



General Assembly

Amendment

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LCO No. 9024



Offered by:

REP. CURREY, 11th Dist.

REP. MCCARTY K., 38th Dist.

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To: Subst. House Bill No. 6882

File No. 591

Cal. No. 362

"AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION MANDATE RELIEF."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The executive director of the
4 Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, or the executive
5 director's designee, shall convene a working group to (1) review
6 mandates on the Department of Education and local and regional
7 boards of education in the general statutes, the regulations of
8 Connecticut state agencies and federal law for the purpose of
9 identifying those mandates that are overly burdensome or have the
10 effect of limiting or restricting the provision of instruction or services to
11 students, including a detailed analysis of each such mandate so
12 identified, the specific statutory or regulation citation for such mandate
13 and how such mandate is imposed on the department or board of
14 education, and (2) recommendations regarding the (A) development of
15 a biennial review process to examine the laws governing education in

16 the general statutes and the regulations of Connecticut state agencies for
17 the purpose of identifying obsolete or duplicative mandates on the
18 Department of Education or local and regional boards of education, and
19 (B) repeal of or amendment to any such statute or regulation.

20 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

21 (1) A representative from each of the following organizations,
22 designated by each such organization:

23 (A) The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education;

24 (B) The Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents;

25 (C) The Connecticut PTA;

26 (D) The American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut;

27 (E) The Connecticut Education Association; and

28 (F) The Connecticut Association of School Business Officials;

29 (2) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
30 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
31 relating to education, or the chairpersons' and ranking members'
32 designees; and

33 (3) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

34 (c) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not
35 later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy
36 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

37 (d) The executive director of the Connecticut Association of Boards
38 of Education, or the executive director's designee, shall serve as the
39 chairperson of the working group. The chairperson shall schedule the
40 first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than
41 sixty days after the effective date of this section.

42 (e) The working group may provide an opportunity for public
43 comment or seek input from students, parents, educators, boards of
44 education and other education stakeholders while conducting the
45 review and developing its recommendations under this section.

46 (f) Not later than January 1, 2025, the working group shall submit a
47 report on its review of such mandates and its recommendations for the
48 repeal of or amendment to any state mandates and development of a
49 biennial review process to the joint standing committee of the General
50 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in
51 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
52 The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such
53 report or July 1, 2025, whichever is later.

54 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is
55 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
56 *2023*):

57 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-
58 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil
59 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or
60 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such
61 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)
62 the nature and the relationship of alcohol and drugs, as defined in
63 subdivision (17) of section 21a-240, to health and personality
64 development, and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health
65 and mental health risk reduction education that includes, but need not
66 be limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the
67 relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually
68 transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in
69 section 19a-581, violence, teen dating violence, domestic violence and
70 child abuse, (3) school violence prevention, conflict resolution, the
71 prevention of and response to youth suicide and the identification and
72 prevention of and response to bullying, as defined in subsection (a) of
73 section 10-222d, except that (A) those boards of education that
74 implement any evidence-based model approach that is approved by the

75 Department of Education and is consistent with subsection (c) of section
76 10-145a, sections 10-222d, 10-222g and 10-222h, subsection (g) of section
77 10-233c and sections 1 and 3 of public act 08-160, shall not be required
78 to provide in-service training on the identification and prevention of
79 and response to bullying, and (B) such school violence prevention
80 training shall be in a manner prescribed in a school security and safety
81 plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-222n, (4)
82 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other emergency life saving
83 procedures, (5) the requirements and obligations of a mandated
84 reporter, (6) the detection and recognition of, and evidence-based
85 structured literacy interventions for, students with dyslexia, as defined
86 in section 10-3d, (7) culturally responsive pedagogy and practice,
87 including, but not limited to, the video training module relating to
88 implicit bias and anti-bias in the hiring process in accordance with the
89 provisions of section 10-156hh, [and] (8) the principles and practices of
90 social-emotional learning and restorative practices, and (9) emergency
91 response to students who experience a seizure in a school, including,
92 but not limited to, the recognition of the signs and symptoms of
93 seizures, the appropriate steps for seizure first aid, information about
94 seizure action plans for students and, for those authorized to administer
95 medication under section 10-212a, the administration of seizure rescue
96 medication or prescribed electrical stimulation using a Vagus Nerve
97 Stimulator magnet. Each local or regional board of education [may] shall
98 allow any [paraprofessional] paraeducator or noncertified employee to
99 participate, on a voluntary basis, in any in-service training program
100 provided pursuant to this section.

101 Sec. 3. Subsection (e) of section 10-220 of the general statutes is
102 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
103 *2023*):

104 (e) Each local and regional board of education shall establish a school
105 district curriculum committee. The committee shall recommend,
106 develop, review and approve all curriculum for the local or regional
107 school district. Each local and regional board of education shall make
108 available all curriculum approved by the committee and all associated

109 curriculum materials in accordance with the requirements of the
110 Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, 20 USC 1232h.

111 Sec. 4. Section 10-73d of the general statutes is repealed and the
112 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

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

119 Sec. 5. Section 10-15k of the general statutes is repealed and the
120 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

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

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

125 (2) "Eligible student" means a student who resides in the state, but is
126 unable to attend school in person due to a medical diagnosis, including
127 a psychological or physical condition or restriction, or medical
128 exemption to required immunizations, documented by the child's
129 health care provider.

130 (b) The Department of Education shall develop a plan for the creation
131 and implementation of a state-wide remote learning school that offers
132 grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, and provides remote learning
133 to students. In the course of developing such plan, the department shall
134 (1) consider the findings and recommendations of the report created by
135 the Connecticut Remote Learning Commission pursuant to section 10-
136 15j, as amended by this act, (2) review remote learning schools and
137 models being implemented in other states, and (3) estimate the number
138 of eligible students. [who reside in Connecticut that may be eligible to

139 enroll in such state-wide remote learning school.] The department shall
140 use, to the extent permissible under federal guidelines, funds received
141 from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental
142 Appropriations Act, P.L. 116-260, as amended from time to time, to
143 develop such plan.

