



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 590**

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6880

*House of Representatives, April 13, 2023*

The Committee on Education reported through REP. CURREY of the 11th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **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. Subsection (e) of section 10-220 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
3 *2023*):

4 (e) Each local and regional board of education shall establish a school  
5 district curriculum committee. The committee shall recommend,  
6 develop, review and approve all curriculum for the local or regional  
7 school district. Each local and regional board of education shall make  
8 available all curriculum approved by the committee and all associated  
9 curriculum materials in accordance with the requirements of the  
10 Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, 20 USC 1232h.

11 Sec. 2. Section 10-215 of the general statutes is amended by adding  
12 subsection (d) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

13 (NEW) (d) Each local or regional board of education shall post on its  
14 Internet web site and in the school cafeteria or other central area of food  
15 consumption of each school in the local or regional school district a  
16 notice that the nutritional value of each school lunch, breakfast or other  
17 such feeding provided by such board is in compliance with the meal  
18 requirements for the National School Lunch Program and School  
19 Breakfast Program established by the United States Department of  
20 Agriculture.

21 Sec. 3. Section 10-73d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
22 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

23 A public school student who is both under seventeen years of age and  
24 a [mother] parent may request permission from the local or regional  
25 board of education to attend adult education classes. The local or  
26 regional board of education may, by a majority vote of the members of  
27 the board present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the board  
28 called for such purpose, assign such student to adult education classes.

29 Sec. 4. Section 10-15k of the general statutes is repealed and the  
30 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

31 (a) As used in this section: [, "remote learning"]

32 (1) "Remote learning" means instruction by means of one or more  
33 Internet-based software platforms as part of a remote learning model;  
34 and

35 (2) "Eligible student" means a student who resides in the state, but is  
36 unable to attend school in-person due to a medical condition or  
37 vaccination status.

38 (b) The Department of Education shall develop a plan for the creation  
39 and implementation of a state-wide remote learning school that offers  
40 grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, and provides remote learning  
41 to students. In the course of developing such plan, the department shall  
42 (1) consider the findings and recommendations of the report created by  
43 the Connecticut Remote Learning Commission pursuant to section 10-

44 15j, (2) review remote learning schools and models being implemented  
45 in other states, and (3) estimate the number of eligible students. [who  
46 reside in Connecticut that may be eligible to enroll in such state-wide  
47 remote learning school.] The department shall use, to the extent  
48 permissible under federal guidelines, funds received from the  
49 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act,  
50 P.L. 116-260, as amended from time to time, to develop such plan.

51 (c) Any state-wide remote learning school that may be created under  
52 such plan shall (1) be maintained by and under the direction and control  
53 of the State Board of Education, (2) provide in each school year not less  
54 than one hundred eighty days of actual school sessions and nine  
55 hundred hours of actual school work for grades kindergarten to twelve,  
56 inclusive, provided not more than seven hours of actual school work in  
57 any school day shall count toward the total required for the school year,  
58 (3) offer coursework and a curriculum that is rigorous, aligned with  
59 curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education, and in  
60 accordance with the state-wide subject matter content standards,  
61 adopted by the state board pursuant to section 10-4, (4) grant a diploma,  
62 in accordance with the provisions of section 10-5, to any student  
63 enrolled in such state-wide remote learning school who has  
64 satisfactorily completed the high school graduation requirements  
65 described in section 10-221a, and (5) be created with consideration given  
66 to best practices in remote learning, technological capabilities of  
67 students throughout the state and equity.

68 (d) The department shall draft a request for proposals for any items  
69 required to create and implement a state-wide remote learning school.

70 (e) Not later than [July 1, 2023] January 1, 2024, the department shall  
71 submit the plan, the draft request for proposals and any  
72 recommendations for legislation related to the implementation of such  
73 plan to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
74 cognizance of matters relating to education and appropriations, in  
75 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

76 Sec. 5. Section 10-220 of the general statutes is amended by adding

77 subsection (g) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

78 (NEW) (g) Each local or regional board of education conducting a  
79 regular or special meeting of such board shall make available for public  
80 inspection the agenda for the meeting or any associated documents that  
81 may be reviewed by members of the board at such meeting and post  
82 such agenda and documents on the Internet web site of such board.

