



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 1093

LCO No. 4457



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
CONCERNING EDUCATION.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-220 of the general statutes is amended by adding
2 subsection (g) as follows (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

3 (NEW) (g) On and after July 1, 2024, any local or regional board of
4 education that reports, in a strategic school profile report submitted in
5 accordance with subsection (c) of this section, a rate of in-school
6 suspensions, out-of-school suspensions and expulsions that is deemed
7 high or disproportionate by the Commissioner of Education shall
8 develop and submit a response and improvement plan to the
9 Department of Education. The purpose of such plan shall be to reduce
10 the number of such suspensions and expulsions at the school that is the
11 subject of the strategic school profile report. Such local or regional board
12 of education shall annually update and submit the board's response and
13 improvement plan to the department until the rate of such suspensions
14 and expulsions is no longer deemed high or disproportionate by the

15 Commissioner of Education. When any local or regional board of
16 education submits a response and improvement plan or any update to
17 such response and plan to the department, such board shall report such
18 response, plan or update, in accordance with the provisions of section
19 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the
20 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education.

21 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2024*) Not later than July 1, 2024, the
22 Commissioner of Education shall employ not less than four staff persons
23 for the purpose of providing support, on-site monitoring and oversight
24 of schools that are implementing an improvement plan submitted to the
25 Department of Education pursuant to subsection (g) of section 10-220 of
26 the general statutes, as amended by this act.

27 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2024*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2024,
28 each local and regional board of education shall implement a plan to
29 phase in a cap on classroom sizes at each school under such board's
30 jurisdiction, provided, not later than July 2028, each board achieves
31 classroom sizes of not more than (1) twenty students in each class for
32 grades preschool to two, inclusive, (2) twenty-three students in each
33 class for grades three to eight, inclusive, and (3) twenty-five students in
34 each class for grades nine to twelve, inclusive.

35 (b) The Commissioner of Education may exempt any type of class or
36 subject area from the classroom size caps pursuant to subdivision (1),
37 (2) or (3) of subsection (a) of this section, including, but not limited to,
38 classes for physical education or performing arts. Any exemption
39 provided pursuant to this subsection shall apply to all local and regional
40 boards of education.

41 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 10-506 of the general statutes is
42 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
43 *1, 2024*):

44 (c) A preschool program created or expanded under this section shall
45 (1) contain a classroom with an individual who holds certification
46 pursuant to section 10-145b with an endorsement in early childhood

47 education or early childhood special education and is an employee of
48 the board of education providing a preschool program under this
49 section, (2) maintain a classroom size and teacher-child ratio that is in
50 compliance with standards established by the National Association for
51 the Education of Young Children and, on and after July 1, 2024, a
52 classroom size in compliance with the plan implemented, pursuant to
53 section 3 of this act, by the board of education providing a preschool
54 program under this section, (3) obtain accreditation, as described in
55 section 10-16p, not later than three years after the creation or expansion
56 of the preschool program, and (4) be located in a public school or in a
57 space maintained by an early care and education and child development
58 program provider, pursuant to an agreement between a board of
59 education and such early care and education and child development
60 program provider.

61 Sec. 5. Section 10-222j of the general statutes is repealed and the
62 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

63 (a) The Department of Education shall provide, within available
64 appropriations, annual training to school employees, as defined in
65 section 10-222d, except those school employees who hold professional
66 certification pursuant to section 10-145b unless such school employee
67 who holds professional certification is the district safe school climate
68 coordinator, the safe school climate specialist or a member of the safe
69 school climate committee, as described in section 10-222k, on the
70 prevention, identification and response to school bullying and teen
71 dating violence, as defined in section 10-222d, and the prevention of and
72 response to youth suicide. Such training may include, but not be limited
73 to, (1) developmentally appropriate strategies to prevent bullying and
74 teen dating violence among students in school and outside of the school
75 setting, (2) developmentally appropriate strategies for immediate and
76 effective interventions to stop bullying and teen dating violence, (3)
77 information regarding the interaction and relationship between
78 students committing acts of bullying and teen dating violence, students
79 against whom such acts of bullying and teen dating violence are
80 directed and witnesses of such acts of bullying and teen dating violence,

81 (4) research findings on bullying and teen dating violence, such as
82 information about the types of students who have been shown to be at-
83 risk for bullying and teen dating violence in the school setting, (5)
84 information on the incidence and nature of cyberbullying, as defined in
85 section 10-222d, (6) Internet safety issues as they relate to cyberbullying,
86 or (7) information on the incidence of youth suicide, methods of
87 identifying youths at risk of suicide and developmentally appropriate
88 strategies for effective interventions to prevent youth suicide. Such
89 training may be presented in person by mentors, offered in state-wide
90 workshops or through on-line courses.

91 (b) Not later than January 1, 2024, the Department of Education shall
92 provide to each local and regional board of education a list of
93 recommended assessments for screening students who exhibit mental
94 health distress or who have been identified as at risk of suicide. Such list
95 may include, but need not be limited to, the Columbia-Suicide Severity
96 Rating Scale.

97 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2023, and
98 every six months thereafter, until July 1, 2026, the local or regional
99 boards of education governing the ten largest school districts in the
100 state, as designated by the Department of Education, shall submit to the
101 Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee, established pursuant
102 to section 46b-121n of the general statutes, and the Department of
103 Education a report concerning (1) the number of expulsions and
104 placements in alternative educational opportunities, offered pursuant to
105 subsection (d) of section 10-233d of the general statutes, during the prior
106 six months, (2) for any placement of a student in an alternative
107 educational opportunity during the prior six months, the name of such
108 alternative educational opportunity and the number of credits
109 completed by the student placed in such alternative educational
110 opportunity, and (3) for each alternative educational opportunity
111 offered by such board of education, a description of such alternative
112 educational opportunity and how such alternative educational
113 opportunity compares to the standards for the provision of an adequate
114 alternative educational opportunity adopted by the State Board of

115 Education pursuant to section 10-233o of the general statutes.

116 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2024*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2024,
 117 the Department of Education shall establish an advisory committee
 118 concerning suspensions and expulsions of students in grades preschool
 119 to two, inclusive.

120 (b) The membership of the advisory committee established pursuant
 121 to subsection (a) of this section shall (1) be appointed by the
 122 Commissioner of Education, and (2) include, but need not be limited to,
 123 one or more members of the education committee work group of the
 124 Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee, established pursuant
 125 to section 46b-121n of the general statutes, provided no legislator may
 126 be appointed to the advisory committee.

127 (c) The duties of the advisory committee established pursuant to
 128 subsection (a) of this section may include, but need not be limited to, (1)
 129 developing guidance to reduce the number of out-of-school suspensions
 130 and expulsions of students in grades preschool to two, inclusive, (2)
 131 providing evidence-based and developmentally appropriate definitions
 132 and examples of conduct that is of a violent or sexual nature in the
 133 context that such conduct may allow an out-of-school suspension of a
 134 student in grades preschool to two, inclusive, pursuant to subsection (g)
 135 of section 10-233c of the general statutes, and (3) recommending
 136 developmentally appropriate interventions for a student in grades
 137 preschool to two, inclusive, as an alternative to out-of-school
 138 suspension.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2024</i>	10-220(g)
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2024</i>	10-506(c)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-222j
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>January 1, 2024</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) require school districts with high suspension and expulsion rates to submit a response and improvement plan to the Department of Education, (2) implement a phased-in classroom size cap, (3) recommend suicide assessments for at-risk students, (4) require reports concerning alternative educational opportunities by certain school districts, and (5) develop guidance to reduce the suspension or expulsion of children in grades preschool to two, inclusive.

[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.]