144 (c) Any state-wide remote learning school that may be created under
145 such plan shall (1) be maintained by and under the direction and control
146 of the State Board of Education, (2) provide in each school year not less
147 than one hundred eighty days of actual school sessions and nine
148 hundred hours of actual school work for grades kindergarten to twelve,
149 inclusive, provided not more than seven hours of actual school work in
150 any school day shall count toward the total required for the school year,
151 (3) offer coursework and a curriculum that is rigorous, aligned with
152 curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education, and in
153 accordance with the state-wide subject matter content standards,
154 adopted by the state board pursuant to section 10-4, (4) grant a diploma,
155 in accordance with the provisions of section 10-5, to any student
156 enrolled in such state-wide remote learning school who has
157 satisfactorily completed the high school graduation requirements
158 described in section 10-221a, and (5) be created with consideration given
159 to best practices in remote learning, technological capabilities of
160 students throughout the state and equity.

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

163 (e) Not later than ~~July 1, 2023~~ January 1, 2024, the department shall
164 submit the plan, the draft request for proposals and any
165 recommendations for legislation related to the implementation of such
166 plan to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
167 cognizance of matters relating to education and appropriations, in
168 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

169 Sec. 6. Section 10-220 of the general statutes is amended by adding
170 subsection (g) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

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

176 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The Commissioner of
177 Education shall convene a family and community engagement in
178 education council. The council shall (1) advise the commissioner on
179 issues and policies related to family and community engagement in
180 education, (2) provide parent and community feedback on products and
181 initiatives offered by the Department of Education, (3) review and make
182 recommendations regarding the State Board of Education's five year
183 comprehensive plan concerning school-family-community partnership
184 initiatives, and (4) review and make recommendations regarding
185 effective practices to increase school and district capacity to develop
186 successful partnerships and families' capacity to support their children's
187 education. The council shall meet at least quarterly.

188 (b) The commissioner shall select the membership of the council,
189 provided such membership balances representation from school and
190 district staff, parents and guardians of students and community
191 members who reflect the state's geographic, economic, ethnic and racial
192 diversity and bring an authentic parent and community voice to the
193 council.

194 (c) Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the council
195 shall submit a report on its review and recommendations regarding the
196 comprehensive five-year plan regarding school-family-community
197 partnership initiatives to the State Board of Education and the joint
198 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
199 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
200 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

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

203 2023):

204 (e) The Department of Education shall, [provide grant recipients with
205 technical assistance, evaluation, program monitoring, professional
206 development and accreditation support] in collaboration with regional
207 educational service centers, support grant recipients by (1) monitoring
208 and evaluating programs and activities, (2) conducting a comprehensive
209 evaluation of the effectiveness of programs and implementing risk
210 assessments, (3) providing technical assistance and training to eligible
211 applicants, and (4) ensuring program activities are aligned with state
212 academic standards. The department may retain up to [four] seven and
213 one-half per cent of the amount appropriated for the grant program for
214 purposes of this subsection.

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

217 (a) The purposes of the State Education Resource Center, established
218 pursuant to section 10-357a, shall be to assist the State Board of
219 Education in the provision of programs and activities that will promote
220 educational equity and excellence. Such activities shall be limited to:
221 Training, technical assistance and professional development for local
222 and regional boards of education, school leaders, teachers, families and
223 community partners in the form of seminars, publications, site visits, on-
224 line content and other appropriate means; maintaining a state education
225 resource center library; publication of technical materials; research and
226 evaluation; writing, managing, administering and coordinating grants
227 for the purposes described in this subsection; and any other related
228 activities directly related to the purposes described in this subsection.
229 The center shall support local educational agencies serving the needs of
230 families, communities and service providers. The center shall support
231 programs and activities concerning early childhood education, in
232 collaboration with the Office of Early Childhood, improving school and
233 district academic performance, and closing opportunity gaps between
234 socio-economic subgroups, and other related programs and activities.
235 The center shall support and collaborate with other state agencies for

236 the purposes described in this subsection. For such purposes the center
237 is authorized and empowered to:

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

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

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

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

244 (5) (A) Employ such assistants, agents and other employees as may
245 be necessary or desirable who shall not be employees, as defined in
246 subsection (b) of section 5-270; (B) establish all necessary or appropriate
247 personnel practices and policies, including those relating to hiring,
248 promotion, compensation, retirement and collective bargaining, which
249 need not be in accordance with chapter 68, and the center shall not be
250 an employer as defined in subsection (a) of section 5-270; and (C) engage
251 consultants, attorneys and appraisers as may be necessary or desirable
252 to carry out its purposes in accordance with this section and sections 10-
253 357a, 10-357c and 10-357d;

254 (6) Receive and accept aid or contributions from any source of money,
255 property, labor or other things of value, to be held, used and applied to
256 carry out the purposes of this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c and
257 10-357d, subject to such conditions upon which such grants and
258 contributions may be made, including, but not limited to, gifts or grants
259 from any department, agency or instrumentality of the United States or
260 this state for any purpose consistent with this section and sections 10-
261 357a, 10-357c and 10-357d;

262 (7) Make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or
263 incidental to the performance of its duties and the execution of its
264 powers under this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c and 10-357d,
265 including contracts and agreements for such professional services as the

266 center deems necessary, including, but not limited to, those services
267 provided by financial consultants, underwriters and technical
268 specialists;

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

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

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

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

286 (12) Account for and audit funds of the center and funds of any
287 recipients of funds from the center;

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

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

296 (15) Do all acts and things necessary or convenient to carry out the
297 purposes of this section and sections 10-357a, 10-357c and 10-357d, and
298 the powers expressly granted by this section and sections 10-357a, 10-
299 357c and 10-357d.

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

319 (c) The State Education Resource Center shall be subject to [(1) rules,
320 regulations and restrictions on purchasing, procurement, personal
321 service agreements and the disposition of assets generally applicable to
322 Connecticut state agencies, including those contained in titles 4, 4a and
323 4b and section 4e-19, and (2)] audit by the Auditors of Public Accounts
324 under chapter 12 and section 2-90.

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

327 On and after September 1, [2023] 2024, each local and regional board

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

339 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 10-211a of the general statutes is
340 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
341 *passage*):

342 (a) As used in this section and section 10-211b, "designated staff
343 member" means a teacher, school administrator, school counselor,
344 [school counselor,] psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician or
345 school paraeducator employed by a local or regional board of education
346 or working in a public middle school or high school.