83 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The Commissioner of  
84 Education shall appoint a parent advisory committee and a teacher  
85 advisory committee to include the perspective of each committee in the  
86 development and implementation of policies by the Department of  
87 Education. Each committee shall have the following duties: (1) Advise  
88 the commissioner and the administrators and staff of the department,  
89 (2) hold meetings at least quarterly, of which at least two annually shall  
90 be in person, (3) provide recommendations on the topics, determined in  
91 consultation with department administrators, related to improving  
92 elementary and secondary education, including, but not limited to,  
93 teacher recruitment, special education, testing and assessment,  
94 equitable distribution of teachers, diversity among teachers, school  
95 safety and social and emotional learning, (4) submit annual reports  
96 summarizing the work of such committee to the department, and (5)  
97 consult with department administrators, as needed, on the annual  
98 report or any recommendations provided pursuant to subdivision (3) of  
99 this subsection.

100 (b) The parent advisory committee and the teacher advisory  
101 committee shall each consist of not fewer than ten members. The  
102 Commissioner of Education shall appoint the members of each  
103 committee from applications submitted to the Department of Education  
104 for the purpose of serving on either such committee, in the form and  
105 manner prescribed by the commissioner, with the goal of appointing a  
106 membership to each committee that is representative of the diversity of  
107 teachers and students in the state and in areas of expertise designated  
108 by department administrators, in consultation with any existing parent  
109 advisory committee and teacher advisory committee.

110 (c) The members of the teacher advisory committee shall be regular  
111 or special education teachers in the state, not less than five of whom  
112 shall also have been members of the Connecticut Teacher of the Year  
113 Council in any year as a teacher of the year, finalist or semifinalist. The  
114 members of the parent advisory committee shall include representation  
115 for urban, suburban and rural school districts and for schools providing  
116 an elementary school, middle school and high school education. The  
117 commissioner shall appoint only those individuals as members of each  
118 committee who have (1) an understanding of current issues in public  
119 education, (2) experience working in educational policy, (3) (A)  
120 exceptional instructional practice with an ability to engage students as  
121 a teacher, or (B) demonstrated a history of holding leadership roles  
122 within schools or advocacy groups as a parent, and (4) submitted an  
123 application to the department's Talent Office for membership on the  
124 parent advisory committee or the teacher advisory committee.

125 (d) For the initial appointments made to the parent advisory group  
126 and the teacher advisory group, not fewer than five members of each  
127 advisory group shall be appointed for a term of one year from the date  
128 of appointment and the remaining five members of each advisory group  
129 shall be appointed for a term of two years from the date of appointment.  
130 The members appointed to each advisory group in each subsequent year  
131 thereafter shall be appointed for a term of two years from the date of  
132 appointment. Any member may be reappointed for more than one term,  
133 provided such member reapplies for each new term. Members shall  
134 continue to serve until their successors are appointed. Any vacancy  
135 occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the balance  
136 of the unexpired term by the Commissioner of Education from the  
137 existing pool of applicants for such committee.

138 (e) The members of the parent advisory group and the teacher  
139 advisory group shall serve without compensation, except the  
140 Department of Education shall, within the limits of available funds,  
141 reimburse (1) such members for expenses necessarily incurred in the  
142 performance of their duties, and (2) the local or regional board of  
143 education that employs a member of the teacher advisory group for

144 payments to substitute teachers incurred as a result of such member  
145 performing necessary duties for such committee.

146 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is  
147 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
148 *2023*):

149 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-  
150 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil  
151 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or  
152 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such  
153 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)  
154 the nature and the relationship of alcohol and drugs, as defined in  
155 subdivision (17) of section 21a-240, to health and personality  
156 development, and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health  
157 and mental health risk reduction education that includes, but need not  
158 be limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the  
159 relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually  
160 transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in  
161 section 19a-581, violence, teen dating violence, domestic violence and  
162 child abuse, (3) school violence prevention, conflict resolution, the  
163 prevention of and response to youth suicide and the identification and  
164 prevention of and response to bullying, as defined in subsection (a) of  
165 section 10-222d, except that those boards of education that implement  
166 any evidence-based model approach that is approved by the  
167 Department of Education and is consistent with subsection (c) of section  
168 10-145a, sections 10-222d, 10-222g and 10-222h, subsection (g) of section  
169 10-233c and sections 1 and 3 of public act 08-160, shall not be required  
170 to provide in-service training on the identification and prevention of  
171 and response to bullying, (4) cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other  
172 emergency life saving procedures, (5) the requirements and obligations  
173 of a mandated reporter, (6) the detection and recognition of, and  
174 evidence-based structured literacy interventions for, students with  
175 dyslexia, as defined in section 10-3d, (7) culturally responsive pedagogy  
176 and practice, including, but not limited to, the video training module  
177 relating to implicit bias and anti-bias in the hiring process in accordance

