



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 5466

LCO No. 3013



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING ASSORTED REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2022*) The Department of Education shall
2 conduct a feasibility study regarding the establishment and
3 implementation of one or more recovery high schools in the state. The
4 department shall examine how other states have implemented and
5 integrated recovery high schools into their public school system. Not
6 later than January 1, 2023, the department shall submit a report on its
7 findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the
8 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
9 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
10 For purposes of this section, "recovery high school" means a high school
11 designed specifically for students in recovery from substance use
12 disorder or co-occurring disorders.

13 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-15b of the general statutes is
14 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
15 *2022*):

16 (a) Either parent or legal guardian of a minor student shall, upon
17 written request to a local or regional board of education and within a
18 reasonable time, be entitled to knowledge of and access to all
19 educational, medical, or similar records maintained in such student's
20 cumulative record, including such student's class rank, except that no
21 parent or legal guardian shall be entitled to information considered
22 privileged under section 10-154a. Nothing in this section shall be
23 construed to limit a parent who is incarcerated from being entitled to
24 knowledge of and access to all educational, medical or similar records
25 maintained in the cumulative record of any minor student of such
26 incarcerated parent, except that such incarcerated parent shall not be
27 entitled to such records if (1) such information is considered privileged
28 under section 10-154a, (2) such incarcerated parent has been convicted
29 in this state or any other state of a violation of section 53a-70, 53a-70a,
30 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a, or (3) such incarcerated parent is
31 prohibited from knowledge of or access to such student's cumulative
32 record pursuant to a court order.

33 Sec. 3. Section 10-1 of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is
34 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
35 *2022*):

36 (a) (1) Prior to July 1, 1998, the State Board of Education shall consist
37 of nine members. On and after July 1, 1998, but prior to July 1, 2010, the
38 State Board of Education shall consist of eleven members, two of whom
39 shall be nonvoting student members.

40 (2) On and after July 1, 2010, but prior to April 1, 2011, the State Board
41 of Education shall consist of thirteen members, at least two of whom
42 shall have experience in manufacturing or a trade offered at the regional
43 vocational-technical schools or be alumni of or have served as educators
44 at a regional vocational-technical school and two of whom shall be
45 nonvoting student members. Only those members with experience in
46 manufacturing or a trade offered at the regional vocational-technical
47 schools or are alumni of or have served as educators at a regional
48 vocational-technical school shall be eligible to serve as the chairperson

49 for the regional vocational-technical school subcommittee of the board.

50 (3) On and after April 1, 2011, but prior to July 1, 2012, the State Board
51 of Education shall consist of thirteen members, (A) at least two of whom
52 shall have experience in manufacturing or a trade offered at the regional
53 vocational-technical schools or be alumni of or have served as educators
54 at a regional vocational-technical school, (B) at least one of whom shall
55 have experience in agriculture or be an alumni of or have served as an
56 educator at a regional agricultural science and technology education
57 center, and (C) two of whom shall be nonvoting student members. Only
58 those members described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall
59 be eligible to serve as the chairperson for the regional vocational-
60 technical school subcommittee of the board.

61 (4) On and after July 1, 2012, but prior to February 1, 2023, the State
62 Board of Education shall consist of fourteen members, (A) at least two
63 of whom shall have experience in manufacturing or a trade offered at
64 the technical education and career schools or be alumni of or have
65 served as educators at a technical education and career school, (B) at
66 least one of whom shall have experience in agriculture or be an alumni
67 of or have served as an educator at a regional agricultural science and
68 technology education center, and (C) two of whom shall be nonvoting
69 student members.

70 (5) On and after February 1, 2023, the State Board of Education shall
71 consist of twenty members as follows: (A) Fourteen appointed by the
72 Governor in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this
73 section and of which (i) at least two of whom shall have experience in
74 manufacturing or a trade offered at the technical education and career
75 schools or be alumni of or have served as educators at a technical
76 education and career school, (ii) at least one of whom shall have
77 experience in agriculture or be an alumni of or have served as an
78 educator at a regional agricultural science and technology education
79 center, and (iii) two of whom shall be nonvoting student members, (B)
80 one appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, (C) one
81 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, (D) one

82 appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, (E)
83 one appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, (F) one appointed
84 by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and (G) one
85 appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

86 (b) The Governor shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the
87 General Assembly, the members of said board, provided each student
88 member (1) is on the list submitted to the Governor pursuant to section
89 10-2a, (2) is enrolled in a public high school in the state, (3) has
90 completed eleventh grade prior to the commencement of his term, (4)
91 has at least a B plus average, and (5) provides at least three references
92 from teachers in the school the student member is attending. The
93 nonstudent members shall serve for terms of four years commencing on
94 March first in the year of their appointment. The student members shall
95 serve for terms of one year commencing on July first in the year of their
96 appointment. The president of the Connecticut State Colleges and
97 Universities, the chairperson of the Technical Education and Career
98 System board and the Chief Workforce Officer shall serve as ex-officio
99 members without a vote. Any vacancy in said State Board of Education
100 shall be filled in the manner provided in section 4-19.