347 Sec. 12. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-111e of the
348 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
349 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

350 (2) The commissioner shall suspend, for a period of sixty days, the
351 motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege of
352 any person who has been convicted of a violation of subdivision (1) of
353 subsection (b) of section 30-89 or subsection (b) [,] or (c) of section 21a-
354 279a and who was under the age of twenty-one at the time of such
355 violation.

356 Sec. 13. Subsection (d) of section 10-265s of the general statutes is
357 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
358 *passage*):

359 (d) Not later than December 1, 2023, the Office of Workforce Strategy
360 shall submit a report to the Governor and the joint standing committees
361 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
362 education, higher education and employment advancement and labor
363 and public employees, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
364 4a. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, the number of
365 individuals who have enrolled in a training program offered as part of
366 the pilot program, the number of individuals who have completed such
367 training programs, and the number of individuals who have completed
368 such training program and obtained a permanent job in the heating,
369 ventilation and air conditioning system sector.

370 Sec. 14. Subsection (c) of section 8-210 of the general statutes is
371 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
372 *passage*):

373 (c) The Office of Early Childhood, in consultation with
374 representatives from child care centers, group child care homes and
375 family child care homes, within available appropriations, shall develop
376 guidelines for programs provided at state-contracted child care centers,
377 group child care [home] homes and family child care homes. The
378 guidelines shall include standards for program quality and design and
379 identify short and long-term outcomes for families participating in such
380 programs. The Office of Early Childhood, within available
381 appropriations, shall provide a copy of such guidelines to each state-
382 contracted child care center, group child care home and family child
383 care home. Each state-contracted child care center, group child care
384 home and family child care home shall use the guidelines to develop a
385 program improvement plan for the next twelve-month period and shall
386 submit the plan to the Office of Early Childhood. The plan shall include
387 goals to be used for measuring such improvement. The Office of Early
388 Childhood shall use the plan to monitor the progress of such child care
389 center, group child care home or family child care home.

390 Sec. 15. Subdivision (5) of subsection (c) of section 10-15j of the
391 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu

392 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

393 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
394 Representatives, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut
395 Association of Schools and one of whom is a representative of the
396 Connecticut Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents;

397 Sec. 16. Subsection (e) of section 10-15j of the general statutes is
398 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
399 *passage*):

400 (e) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee,
401 shall serve as the [chairpersons] chairperson of the commission.

402 Sec. 17. Section 10-16 of the general statutes is repealed and the
403 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

404 Each school district shall provide in each school year no less than one
405 hundred [and] eighty days of actual school sessions for grades
406 kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, nine hundred hours of actual school
407 work for full-day kindergarten and grades one to twelve, inclusive, and
408 four hundred [and] fifty hours of half-day kindergarten, provided
409 school districts shall not count more than seven hours of actual school
410 work in any school day towards the total required for the school year.
411 Remote learning shall be considered an actual school session for
412 purposes of this section, provided such remote learning is conducted in
413 compliance with the standards developed pursuant to subsection (b) of
414 section 10-4w. If weather conditions result in an early dismissal or a
415 delayed opening of school, a school district which maintains separate
416 morning and afternoon half-day kindergarten sessions may provide
417 either a morning or afternoon half-day kindergarten session on such
418 day. As used in this section, "remote learning" means instruction by
419 means of one or more Internet-based software platforms as part of a
420 remote learning model.

421 Sec. 18. Subsection (a) of section 10-16b of the general statutes, as
422 amended by section 376 of public act 21-2 of the June special session and

423 section 263 of public act 22-118, is repealed and the following is
424 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

425 (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall
426 include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally
427 qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education;
428 health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and
429 development, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary
430 resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-
431 16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not
432 limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in
433 performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast
434 cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health, physical,
435 mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention,
436 substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use
437 and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe use of social
438 media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the dangers of gang
439 membership, and accident prevention; language arts, including reading,
440 writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical
441 education; science, which shall include the climate change curriculum
442 described in subsection (d) of this section; social studies, including, but
443 not limited to, citizenship, economics, geography, government, history
444 and Holocaust and genocide education and awareness in accordance
445 with the provisions of section 10-18f; African-American and black
446 studies in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16ss; Puerto
447 Rican and Latino studies in accordance with the provisions of section
448 10-16ss; Native American studies, in accordance with the provisions of
449 section 10-16vv; computer programming instruction; and in addition,
450 on at least the secondary level, one or more world languages; vocational
451 education; and the black and Latino studies course in accordance with
452 the provisions of sections 10-16tt and 10-16uu. For purposes of this
453 subsection, world languages shall include American Sign Language,
454 provided such subject matter is taught by a qualified instructor under
455 the supervision of a teacher who holds a certificate issued by the State
456 Board of Education. For purposes of this subsection, the "arts" means

457 any form of visual or performing arts, which may include, but not be
458 limited to, dance, music, art and theatre; and "reading" means
459 evidenced-based instruction that focuses on competency in oral
460 language, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, rapid
461 automatic name or letter name fluency and reading comprehension.

462 Sec. 19. Subsection (a) of section 10-16b of the general statutes, as
463 amended by section 32 of public act 22-80, is repealed and the following
464 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

465 (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall
466 include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally
467 qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education;
468 health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and
469 development, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary
470 resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-
471 16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not
472 limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in
473 performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast
474 cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health, physical,
475 mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention,
476 substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use
477 and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe use of social
478 media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the dangers of gang
479 membership, and accident prevention; language arts, including reading,
480 writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical
481 education; science, which may include the climate change curriculum
482 described in subsection (d) of this section; social studies, including, but
483 not limited to, citizenship, economics, geography, government, history
484 and Holocaust and genocide education and awareness in accordance
485 with the provisions of section 10-18f; African-American and black
486 studies in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16ss; Puerto
487 Rican and Latino studies in accordance with the provisions of section
488 10-16ss; Native American studies, in accordance with the provisions of
489 section 10-16vv; Asian American and Pacific Islander studies, in
490 accordance with the provisions of section 10-66ww; computer

491 programming instruction; and in addition, on at least the secondary
492 level, one or more world languages; vocational education; and the black
493 and Latino studies course in accordance with the provisions of sections
494 10-16tt and 10-16uu. For purposes of this subsection, world languages
495 shall include American Sign Language, provided such subject matter is
496 taught by a qualified instructor under the supervision of a teacher who
497 holds a certificate issued by the State Board of Education. For purposes
498 of this subsection, the "arts" means any form of visual or performing
499 arts, which may include, but not be limited to, dance, music, art and
500 theatre; and "reading" means evidenced-based instruction that focuses
501 on competency in oral language, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency,
502 vocabulary, rapid automatic name or letter name fluency and reading
503 comprehension.