178 with the provisions of section 10-156hh, [and] (8) the principles and  
179 practices of social-emotional learning and restorative practices, and (9)  
180 emergency response to students who experience a seizure in a school,  
181 including, but not limited to, the recognition of the signs and symptoms  
182 of seizures, the appropriate steps for seizure first aid, information about  
183 seizure action plans for students and, for those authorized to administer  
184 medication under section 10-212a, the administration of seizure rescue  
185 medication or prescribed electrical stimulation using a Vagus Nerve  
186 Stimulator magnet. Each local or regional board of education may allow  
187 any paraprofessional or noncertified employee to participate, on a  
188 voluntary basis, in any in-service training program provided pursuant  
189 to this section.

190 Sec. 8. Subsection (e) of section 10-16x of the general statutes is  
191 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
192 *2023*):

193 (e) The Department of Education shall, [provide grant recipients with  
194 technical assistance, evaluation, program monitoring, professional  
195 development and accreditation support] in collaboration with regional  
196 educational service centers, support grant recipients by (1) monitoring  
197 and evaluating programs and activities, (2) conducting a comprehensive  
198 evaluation of the effectiveness of programs and implementing risk  
199 assessments, (3) providing technical assistance and training to eligible  
200 applicants, and (4) ensuring program activities are aligned with state  
201 academic standards. The department may retain up to [four] seven and  
202 one-half per cent of the amount appropriated for the grant program for  
203 purposes of this subsection.

204 Sec. 9. Section 10-357b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
205 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

206 (a) The purposes of the State Education Resource Center, established  
207 pursuant to section 10-357a, shall be to assist the State Board of  
208 Education in the provision of programs and activities that will promote  
209 educational equity and excellence. Such activities shall be limited to:  
210 Training, technical assistance and professional development for local

211 and regional boards of education, school leaders, teachers, families and  
212 community partners in the form of seminars, publications, site visits, on-  
213 line content and other appropriate means; maintaining a state education  
214 resource center library; publication of technical materials; research and  
215 evaluation; writing, managing, administering and coordinating grants  
216 for the purposes described in this subsection; and any other related  
217 activities directly related to the purposes described in this subsection.  
218 The center shall support local educational agencies serving the needs of  
219 families, communities and service providers. The center shall support  
220 programs and activities concerning early childhood education, in  
221 collaboration with the Office of Early Childhood, improving school and  
222 district academic performance, and closing opportunity gaps between  
223 socio-economic subgroups, and other related programs and activities.  
224 The center shall support and collaborate with other state agencies for  
225 the purposes described in this subsection. For such purposes the center  
226 is authorized and empowered to:

227 (1) Have perpetual succession as a body politic and corporate and to  
228 adopt bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its  
229 business;

230 (2) Adopt an official seal and alter the same at pleasure;

231 (3) Maintain an office at such place or places as it may designate;

232 (4) Sue and be sued in its own name and plead and be impleaded;

233 (5) (A) Employ such assistants, agents and other employees as may  
234 be necessary or desirable who shall not be employees, as defined in  
235 subsection (b) of section 5-270; (B) establish all necessary or appropriate  
236 personnel practices and policies, including those relating to hiring,  
237 promotion, compensation, retirement and collective bargaining, which  
238 need not be in accordance with chapter 68, and the center shall not be  
239 an employer as defined in subsection (a) of section 5-270; and (C) engage  
240 consultants, attorneys and appraisers as may be necessary or desirable  
241 to carry out its purposes in accordance with this section and sections 10-  
242 357a, 10-357c and 10-357d;



