



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 757

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6880

House of Representatives, May 11, 2023

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd 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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*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 Section 10-73d of the general statutes is repealed and the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 Section 10-15k of the general statutes is repealed and the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 10-212k of the general statutes is repealed and the
205 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

206 On and after September 1, [2023] 2024, each local and regional board
207 of education shall provide free menstrual products, as defined in section
208 18-69e, in women's restrooms, all-gender restrooms and at least one
209 men's restroom, which restrooms are accessible to students in grades
210 three to twelve, inclusive, in each school under the jurisdiction of such

211 boards and in a manner that does not stigmatize any student seeking
212 such products, pursuant to guidelines established by the Commissioner
213 of Public Health under section 19a-131l. To carry out the provisions of
214 this section, the local and regional boards of education may (1) accept
215 donations of menstrual products and grants from any source for the
216 purpose of purchasing such products, and (2) partner with a nonprofit
217 or community-based organization.

218 Sec. 10. Subdivision (21) of section 10-183b of the general statutes is
219 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
220 *2023*):

221 (21) "Public school" means any day school conducted within or
222 without this state under the orders and superintendence of a duly
223 elected school committee, a board of education, the State Board of
224 Education, the Office of Early Childhood, the Board of Regents for
225 Higher Education, or any of its constituent units, The University of
226 Connecticut Board of Trustees, the board of governors or any of its
227 constituent units, the Technical Education and Career System, the E. O.
228 Smith School, the Children's Center and its successors, the State
229 Education Resource Center established pursuant to section 10-4q of the
230 2014 supplement to the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to
231 January 1, 2013, the State Education Resource Center established
232 pursuant to section 10-357a, joint activities of boards of education
233 authorized by subsection (b) of section 10-158a and (A) any institution
234 supported by the state at which teachers are employed or any
235 incorporated secondary school not under the orders and
236 superintendence of a duly elected school committee or board of
237 education but located in a town not maintaining a high school and
238 providing free tuition to pupils of the town in which it is located, and
239 which has been approved by the State Board of Education under the
240 provisions of part II of chapter 164, or (B) on and after July 1, 2023, any
241 school operated by an interdistrict magnet school operator described in
242 section 10-264s, provided [that] such institution, [or such] secondary
243 school or school is classified as a public school by the retirement board.

244 Sec. 11. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Teachers' Retirement Board shall
 245 classify each school operated by Goodwin University Magnet Schools,
 246 Inc., and Goodwin University Educational Services, Inc., as a public
 247 school, as defined in subdivision (21) of section 10-183b of the general
 248 statutes, as amended by this act, and shall admit each teacher, as defined
 249 in subdivision (28) of section 10-183b of the general statutes, employed
 250 by Goodwin University Magnet Schools, Inc., and Goodwin University
 251 Educational Services, Inc., into the Connecticut teachers' retirement
 252 system.

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

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 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

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 costs estimated to be less than \$10,000 annually to SDE beginning in FY 24. This cost is associated with reimbursing districts and participants that incur costs due to participation in the committees established by the bill.

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.

Section 9 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.

Sections 10 and 11 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 Services 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 Services 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 and in the school cafeteria or 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 statewide remote learning 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. 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 (§ 9); and
 10. 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 (§§ 10 & 11).

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. The bill limits eligibility to those 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 committees that represent 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.

§§ 10 & 11 — 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

Legislative History

The House referred the bill (File 590) to the Appropriations Committee, which reported a substitute that eliminates provisions (1) requiring, rather than allowing, SDE to allocate funds to the State Educational Resource Center (SERC) and (2) removing certain restrictions and state oversight on SERC real estate, contracting, and procurement transactions.

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).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 44 Nay 0 (03/24/2023)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 53 Nay 0 (05/01/2023)