504 Sec. 20. Section 10-204d of the general statutes is repealed and the
505 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

506 Any [person] student who is exempt from the immunization
507 requirements set forth in section 10-204a on religious grounds shall
508 continue to be exempt from such requirements on religious grounds if
509 such student transfers from one public or private school in the state to
510 another public or private school in the state under the jurisdiction of
511 either the same or a different local or regional board of education, or
512 similar body governing a nonpublic school or schools.

513 Sec. 21. Subsection (b) of section 10-215l of the general statutes is
514 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
515 *passage*):

516 (b) A local or regional board of education, a regional educational
517 service center, a cooperative arrangement pursuant to section 10-158a,
518 child care centers, group child care homes and family child care homes,
519 as such terms are described in section 19a-77, or any organization or
520 entity administering or assisting in the development of a farm-to-school
521 program, may apply, in a form and manner prescribed by the
522 department, for a grant under this section. Such grant shall be used to

523 develop or implement a farm-to-school program, which may include (1)
524 the purchase of equipment, resources or materials, including, but not
525 limited to, local food products, gardening supplies, field trips to farms,
526 gleaning on farms and stipends to visiting farmers, (2) the provision of
527 professional development and skills training for educators, school
528 nutrition professionals, parents, caregivers, child care providers and
529 employees and volunteers of organizations administering or assisting in
530 the development and implementation of farm-to-school programs, and
531 (3) piloting new purchasing systems and programs.

532 Sec. 22. Subsection (f) of section 10-215l of the general statutes is
533 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
534 *passage*):

535 (f) Not later than January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the
536 department shall submit a report on the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant
537 Program to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
538 having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with
539 the provisions of section 11-4a. Such report shall include, but need not
540 be limited to, an accounting of the funds appropriated and received by
541 the department for the program, descriptions of each grant awarded
542 under the program and how such grant was expended by the recipient
543 [] and an evaluation of the program and the success of local farm-to-
544 school programs that have received grant awards under this section.

545 Sec. 23. Subsection (b) of section 10-221w of the general statutes is
546 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
547 *passage*):

548 (b) Not later than July 1, 2022, each local and regional board of
549 education shall adopt a policy, or revise an existing policy, concerning
550 the eligibility criteria for student enrollment in an advanced course or
551 program. Such policy shall provide for multiple methods by which a
552 student may satisfy the eligibility criteria for enrollment in an advanced
553 course or program, including, but not limited to, recommendations
554 from teachers, administrators, school counselors or other school

555 personnel. Such eligibility criteria shall not be based exclusively on a
556 student's prior academic performance and [that] any use of a student's
557 prior academic performance shall rely on evidence-based indicators of
558 how a student will perform in an advanced course or program.

559 Sec. 24. Subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 10-222k of the
560 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
561 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

562 (3) Any parent, [or] guardian or student serving as a member of any
563 such committee shall not participate in the activities described in
564 subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of subdivision (2) of this subsection
565 or any other activity that may compromise the confidentiality of a
566 student.

567 Sec. 25. Section 10-222w of the general statutes is repealed and the
568 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

569 Not later than January 1, 2022, the Social Emotional Learning and
570 School Climate Advisory Collaborative, established pursuant to section
571 10-222q, shall convene a working group to (1) review sections 10-222d
572 to 10-222p, inclusive, relating to bullying and safe school climate plans,
573 (2) make recommendations concerning (A) amendments to [said]
574 sections 10-222d to 10-222p, inclusive, (B) the inclusion of restorative
575 practices in safe school climate plans, and (C) state-wide adoption of the
576 National School Climate Standards, and (3) provide technical assistance
577 and support to local and regional boards of education in adopting and
578 implementing the Connecticut Model School Climate Policy, policy
579 number 5131.914. The Social Emotional Learning and School Climate
580 Advisory Collaborative may consult with or include representatives
581 from the national Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional
582 Learning as members of the working group in implementing the
583 provisions of this section.

584 Sec. 26. Subsection (c) of section 10-222t of the general statutes is
585 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
586 *passage*):

587 (c) The parent or guardian of a student shall receive prior written
588 notice of any social-emotional learning assessment or mental health and
589 resiliency screening described in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this
590 section that is to be administered pursuant to subsection (b) of this
591 section. No student shall complete such assessment or screening unless
592 such parent or guardian provides permission [that] for such student
593 [may] to complete such assessment or screening.

594 Sec. 27. Subsection (b) of section 10-530 of the general statutes is
595 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
596 *passage*):

597 (b) The comprehensive background checks required pursuant to
598 subsection (c) of section 19a-80, subsection (c) of section 19a-87b [,] and
599 subsection (a) of section 17b-749k, shall be conducted at least once every
600 five years for each child care services provider or staff member in
601 accordance with the provisions of 45 CFR 98.43, as amended from time
602 to time.

603 Sec. 28. Subdivision (4) of section 17a-248 of the general statutes is
604 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
605 *passage*):

606 (4) "Eligible children" means children (A) (i) from birth to thirty-six
607 months of age, who are not eligible for special education and related
608 services pursuant to sections 10-76a to 10-76h, inclusive, and (ii) thirty-
609 six months of age or older, who are receiving early intervention services
610 and are eligible or being evaluated for participation in preschool
611 services pursuant to Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities
612 Education Act, 20 USC 1411 et seq., until such children are enrolled in
613 such preschool services, and (B) who need early intervention services
614 because such children are:

615 [(I)] (i) Experiencing a significant developmental delay as measured
616 by standardized diagnostic instruments and procedures, including
617 informed clinical opinion, in one or more of the following areas:
618 Cognitive development; physical development, including vision or

619 hearing; communication development; social or emotional
620 development; or adaptive skills; or

621 [(II)] (ii) Diagnosed as having a physical or mental condition that has
622 a high probability of resulting in developmental delay.