243 (6) Receive and accept aid or contributions from any source of money,  
244 property, labor or other things of value, to be held, used and applied to  
245 carry out the purposes of this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c and  
246 10-357d, subject to such conditions upon which such grants and  
247 contributions may be made, including, but not limited to, gifts or grants  
248 from any department, agency or instrumentality of the United States or  
249 this state for any purpose consistent with this section and sections 10-  
250 357a, 10-357c and 10-357d;

251 (7) Make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or  
252 incidental to the performance of its duties and the execution of its  
253 powers under this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c and 10-357d,  
254 including contracts and agreements for such professional services as the  
255 center deems necessary, including, but not limited to, those services  
256 provided by financial consultants, underwriters and technical  
257 specialists;

258 (8) Acquire, lease, purchase, own, manage, hold and dispose of  
259 personal property, and lease, convey or deal in or enter into agreements  
260 with respect to such property on any terms necessary or incidental to  
261 the carrying out of these purposes;

262 (9) Invest in, acquire, purchase, own, manage, hold and dispose of  
263 real property and convey or deal in or enter into agreements with  
264 respect to such property on any terms necessary or incidental to  
265 carrying out the purposes of this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c  
266 and 10-357d; [, provided such transactions shall be subject to approval,  
267 review or regulation by any state agency pursuant to title 4b or any other  
268 provision of the general statutes;]

269 (10) Lease real property on any terms necessary or incidental to  
270 carrying out the purposes of this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c  
271 and 10-357d;

272 (11) Procure insurance against any liability or loss in connection with  
273 its property and other assets, in such amounts and from such insurers  
274 as it deems desirable and to procure insurance for employees;

275 (12) Account for and audit funds of the center and funds of any  
276 recipients of funds from the center;

277 (13) Hold patents, copyrights, trademarks, marketing rights, licenses,  
278 or any other evidences of protection or exclusivity as to any products as  
279 defined in this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c and 10-357d, issued  
280 under the laws of the United States or any state or any nation;

281 (14) Establish advisory committees to assist in accomplishing its  
282 duties under this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c and 10-357d,  
283 which may include one or more members of the board of directors and  
284 persons other than members; and

285 (15) Do all acts and things necessary or convenient to carry out the  
286 purposes of this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c and 10-357d, and  
287 the powers expressly granted by this section and sections 10-357a, 10-  
288 357c and 10-357d.

289 (b) The State Education Resource Center shall establish a Connecticut  
290 School Reform Resource Center either within the State Education  
291 Resource Center or by contract through a regional educational service  
292 center, established pursuant to section 10-66a. The Connecticut School  
293 Reform Resource Center shall operate year-round and shall focus on  
294 serving the needs of all public schools. The Connecticut School Reform  
295 Resource Center shall (1) publish and distribute reports on the most  
296 effective practices for improving student achievement by successful  
297 schools; (2) provide a program of professional development activities  
298 for (A) school leaders, including curriculum coordinators, principals,  
299 superintendents and board of education members, and (B) teachers to  
300 educate students that includes research-based child development and  
301 reading instruction tools and practices; (3) provide information on  
302 successful models for evaluating student performance and managing  
303 student data; (4) develop strategies for assisting such students who are  
304 in danger of failing; (5) develop culturally relevant methods for  
305 educating students whose primary language is not English; and (6)  
306 provide other programs and materials to assist in the improvement of  
307 public schools.

308 (c) The State Education Resource Center shall be subject to [(1) rules,  
309 regulations and restrictions on purchasing, procurement, personal  
310 service agreements and the disposition of assets generally applicable to  
311 Connecticut state agencies, including those contained in titles 4, 4a and  
312 4b and section 4e-19, and (2)] audit by the Auditors of Public Accounts  
313 under chapter 12 and section 2-90.

314 Sec. 10. Section 10-357e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
315 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

316 The Commissioner of Education [may] shall allocate sufficient funds  
317 to allow the State Education Resource Center, established pursuant to  
318 section 10-357a, to provide professional development services, technical  
319 assistance and evaluation activities, policy analysis and other forms of  
320 assistance to local and regional boards of education, the Department of  
321 Education, state and local charter schools, as defined in section 10-66aa,  
322 the Technical Education and Career System, established pursuant to  
323 section 10-95, providers of school readiness programs, as defined in  
324 section 10-16p, and other educational entities and providers. The State  
325 Education Resource Center shall expend such funds in accordance with  
326 procedures and conditions prescribed by the commissioner.

