



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 6644

LCO No. 4073



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION
REGARDING SPECIAL EDUCATION TO FAMILIES AND STUDENTS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-248e of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

3 (a) Each eligible child and his or her family shall receive (1) a
4 multidisciplinary assessment of the child's unique needs and the
5 identification of services appropriate to meet such needs, (2) a written
6 individualized family service plan developed by a multidisciplinary
7 team, including the parent, within forty-five days after the referral, (3)
8 review of the individualized family service plan with the family at least
9 every six months, with evaluation of the individualized family service
10 plan at least annually, and (4) not later than two months after the date
11 on which any child is determined to be ineligible for participation in
12 preschool programs under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities
13 Act, 20 USC 1471 et seq., a referral to register for a mobile application
14 designated by the Commissioner of Early Childhood for the purpose of
15 continued screening for developmental and social-emotional delays in

16 partnership with the local or regional board of education for the school
17 district in which such child resides pursuant to subparagraph (H) of
18 subdivision (10) of subsection (a) of section 10-76d, provided a form
19 used for screening for developmental and social-emotional delays using
20 a validated screening tool, such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire
21 and the Ages and Stages Social-Emotional Questionnaire, or its
22 equivalent, is provided to any family upon the request of such family
23 for the purpose of completing and submitting such form to the local or
24 regional board of education for the school district in which such child
25 resides.

26 (b) The individualized family service plan shall be in writing and
27 contain: (1) A statement of the child's present level of physical
28 development, cognitive development, language and speech
29 development and self-help skills, based on acceptable objective criteria;
30 (2) a statement of the family's priority, resources and concerns relating
31 to enhancing the development of the eligible child; (3) a statement of the
32 major outcomes expected to be achieved for the child and the family and
33 the criteria, procedures and timelines used to determine the degree to
34 which progress toward achieving the outcomes are being made, and
35 whether modifications or revisions of the outcomes are necessary; (4) a
36 statement of specific early intervention services necessary to meet the
37 unique needs of the eligible child and the family, including the
38 frequency, intensity and the method of delivering services; (5) a
39 statement of the natural environments in which the services shall be
40 provided; (6) the projected dates for initiation of services and the
41 anticipated duration of such services; (7) the name of the approved
42 comprehensive service provider that will provide or procure the
43 services specified in the individualized family service plan; (8) the name
44 of the individual service coordinator from the profession most
45 immediately relevant to the eligible child's or the family's needs who
46 will be responsible for the implementation of the plan and coordination
47 with the other agencies and providers or an otherwise qualified
48 provider selected by a parent; and (9) the steps to be taken to support
49 the transition of the child who is eligible for participation in preschool

50 programs under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Act, 20 USC
51 1471 et seq., as appropriate.

52 (c) The individualized family service plan shall be signed by the
53 child's pediatrician or a primary care provider or qualified personnel, as
54 those terms are defined in section 17a-248.

55 (d) The lead agency may provide early intervention services, arrange
56 for the delivery of early intervention services by participating agencies
57 or contract with providers to deliver early intervention services to
58 eligible children and the families of such children. The lead agency in
59 providing, arranging or contracting for early intervention services shall
60 monitor all birth-to-three service providers for quality and
61 accountability in accordance with Section 616 of the Individuals with
62 Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1416 and establish state-wide rates
63 for such services.

64 (e) The individual service coordinator for an eligible child shall (1)
65 not later than three months prior to the third birthday of such child, (A)
66 meet with the parent or guardian of such child to provide to and discuss
67 with such parent or guardian (i) information about special education
68 and related services that may be available for such child, including the
69 Parent's Guide to Special Education in Connecticut developed by the
70 Department of Education and the rights and resources available to such
71 child in the provision of special education and related services, and (ii)
72 the contact information for the person responsible for the administration
73 or coordination of special education services for the school district in
74 which such child resides, and (B) provide such person responsible for
75 the administration or coordination of special education services with the
76 individualized family service plan for such child, and (2) review the
77 individualized family service plan for such child with such person
78 responsible for the administration and coordination of special education
79 services to identify whether the school district has the resources
80 necessary to adequately address the needs of such child through special
81 education services for such child.

82 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) Not later than January 1, 2024,
 83 the Department of Education shall develop an informational handout
 84 for students that explains what it means for a student to have an
 85 individualized education program or a plan pursuant to Section 504 of
 86 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, including what rights such student is
 87 entitled to in the classroom under such program or plan. Such handout
 88 shall (1) be age-appropriate, (2) prepared separately for students in
 89 grades (A) kindergarten to four, inclusive, (B) five to eight, inclusive,
 90 and (C) nine to twelve, inclusive, (3) translated into multiple languages,
 91 including English, Spanish, Portuguese, French and Polish, and (4)
 92 include a glossary of the most common tools used in the implementation
 93 of such program or plan. The department shall make such handout
 94 available to local and regional boards of education and post such
 95 handout available on the department's Internet web site.

96 Sec. 3. Subparagraph (E) of subdivision (10) of subsection (a) of
 97 section 10-76d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is
 98 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

99 (E) Each local and regional board of education shall have in effect at
 100 the beginning of each school year an educational program for each child
 101 or pupil who has been identified as eligible for special education, and
 102 shall provide the informational handout described in section 2 of this
 103 act to each child with an individualized education program or plan
 104 pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	17a-248e
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-76d(a)(10)(E)

Statement of Purpose:

To require birth-to-three service coordinators to provide information regarding special education to the parents and guardians of children receiving birth-to-three program services and to require the Department

of Education to develop an age-appropriate informational handout for students with individualized education programs and 504 plans.

[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.]