623 Sec. 29. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-264l of the general
624 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
625 (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

626 (a) The Department of Education shall, within available
627 appropriations, establish a grant program (1) to assist (A) local and
628 regional boards of education, (B) regional educational service centers,
629 (C) the Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges on
630 behalf of Quinebaug Valley Community College and Three Rivers
631 Community College, and (D) cooperative arrangements pursuant to
632 section 10-158a, and (2) in assisting the state in meeting its obligations
633 pursuant to the decision in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any
634 related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the
635 commissioner, to assist (A) the Board of Trustees of the Community-
636 Technical Colleges on behalf of a regional community-technical college,
637 (B) the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System on
638 behalf of a state university, (C) the Board of Trustees of The University
639 of Connecticut on behalf of the university, (D) the board of governors
640 for an independent institution of higher education, as defined in
641 subsection (a) of section 10a-173, or the equivalent of such a board, on
642 behalf of the independent institution of higher education, and (E) any
643 other third-party not-for-profit corporation approved by the
644 commissioner with the operation of interdistrict magnet school
645 programs. All interdistrict magnet schools shall be operated in
646 conformance with the same laws and regulations applicable to public
647 schools. For the purposes of this section "an interdistrict magnet school
648 program" means a program which (i) supports racial, ethnic and
649 economic diversity, (ii) offers a special and high quality curriculum, and
650 (iii) requires students who are enrolled to attend at least half-time. An
651 interdistrict magnet school program does not include a regional

652 agricultural science and technology school, a technical education and
653 career school or a regional special education center. For the school
654 [years] year commencing July 1, 2017, [to July 1, 2023, inclusive] and
655 each school year thereafter, the governing authority for each
656 interdistrict magnet school program shall (I) restrict the number of
657 students that may enroll in the school from a participating district to
658 seventy-five per cent of the total school enrollment, and (II) maintain a
659 total school enrollment that is in accordance with the reduced-isolation
660 setting standards for interdistrict magnet school programs, developed
661 by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 10-264r, as
662 amended by this act.

663 (b) (1) Applications for interdistrict magnet school program
664 operating grants awarded pursuant to this section shall be submitted
665 annually to the Commissioner of Education at such time and in such
666 manner as the commissioner prescribes, except that on and after July 1,
667 2009, applications for such operating grants for new interdistrict magnet
668 schools, other than those that the commissioner determines will assist
669 the state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in *Sheff v.*
670 *O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect,
671 as determined by the commissioner, shall not be accepted until the
672 commissioner develops a comprehensive state-wide interdistrict
673 magnet school plan. The commissioner shall submit such
674 comprehensive state-wide interdistrict magnet school plan on or before
675 October 1, 2016, to the joint standing committees of the General
676 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and
677 appropriations.

678 (2) In determining whether an application shall be approved and
679 funds awarded pursuant to this section, the commissioner shall
680 consider, but such consideration shall not be limited to: (A) Whether the
681 program offered by the school is likely to increase student achievement;
682 (B) whether the program is likely to reduce racial, ethnic and economic
683 isolation; (C) the percentage of the student enrollment in the program
684 from each participating district; and (D) the proposed operating budget
685 and the sources of funding for the interdistrict magnet school. For a

686 magnet school not operated by a local or regional board of education,
687 the commissioner shall only approve a proposed operating budget that,
688 on a per pupil basis, does not exceed the maximum allowable threshold
689 established in accordance with this subdivision. The maximum
690 allowable threshold shall be an amount equal to one hundred twenty
691 per cent of the state average of the quotient obtained by dividing net
692 current expenditures, as defined in section 10-261, by average daily
693 membership, as defined in said section, for the fiscal year two years
694 prior to the fiscal year for which the operating grant is requested. The
695 Department of Education shall establish the maximum allowable
696 threshold no later than December fifteenth of the fiscal year prior to the
697 fiscal year for which the operating grant is requested. If requested by an
698 applicant that is not a local or regional board of education, the
699 commissioner may approve a proposed operating budget that exceeds
700 the maximum allowable threshold if the commissioner determines that
701 there are extraordinary programmatic needs. For the fiscal years ending
702 June 30, 2017, June 30, 2018, June 30, 2020, and June 30, 2021, in the case
703 of an interdistrict magnet school that will assist the state in meeting its
704 obligations pursuant to the decision in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1
705 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the
706 commissioner, the commissioner shall also consider whether the school
707 is meeting the reduced-isolation setting standards for interdistrict
708 magnet school programs, developed by the commissioner pursuant to
709 section 10-264r, as amended by this act. If such school has not met such
710 reduced-isolation setting standards, it shall not be entitled to receive a
711 grant pursuant to this section unless the commissioner finds that it is
712 appropriate to award a grant for an additional year or years and
713 approves a plan to bring such school into compliance with such
714 reduced-isolation setting standards. If requested by the commissioner,
715 the applicant shall meet with the commissioner or the commissioner's
716 designee to discuss the budget and sources of funding.

717 (3) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2018, to June 30, [2023] 2025,
718 inclusive, the commissioner shall not award a grant to an interdistrict
719 magnet school program that (A) has more than seventy-five per cent of

720 the total school enrollment from one school district, or (B) does not
721 maintain a total school enrollment that is in accordance with the
722 reduced-isolation setting standards for interdistrict magnet school
723 programs, developed by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to
724 section 10-264r, as amended by this act, except the commissioner may
725 award a grant to such school for an additional year or years if the
726 commissioner finds it is appropriate to do so and approves a plan to
727 bring such school into compliance with such residency or reduced-
728 isolation setting standards.

729 (4) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2018, to June 30, 2021,
730 inclusive, if an interdistrict magnet school program does not maintain a
731 total school enrollment that is in accordance with the reduced-isolation
732 setting standards for interdistrict magnet school programs, developed
733 by the commissioner pursuant to section 10-264r, as amended by this
734 act, for two or more consecutive years, the commissioner may impose a
735 financial penalty on the operator of such interdistrict magnet school
736 program, or take any other measure, in consultation with such operator,
737 as may be appropriate to assist such operator in complying with such
738 reduced-isolation setting standards.