327 Sec. 11. Section 10-212k of the general statutes is repealed and the  
328 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

329 On and after September 1, [2023] 2024, each local and regional board  
330 of education shall provide free menstrual products, as defined in section  
331 18-69e, in women's restrooms, all-gender restrooms and at least one  
332 men's restroom, which restrooms are accessible to students in grades  
333 three to twelve, inclusive, in each school under the jurisdiction of such  
334 boards and in a manner that does not stigmatize any student seeking  
335 such products, pursuant to guidelines established by the Commissioner  
336 of Public Health under section 19a-131l. To carry out the provisions of  
337 this section, the local and regional boards of education may (1) accept  
338 donations of menstrual products and grants from any source for the  
339 purpose of purchasing such products, and (2) partner with a nonprofit  
340 or community-based organization.

341 Sec. 12. Subdivision (21) of section 10-183b of the general statutes is  
342 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
343 *2023*):

344 (21) "Public school" means any day school conducted within or  
345 without this state under the orders and superintendence of a duly  
346 elected school committee, a board of education, the State Board of  
347 Education, the Office of Early Childhood, the Board of Regents for  
348 Higher Education, or any of its constituent units, The University of  
349 Connecticut Board of Trustees, the board of governors or any of its  
350 constituent units, the Technical Education and Career System, the E. O.  
351 Smith School, the Children's Center and its successors, the State  
352 Education Resource Center established pursuant to section 10-4q of the  
353 2014 supplement to the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to  
354 January 1, 2013, the State Education Resource Center established  
355 pursuant to section 10-357a, joint activities of boards of education  
356 authorized by subsection (b) of section 10-158a and (A) any institution  
357 supported by the state at which teachers are employed or any  
358 incorporated secondary school not under the orders and  
359 superintendence of a duly elected school committee or board of  
360 education but located in a town not maintaining a high school and  
361 providing free tuition to pupils of the town in which it is located, and  
362 which has been approved by the State Board of Education under the  
363 provisions of part II of chapter 164, or (B) on and after July 1, 2023, any  
364 school operated by an interdistrict magnet school operator described in  
365 section 10-264s, provided [that] such institution, [or such] secondary  
366 school or school is classified as a public school by the retirement board.

367 Sec. 13. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Teachers' Retirement Board shall  
368 classify each school operated by Goodwin University Magnet Schools,  
369 Inc., and Goodwin University Educational Services, Inc., as a public  
370 school, as defined in subdivision (21) of section 10-183b of the general  
371 statutes, as amended by this act, and shall admit each teacher, as defined  
372 in subdivision (28) of section 10-183b of the general statutes, employed  
373 by Goodwin University Magnet Schools, Inc., and Goodwin University  
374 Educational Services, Inc., into the Connecticut teachers' retirement

375 system.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	10-220(e)
Sec. 2	July 1, 2023	10-215(d)
Sec. 3	July 1, 2023	10-73d
Sec. 4	July 1, 2023	10-15k
Sec. 5	July 1, 2023	10-220(g)
Sec. 6	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 7	July 1, 2023	10-220a(a)
Sec. 8	July 1, 2023	10-16x(e)
Sec. 9	July 1, 2023	10-357b
Sec. 10	July 1, 2023	10-357e
Sec. 11	July 1, 2023	10-212k
Sec. 12	July 1, 2023	10-183b(21)
Sec. 13	July 1, 2023	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 6, "two of which" was changed to "of which at least two annually" in Subsec. (a)(2), for proper form, and the existing provision regarding consulting with department administrators was designated Subdiv. (5) in Subsec. (a), for proper form; "a pool of" was deleted and "such purpose" was changed to "the purpose of serving on either such committee" in Subsec. (b), for clarity, the existing provision regarding membership of the committee was designated Subsec. (c) and existing Subsecs. (c) and (d) were redesignated as Subsecs. (d) and (e), for proper form, and "the Department of Education shall" and "reimbursed" were added and "shall be reimbursed" was deleted in Subsec. (e), for proper form.

