 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year  
62 thereafter, the Department of Education shall administer a dual  
63 language seed grant program that provides grants to local and regional  
64 boards of education for the purpose of establishing new or expanding  
65 existing dual language programs. The department shall annually award  
66 up to five grants to a local or regional board of education, in accordance  
67 with the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, and each such grant  
68 may be in an amount up to three hundred thousand dollars.

69 (c) A local or regional board of education may submit, at such time  
70 and manner as prescribed by the department, an application for a grant  
71 under the program. An application shall include a plan for how such  
72 grant will be expended.

73 (d) The department shall review all applications for a grant under this  
74 section, and may not award a grant unless the plan for the expenditure  
75 of the grant included in an application is reviewed and approved by the  
76 department. In reviewing an application and expenditure plan and  
77 considering whether to award a grant to a local or regional board of  
78 education under this section, the department shall give priority to those  
79 applications that (1) are submitted by an alliance district or a school

80 district in which twenty per cent or more of the student population is  
 81 identified as English language learners, (2) include a plan in which such  
 82 board will be collaborating with an institution of higher education, as  
 83 defined in section 10a-34 of the general statutes, (3) include a letter of  
 84 commitment from community partners to collaborate on the  
 85 development or implementation of the dual language program, (4)  
 86 include a comprehensive plan to recruit, train and retain dual language  
 87 program educators through coursework or appropriate professional  
 88 development, (5) include a plan to provide targeted services for specific  
 89 student populations of English language learners, (6) provide a dual  
 90 language program that demonstrates equitable access to high quality  
 91 instruction for students who are English language learners, and (7)  
 92 include a plan with strategies for family and community engagement in  
 93 the development or implementation of the dual language program.

94 (e) A local or regional board of education that receives a grant under  
 95 the program will have three years to expend the grant in accordance  
 96 with the provisions of the approved plan. Such board may expend a  
 97 grant awarded under this section to (1) partner with experts in dual  
 98 language instruction and programs to develop and incorporate program  
 99 elements that would serve the student population and the community,  
 100 (2) create and utilize a variety of approaches to recruit, train and retain  
 101 dual language program educators, and (3) implement culturally  
 102 responsive teaching practices that promote equity and social justice in  
 103 new or existing dual language programs.

104 (f) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of this section  
 105 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available for  
 106 expenditure during the next fiscal year.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2022	10-17g
Sec. 2	July 1, 2022	New section

***ED***      *Joint Favorable C/R*      APP  
***APP***      *Joint Favorable*