739 Sec. 30. Subparagraph (C) of subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of
740 section 10-264l of the general statutes is repealed and the following is
741 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

742 (C) (i) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, to June 30, 2019,
743 inclusive, each interdistrict magnet school operated by a regional
744 educational service center that began operations for the school year
745 commencing July 1, 2001, and that for the school year commencing July
746 1, 2008, enrolled at least fifty-five per cent, but no more than eighty per
747 cent of the school's students from a single town, shall receive a per pupil
748 grant (I) for each enrolled student who is a resident of the district that
749 enrolls at least fifty-five per cent, but no more than eighty per cent of the
750 school's students, up to an amount equal to the total number of such
751 enrolled students as of October 1, 2013, using the data of record, in the
752 amount of eight thousand one hundred eighty dollars, (II) for each

753 enrolled student who is a resident of the district that enrolls at least fifty-
754 five per cent, but not more than eighty per cent of the school's students,
755 in an amount greater than the total number of such enrolled students as
756 of October 1, 2013, using the data of record, in the amount of three
757 thousand dollars, (III) for each enrolled student who is not a resident of
758 the district that enrolls at least fifty-five per cent, but no more than
759 eighty per cent of the school's students, up to an amount equal to the
760 total number of such enrolled students as of October 1, 2013, using the
761 data of record, in the amount of eight thousand one hundred eighty
762 dollars, and (IV) for each enrolled student who is not a resident of the
763 district that enrolls at least fifty-five per cent, but not more than eighty
764 per cent of the school's students, in an amount greater than the total
765 number of such enrolled students as of October 1, 2013, using the data
766 of record, in the amount of seven thousand eighty-five dollars.

767 (ii) For the fiscal [year] years ending June 30, 2020, [and each fiscal
768 year thereafter] to June 30, 2022, inclusive, each interdistrict magnet
769 school operated by a regional educational service center that began
770 operations for the school year commencing July 1, 2001, and that for the
771 school year commencing July 1, 2008, enrolled at least fifty-five per cent,
772 but not more than eighty per cent of the school's students from a single
773 town, shall receive a per pupil grant (I) for each enrolled student who is
774 a resident of the district that enrolls at least fifty-five per cent, but not
775 more than eighty per cent of the school's students, up to an amount
776 equal to the total number of such enrolled students as of October 1, 2013,
777 using the data of record, in the amount of eight thousand three hundred
778 forty-four dollars, (II) for each enrolled student who is a resident of the
779 district that enrolls at least fifty-five per cent, but not more than eighty
780 per cent of the school's students, in an amount greater than the total
781 number of such enrolled students as of October 1, 2013, using the data
782 of record, in the amount of three thousand sixty dollars, (III) for each
783 enrolled student who is not a resident of the district that enrolls at least
784 fifty-five per cent, but no more than eighty per cent of the school's
785 students, up to an amount equal to the total number of such enrolled
786 students as of October 1, 2013, using the data of record, in the amount

787 of eight thousand three hundred forty-four dollars, and (IV) for each
788 enrolled student who is not a resident of the district that enrolls at least
789 fifty-five per cent, but not more than eighty per cent of the school's
790 students, in an amount greater than the total number of such enrolled
791 students as of October 1, 2013, using the data of record, in the amount
792 of seven thousand two hundred twenty-seven dollars.

793 Sec. 31. Subsection (o) of section 10-264l of the general statutes is
794 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
795 *2023*):

796 (o) For the school years commencing July 1, 2009, to July 1, 2018,
797 inclusive, and for the school year commencing July 1, 2023, any local or
798 regional board of education operating an interdistrict magnet school
799 pursuant to the decision in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any
800 related stipulation or order in effect, shall not charge tuition for any
801 student enrolled in a preschool program or in kindergarten to grade
802 twelve, inclusive, in an interdistrict magnet school operated by such
803 school district, except the Hartford school district may charge tuition for
804 any student enrolled in the Great Path Academy.

805 Sec. 32. Section 10-264r of the general statutes is repealed and the
806 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

807 Not later than July 1, 2017, the Commissioner of Education shall
808 develop, and revise as necessary thereafter, reduced-isolation [setting]
809 enrollment standards for interdistrict magnet school programs that shall
810 serve as the enrollment requirements for purposes of section 10-264l, as
811 amended by this act. Such standards shall (1) comply with the decision
812 of *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order
813 in effect, for an interdistrict magnet school program located in the Sheff
814 region, as defined in subsection (k) of section 10-264l, as amended by
815 this act, (2) define the term "reduced-isolation student" for purposes of
816 the standards, [(2)] (3) establish a requirement for the minimum
817 percentage of reduced-isolation students that can be enrolled in an
818 interdistrict magnet school program, provided such minimum

819 percentage is not less than twenty per cent of the total school enrollment,
820 [(3)] (4) allow an interdistrict magnet school program to have a total
821 school enrollment of reduced-isolation students that is not more than
822 one per cent below the minimum percentage established by the
823 commissioner, provided the commissioner approves a plan that is
824 designed to bring the number of reduced-isolation students of such
825 interdistrict magnet school program into compliance with the minimum
826 percentage, and [(4)] (5) for the school year commencing July 1, 2018,
827 authorize the commissioner to establish on or before May 1, 2018, and
828 revise as necessary thereafter, an alternative reduced-isolation student
829 enrollment percentage for an interdistrict magnet school program
830 located in the Sheff region, [as defined in subsection (k) of section 10-
831 264l,] provided the commissioner (A) determines that such alternative
832 (i) increases opportunities for students who are residents of Hartford to
833 access an educational setting with reduced racial isolation or other
834 categories of diversity, including, but not limited to, geography,
835 socioeconomic status, special education, English language learners and
836 academic achievement, (ii) complies with the decision of Sheff v.
837 O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect,
838 and (B) approves a plan for such interdistrict magnet school program
839 that is designed to bring the number of reduced-isolation students of
840 such interdistrict magnet school program into compliance with such
841 alternative or the minimum percentage described in subdivision (2) of
842 this section. Not later than May 1, 2018, the commissioner shall submit
843 a report on each alternative reduced-isolation student enrollment
844 percentage established, pursuant to subdivision (4) of this section, for
845 an interdistrict magnet school program located in the Sheff region to the
846 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
847 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
848 section 11-4a. The reduced-isolation setting standards for interdistrict
849 magnet school programs shall not be deemed to be regulations, as
850 defined in section 4-166.