**ED 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 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	Cost	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

**Explanation**

The bill makes several changes regarding the State Department of Education and local and regional school districts which result in the below impacts. The bill also makes changes to the Teachers' Retirement System, as described below.

**Sections 1 and 2** require school districts to post and make available certain information regarding their curriculum and school food nutritional value. This is anticipated to result in minimal printing costs to districts.

**Section 3** allows a public school student who is a father under age 17 to attend adult education classes. This has no fiscal impact as the eligibility expansion is not anticipated to significantly increase the cost of administering adult education programs.

**Section 4** specifies the student eligibility for participation in remote learning and extends the deadline for the State Department of Education to submit a plan for a remote learning school by six months. This has no fiscal impact as it is not anticipated to impact the cost of developing the plan, if any.

To the extent that the bill limits what students are eligible to participate in remote learning, any impact this has on the cost of administering a remote learning school will depend on the plan ultimately developed by SDE.

**Section 5** requires local and regional boards of education to make information relating to regular or special meetings available on the Internet web site of such boards. This has no fiscal impact as it is anticipated that local and regional boards of education can meet this requirement with existing resources.

**Section 6** results in a minimal cost, estimated to be less than \$10,000 per district annually beginning in FY 24, by establishing a parent advisory committee and a teacher advisory committee for SDE, and requiring certain related reimbursements for participants. SDE is required to provide reimbursements for: (1) expenses incurred by committee members in performing their duties, and (2) any expense incurred by a local and regional school district for substitute teachers hired while a member of the teacher advisory committee is performing their duties.

**Section 7** results in a potential cost to local and regional school districts by expanding required training for school personnel to include emergency response to a student having a seizure. Any cost is anticipated to be minimal, associated with printing materials and with overtime coverage for staff to attend training.

**Section 8** requires SDE to conduct certain grant management activities for the After School program grant. Correspondingly, the bill increases, from 4% to 7.5%, the amount of After School program grant funding that the State Department of Education may retain for program administration. In FY 23, this would have resulted in an approximately \$200,000 increase in the amount SDE may have retained from \$230,000 to \$430,000, and a commensurate decrease in the amount of funds provided to qualifying districts.

**Sections 9 and 10** result in an indeterminate cost to the State Department of Education to by requiring the agency to provide sufficient funding to the quasi-public State Education Resource Center (SERC). The bill does not appropriate any funding for this purpose. Although there is not currently a direct appropriation to SERC, it receives most of its support from SDE and federal grant funding.

The bill also exempts SERC from certain requirements regarding real estate transactions and procurement. This has no fiscal impact, as it does not change state funding levels for SERC.

**Section 11** delays, from FY 24 to FY 25, the cost to local and regional school districts of providing free menstrual products in certain restrooms. This does not change the overall cost of providing such products.

**Section 12 and 13** make changes to the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) statutes, including requiring the Teachers' Retirement Board to classify schools operated by Goodwin University Magnet Schools and Goodwin University Educational as public schools, that are not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact. Teachers in schools operated by Goodwin University Magnet Schools and Goodwin University Educational Service currently participate in the TRS through LEARN Regional Educational Services Center.

***The Out Years***

***State Impact:*** See Above

***Municipal Impact:*** See Above



---

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 6880**

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

**SUMMARY**

This bill makes the following unrelated changes in the education statutes:

1. requires local and regional boards of education (boards of education) to make curriculum approved by their school district curriculum committee, as well as all associated curriculum materials, available to parents and guardians under the requirements of the federal Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (see BACKGROUND) (§ 1);
2. requires boards of education to post a notice online, in the school cafeteria, and other central areas of food consumption in each school that states that the lunch, breakfast, and other school-provided meals comply with federal nutritional value requirements (see BACKGROUND) (§ 2);
3. allows any parent under age 17, rather than only a mother, to request permission from the local or regional board of education to attend adult education classes (§ 3);
4. (a) requires the State Department of Education (SDE), when developing a plan for a statewide remote learning school, to narrow the range of students eligible to enroll and (b) extends the deadline to submit the plan to legislative committees (§ 4);
5. requires boards of education conducting a regular or special board meeting to make the agenda or any associated documents that members will review at the meeting available for public