101 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) (a) On or before September 1, 2022, the
102 governing authority for intramural and interscholastic athletics in the
103 state shall convene a working group to study the efficacy of throat
104 guards in preventing catastrophic neck injuries to interscholastic,
105 intramural and youth ice hockey athletes. The working group may
106 include representatives from organizations representing athletic
107 trainers in the state, sports medicine physicians, that research athlete
108 safety and sudden death prevention, that oversees youth hockey,
109 independent interscholastic athletic leagues. The working group may
110 also include any member of the General Assembly who would like to
111 participate in the working group. The study shall include, but need not
112 be limited to, (1) a review of current policies issued by national sport
113 governing bodies on the use of throat guards in ice hockey, and (2) an
114 analysis of relevant studies (A) on the prevalence of catastrophic throat
115 injuries in interscholastic, intramural and youth ice hockey, (B) on the

116 effectiveness of throat guards in preventing catastrophic throat injuries
117 in interscholastic, intramural and youth ice hockey, and (C) to identify
118 any concerns associated with the use of throat guards by interscholastic,
119 intramural and youth ice hockey athletes.

120 (b) Not later than January 1, 2023, the working group shall submit a
121 report on its findings and safety recommendations for interscholastic
122 and youth ice hockey programs to the joint standing committee of the
123 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
124 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
125 The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such
126 report or January 1, 2023, whichever is later.

127 Sec. 5. Section 3 of public act 21-95 is repealed and the following is
128 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

129 (a) There is established a task force to study issues relating to the
130 provision and funding of special education in the state during the school
131 years commencing July 1, 2016, to July 1, 2020, inclusive. Such study
132 shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination of (1) the
133 provision of special education and related services, including whether
134 local and regional boards of education are providing such services
135 directly or partnering with regional educational service centers,
136 contracting with a private provider of special education services, as
137 defined in section 10-91g of the general statutes, or as part of a
138 cooperative arrangement pursuant to section 10-158a of the general
139 statutes, (2) the cost of providing special education and related services,
140 the total aggregate amount per school district per year and the annual
141 percentage increase or decrease per school district of such cost, (3) the
142 effect that the cost of special education has on a board of education's
143 minimum budget requirement, (4) the level of state reimbursement to
144 boards of education for special education, including the total amount
145 for reimbursement submitted by each school district per year and the
146 total amount received by such school district per year, and the
147 percentage increase or decrease per year of the difference of the total
148 amount submitted and the total amount received for each school

149 district, and (5) the criteria and manner by which school districts are
150 identifying students who require special education and related services,
151 including whether school districts are overidentifying or
152 underidentifying such students and the causes and reasons for such
153 overidentification and underidentification.

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

155 (1) Three appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
156 one of whom is a representative of the Special Education Equity for Kids
157 of Connecticut, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut
158 Association of Boards of Education and one of whom is the parent or
159 guardian of a student who is enrolled in a public school and receiving
160 special education services;

161 (2) Three appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one
162 of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Public
163 School Superintendents, one of whom is a representative of the
164 Connecticut Education Association and one of whom is the parent or
165 guardian of a student who is enrolled in a public school and receiving
166 special education services;

167 (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of
168 Representatives, one of whom is a representative of the American
169 Federation of Teachers-Connecticut and one of whom is a representative
170 of the Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center;

171 (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom
172 is a representative of the Connecticut Council of Administrators of
173 Special Education and one of whom is a representative of the RESC
174 Alliance;

175 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
176 Representatives, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut
177 Association of School Administrators and one of whom is a
178 representative of the School and State Finance Project;

179 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom
180 is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Schools and one of
181 whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of School
182 Business Officials;

183 (7) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

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

187 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
188 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the cochairpersons of the task force
189 from among the members of the task force. Such cochairpersons shall
190 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later
191 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

192 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
193 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
194 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

195 (f) Not later than January 1, [2022] 2023, the task force shall submit a
196 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
197 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
198 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
199 of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
200 submits such report or January 1, [2022] 2023, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	10-15b(a)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	10-1
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	PA 21-95, Sec. 3

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) conduct a feasibility study of implementing recovery schools in the state; (2) permit the parent of a student to have access to such student's class rank; (3) add legislative appointments to the State Board of Education; (4) establish a working group to study the efficacy of throat guards in preventing catastrophic neck injuries to interscholastic, intramural and youth ice hockey athletes; and (5) extend the deadline for the special education task force to complete its work.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]