851 Sec. 33. Section 10-262s of the general statutes is repealed and the
852 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

853 (a) The Commissioner of Education may, to assist the state in meeting
854 its obligations pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1
855 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the
856 Commissioner of Education, transfer funds appropriated for the Sheff
857 settlement to the following: (1) Grants for interdistrict cooperative
858 programs pursuant to section 10-74d, (2) grants for state charter schools
859 pursuant to section 10-66ee, (3) grants for the interdistrict public school
860 attendance program pursuant to section 10-266aa, (4) grants for
861 interdistrict magnet schools pursuant to section 10-264l, as amended by
862 this act, and (5) to the Technical Education and Career System for
863 programming.

864 (b) The Commissioner of Education may, to assist the state in meeting
865 its obligations pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1
866 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the
867 Commissioner of Education, award grants with funds appropriated for
868 the Sheff settlement for academic and social student support programs
869 for the following voluntary interdistrict programs: (1) Interdistrict
870 cooperative programs pursuant to section 10-74d, (2) the interdistrict
871 public school attendance program pursuant to section 10-266aa, (3)
872 interdistrict magnet school programs pursuant to section 10-264l, as
873 amended by this act, and (4) the Technical Education and Career
874 System.

875 Sec. 34. Section 10-15f of the general statutes is repealed and the
876 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

877 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military
878 Children.

879 ARTICLE I

880 PURPOSE

881 It is the purpose of this compact to remove barriers to educational
882 success imposed on children of military families because of frequent
883 moves and deployment of their parents by:

884 A. Facilitating the timely enrollment of children of military families
885 and ensuring that they are not placed at a disadvantage due to difficulty
886 in the transfer of education records from the previous school districts or
887 variations in entrance or age requirements.

888 B. Facilitating the student placement process through which children
889 of military families are not disadvantaged by variations in attendance
890 requirements, scheduling, sequencing, grading, course content or
891 assessment.

892 C. Facilitating the qualification and eligibility for enrollment,
893 educational programs, and participation in extracurricular academic,
894 athletic, and social activities.

895 D. Facilitating the on-time graduation of children of military families.

896 E. Providing for the promulgation and enforcement of administrative
897 rules implementing the provisions of this compact.

898 F. Providing for the uniform collection and sharing of information
899 between and among member states, schools and military families under
900 this compact.

901 G. Promoting coordination between this compact and other compacts
902 affecting military children.

903 H. Promoting flexibility and cooperation between the educational
904 system, parents and the student in order to achieve educational success
905 for the student.

906 ARTICLE II

907 DEFINITIONS

908 As used in this compact, unless the context clearly requires a different
909 construction:

910 A. "Active duty" means full-time duty status in the active uniformed
911 service of the United States, including members of the National Guard

912 and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 USC [Section]
913 Chapters 1209 and 1211.

914 B. "Children of military families" means school-aged children,
915 enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth grade, in the household of an
916 active duty member.

917 C. "Compact commissioner" means the voting representative of each
918 compacting state appointed pursuant to Article VIII of this compact.

919 D. "Deployment" means the period one month prior to the service
920 members' departure from their home station on military orders to six
921 months after return to their home station.

922 E. "Educational records" means the official records, files, and data
923 directly related to a student and maintained by the school or local
924 education agency, including, but not limited, to records encompassing
925 all the material kept in the student's cumulative folder such as general
926 identifying data, records of attendance and of academic work
927 completed, records of achievement and results of evaluative tests, health
928 data, disciplinary status, test protocols and individualized education
929 programs.

930 F. "Extracurricular activities" means a voluntary activity sponsored
931 by the school or local education agency or an organization sanctioned
932 by the local education agency. Extracurricular activities include, but are
933 not limited to, preparation for and involvement in public performances,
934 contests, athletic competitions, demonstrations, displays and club
935 activities.

936 G. "Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military
937 Children" means the commission that is created under Article IX of this
938 compact, which is generally referred to as the Interstate Commission.

939 H. "Local education agency" means a public authority legally
940 constituted by the state as an administrative agency to provide control
941 of and direction for kindergarten through twelfth grade public

942 educational institutions.

943 I. "Member state" means a state that has enacted this compact.

944 J. "Military installation" means a base, camp, post, station, yard,
945 center, homeport facility for any ship, or other activity under the
946 jurisdiction of the Department of Defense, including any leased facility,
947 which is located within any of the several states, the District of
948 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands,
949 Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Marianas Islands and any other
950 U.S. Territory. Such term does not include any facility used primarily
951 for civil works, rivers and harbors projects, or flood control projects.

952 K. "Nonmember state" means a state that has not enacted this
953 compact.

954 L. "Receiving state" means the state to which a child of a military
955 family is sent, brought or caused to be sent or brought.

956 M. "Rule" means a written statement by the Interstate Commission
957 promulgated pursuant to Article XII of this compact that is of general
958 applicability, implements, interprets or prescribes a policy or provision
959 of the compact, or an organizational, procedural or practice requirement
960 of the Interstate Commission, and has the force and effect of statutory
961 law in a member state, and includes the amendment, repeal or
962 suspension of an existing rule.

963 N. "Sending state" means the state from which a child of a military
964 family is sent, brought or caused to be sent or brought.

965 O. "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia,
966 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam,
967 American Samoa, the Northern Marianas Islands and any other U.S.
968 territory.

969 P. "Student" means the child of a military family for whom the local
970 education agency receives public funding and who is formally enrolled
971 in kindergarten through twelfth grade.

972 Q. "Transition" means (1) the formal and physical process of
973 transferring from school to school, or (2) the period of time in which a
974 student moves from one school in the sending state to another school in
975 the receiving state.

976 R. "Uniformed services" means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine
977 Corps, Coast Guard as well as the Commissioned Corps of the National
978 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Services.

979 S. "Veteran" means a person who served in the uniformed services
980 and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other
981 than dishonorable.