- inspection and post them on the board’s website (§ 5);
6. requires the education commissioner to appoint a parent advisory committee and a separate teacher advisory committee to address SDE’s policy development and implementation (§ 6);
  7. requires in-service trainings for teachers, administrators, and certified pupil personnel to include emergency responses to students who have a seizure in a school (§ 7);
  8. requires SDE to support after school grant recipients in new, specified ways and allows the department to increase the amount it retains from the appropriation for this grant program (§ 8);
  9. removes certain restrictions and state oversight on real estate transactions, contracting, and procurement by the State Educational Resource Center (SERC) (§ 9);
  10. requires, rather than allows, SDE to allocate funding to SERC and specifies that the funding must be sufficient for SERC to provide services to various educational entities, providers, and SDE (see BACKGROUND) (§ 10);
  11. extends the deadline for boards of education to begin providing free menstrual products in restrooms by one year, from September 1, 2023, to September 1, 2024 (§ 11); and
  12. expands the Connecticut Teachers’ Retirement System to cover teachers employed by an interdistrict magnet school operated by (1) a private higher education institution’s board of governors; (2) an SDE-approved, third-party nonprofit corporation; or (3) Goodwin University Magnet Schools, Inc. and Goodwin University Educational Services, Inc., specifically (§§ 12 & 13).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

---

**§ 4 — ELIGIBILITY FOR STATEWIDE REMOTE LEARNING SCHOOL**

Under current law, SDE must develop a plan to create and implement a statewide remote learning school for grades kindergarten to 12. When making the plan, the department must estimate the number of Connecticut students who may be eligible to enroll; however, current law does not require the department to set specific enrollment eligibility requirements. The bill instead limits eligibility to Connecticut students who are unable to attend school in-person due to a medical condition or vaccination status.

The bill also extends the deadline for submitting the plan, draft requests for proposals, and any legislation recommendations from July 1, 2023, to January 1, 2024. By law, SDE must submit these items to the Appropriations and Education committees.

**§ 6 — PARENT AND TEACHER ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

The bill creates advisory committee duties, membership requirements, term length, and compensation.

***Duties***

Under the bill, both the parent advisory committee and the teacher advisory committee have the following duties:

1. advise SDE's commissioner, administrators, and staff;
2. hold meetings at least quarterly and at least twice in-person each year;
3. make recommendations on topics determined with department administrators, including teacher recruitment, special education, testing and assessment, equitable teacher distribution, teacher diversity, school safety, and social and emotional learning;
4. submit annual reports summarizing the committee's work to SDE; and
5. consult with department administrators on the report or any recommendations produced, as needed.

---

**Membership**

The bill requires the committees to each have at least 10 members. The education commissioner must appoint the members from a pool of applications submitted to SDE using an application process she determines. When appointing members, the commissioner must aim to create a committee that represents the (1) diversity of Connecticut's teachers and students and (2) areas of expertise designated by department administrators. She must also consult with any existing parent advisory committee and teacher advisory committee.

The commissioner must only appoint members who have the following qualifications:

1. an understanding of current issues in public education;
2. experience working in educational policy;
3. either an exceptional instructional practice with an ability to engage students as a teacher, or a demonstrated history of holding parent leadership roles in schools or advocacy groups; and
4. applied to SDE's Talent Office for membership on one of these committees.

**Teacher Advisory Committee Members.** For the teacher committee, the members must also be regular or special education teachers in Connecticut. At least five of them must have also been members of the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council as a finalist or semifinalist in any year.

**Parent Advisory Committee Members.** For the parent committee, the members must also include members who represent urban, suburban, and rural school districts and elementary, middle, and high schools.

***Term Length***

Under the bill, for the initial appointments to both committees, at least five members of each committee serve a one-year term from the appointment date, and the remaining five members serve a two-year term. After the initial terms expire, members must be appointed for two-year terms from the date of appointment.

The bill allows members to be appointed for more than one term but requires them to reapply for each new term. It also requires members to continue to serve until their successors are appointed. The education commissioner must fill any vacancy that occurs before a term's expiration by choosing from the committee's existing applicant pool. The new member then serves for the balance of the unexpired term.

***Compensation***

The bill requires the parent and teacher advisory groups' members to serve without compensation, but SDE must reimburse for the following, if funds are available:

1. members' expenses necessarily incurred in performing their duties and
2. local or regional board of educations' payments to substitute teachers who cover for teachers who are members of an advisory group, while performing advisory committee duties.

**§ 7 — IN-SERVICE TRAINING TOPIC**

By law, boards of education must have an in-service training program for their teachers, administrators, and certified pupil personnel; paraprofessional and noncertified employees may also participate voluntarily. Current law requires training on eight topics, and the bill adds a ninth: emergency response to students who experience a seizure in a school. This training must at least include (1) recognizing seizure signs and symptoms, (2) appropriate steps for seizure first aid, (3) information about seizure action plans for students, and (4) administering seizure rescue medication or prescribed Vagus Nerve Stimulator magnet electrical stimulation for those authorized to

administer medication under state law.

### **§ 8 — SUPPORT FOR AFTER SCHOOL GRANT RECIPIENTS**

By law, SDE may administer an after school grant program to support programs for students in grades kindergarten through 12 that offer educational, enrichment, and recreational activities for children and have a parent involvement component. Local and regional boards of education, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations are eligible recipients (CGS § 10-16x(a)).

Current law requires SDE to give after school grant recipients technical assistance, evaluation, program monitoring, professional development, and accreditation support. The bill requires the department to collaborate with regional educational service centers to give the recipients (and, for some forms, applicants) more specific and targeted forms of support by doing the following:

1. monitoring and evaluating programs and activities,
2. conducting a comprehensive evaluation of programs' effectiveness,
3. implementing risk assessments,
4. providing technical assistance and training to eligible applicants, and
5. ensuring program activities are aligned with state academic standards.

The bill also allows SDE to increase the percentage of appropriated grant funds it retains, from 4% to 7.5%, to provide this support.

### **§ 9 — SERC REAL ESTATE AND CONTRACTING**

SERC, a quasi-public agency, was statutorily created to help the State Board of Education provide programs and activities that promote educational equity and excellence. Current law authorizes SERC to make certain transactions involving real estate (e.g., investing in it,

buying, selling, or managing it, or entering agreements over it). The bill removes the requirement that these transactions be subject to state agency approval, review, or regulation to comply with any requirements in state law (including those governing state real estate overseen by the Department of Administrative Services).

It also removes SERC from being subject to the following rules, regulations, and restrictions on purchasing, procurement, personal service agreements, and asset dispositions:

1. those generally applicable to state agencies;
2. Title 4, which governs the management of state agencies (CGS §§ 4-1 to 4-289);
3. Title 4a, which governs administrative services (CGS §§ 4a-1 to 4a-101);
4. Title 4b, which governs state real estate (CGS §§ 4b-1 to 4b-136); and
5. the law governing permissible methods for awarding contracts for supplies, materials, equipment, and contractual services (CGS § 4e-19).

By law and unchanged by the bill, SERC remains subject to state audit by the Auditors of Public Accounts.

### **§§ 12 & 13 — ADDITIONS TO THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

By law, teachers employed at a "public school," as defined in state law, may participate in the Connecticut Teachers' Retirement System (TRS). The bill adds to the definition of "public school" any interdistrict magnet school that is operated by (1) a private higher education institution's board of governors or (2) an SDE-approved, third-party nonprofit corporation, so long as the magnet school is classified as a public school by the Teachers' Retirement Board (TRB).

The bill also requires the TRB to (1) classify as public schools all schools operated by Goodwin University Magnet Schools, Inc. and Goodwin University Educational Services, Inc. and (2) admit each teacher employed at them.

**BACKGROUND**

***Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)***

PPRA, in part, gives parents and guardians the right to inspect instructional material used by the school district as part of their student’s educational curriculum (excluding academic tests and assessments) (20 U.S.C. § 1232h).

***Federal Nutritional Meal Requirements***

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has established nutritional standards for the national school lunch and breakfast programs (7 C.F.R. Parts 210 and 220).

***SERC Services***

SDE funding allows SERC to provide professional development services, technical assistance, evaluation activities, and policy analysis to (1) local and regional boards of education, (2) SDE, (3) charter schools, (4) the Technical Education and Career System, (5) school readiness program providers, and (6) other educational entities and providers. SERC must spend the funding consistent with the education commissioner’s procedures and conditions (CGS § 10-357e).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 44 Nay 0 (03/24/2023)