982 ARTICLE III

983 APPLICABILITY

984 A. Except as otherwise provided in Section B, this compact shall
985 apply to the children of:

986 1. Active duty members of the uniformed services as defined in this
987 compact, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on
988 active duty orders pursuant to 10 USC [Section] Chapters 1209 and 1211;

989 2. Members or veterans of the uniformed services who are severely
990 injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one year after
991 medical discharge or retirement; and

992 3. Members of the uniformed services who die on active duty or as a
993 result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one year after
994 death.

995 B. The provisions of this interstate compact shall only apply to local
996 education agencies as defined in this compact.

997 C. The provisions of this compact shall not apply to the children of:

998 1. Inactive members of the National Guard and military reserves;

999 2. Members of the uniformed services now retired, except as
1000 provided in Section A;

1001 3. Veterans of the uniformed services, except as provided in Section
1002 A of this Article; and

1003 4. Other U.S. Dept. of Defense personnel and other federal agency
1004 civilian and contract employees not defined as active duty members of
1005 the uniformed services.

1006 ARTICLE IV

1007 EDUCATIONAL RECORDS & ENROLLMENT

1008 A. In the event that official education records cannot be released to
1009 the parents for the purpose of transfer, the custodian of the records in
1010 the sending state shall prepare and furnish to the parent a complete set
1011 of unofficial educational records containing uniform information as
1012 determined by the Interstate Commission. Upon receipt of the unofficial
1013 education records by a school in the receiving state, the school shall
1014 enroll and appropriately place the student based on the information
1015 provided in the unofficial records pending validation by the official
1016 records, as quickly as possible.

1017 B. Simultaneous with the enrollment and conditional placement of
1018 the student, the school in the receiving state shall request the student's
1019 official education record from the school in the sending state. Upon
1020 receipt of this request, the school in the sending state will process and
1021 furnish the official education records to the school in the receiving state
1022 within ten days or within such time as is reasonably determined under
1023 the rules promulgated by the Interstate Commission.

1024 C. Compacting states shall give thirty days from the date of
1025 enrollment or within such time as is reasonably determined under the
1026 rules promulgated by the Interstate Commission, for students to obtain
1027 any immunizations required by the receiving state. For a series of
1028 immunizations, initial vaccinations must be obtained within thirty days

1029 or within such time as is reasonably determined under the rules
1030 promulgated by the Interstate Commission.

1031 D. Students shall be allowed to continue their enrollment at grade
1032 level in the receiving state commensurate with their grade level,
1033 including kindergarten, from a local education agency in the sending
1034 state at the time of transition, regardless of age. A student that has
1035 satisfactorily completed the prerequisite grade level in the local
1036 education agency in the sending state shall be eligible for enrollment in
1037 the next highest grade level in the receiving state, regardless of age. A
1038 student transferring after the start of the school year in the receiving
1039 state shall enter the school in the receiving state on their validated level
1040 from an accredited school in the sending state.

1041 ARTICLE V

1042 PLACEMENT & ATTENDANCE

1043 A. When the student transfers before or during the school year, the
1044 receiving state school shall initially honor placement of the student in
1045 educational courses based on the student's enrollment in the sending
1046 state school and educational assessments conducted at the school in the
1047 sending state if the courses are offered. Course placement includes, but
1048 is not limited to, honors, International Baccalaureate, advanced
1049 placement, vocational, technical and career pathways courses.
1050 Continuing the student's academic program from the previous school
1051 and promoting placement in academically and career challenging
1052 courses should be paramount when considering placement. This does
1053 not preclude the school in the receiving state from performing
1054 subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued
1055 enrollment of the student in the courses.

1056 B. The receiving state school shall initially honor placement of the
1057 student in educational programs based on current educational
1058 assessments conducted at the school in the sending state or participation
1059 and placement in like programs in the sending state. Such programs
1060 include, but are not limited to: (1) Gifted and talented programs; and (2)

1061 English as a second language. This does not preclude the school in the
1062 receiving state from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure
1063 appropriate placement of the student.

1064 C. (1) In compliance with the federal requirements of the Individuals
1065 with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C.A. Section 1400 et seq., the
1066 receiving state shall initially provide comparable services to a student
1067 with disabilities based on his current individualized education
1068 program; and (2) In compliance with the requirements of Section 504 of
1069 the Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C.A. Section 794, and with Title II of the
1070 Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C.A. Sections 12131-12165, the
1071 receiving state shall make reasonable accommodations and
1072 modifications to address the needs of incoming students with
1073 disabilities, subject to an existing 504 or Title II Plan, to provide the
1074 student with equal access to education. This does not preclude the
1075 school in the receiving state from performing subsequent evaluations to
1076 ensure appropriate placement of the student.

1077 D. Local education agency administrative officials shall have
1078 flexibility in waiving course and program prerequisites, or other
1079 preconditions for placement in courses and programs offered under the
1080 jurisdiction of the local education agency.

1081 E. A student whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member
1082 of the uniformed services, as defined by the compact, and has been
1083 called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from
1084 deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be
1085 granted additional excused absences at the discretion of the local
1086 education agency superintendent to visit with his parent or legal
1087 guardian relative to such leave or deployment of the parent or guardian.

1088 ARTICLE VI

1089 ELIGIBILITY

1090 A. Eligibility for enrollment

1091 1. Special power of attorney, relative to the guardianship of a child of
1092 a military family and executed under applicable law shall be sufficient
1093 for the purposes of enrollment and all other actions requiring parental
1094 participation and consent.

1095 2. A local education agency shall be prohibited from charging local
1096 tuition to a transitioning military child placed in the care of a
1097 noncustodial parent or other person standing in loco parentis who lives
1098 in a jurisdiction other than that of the custodial parent.

1099 3. A transitioning military child, placed in the care of a noncustodial
1100 parent or other person standing in loco parentis who lives in a
1101 jurisdiction other than that of the custodial parent, may continue to
1102 attend the school in which he was enrolled while residing with the
1103 custodial parent.

1104 B. State and local education agencies shall facilitate the opportunity
1105 for transitioning military children's inclusion in extracurricular
1106 activities, regardless of application deadlines, to the extent they are
1107 otherwise qualified.

1108 ARTICLE VII

1109 GRADUATION

1110 In order to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military
1111 families states and local education agencies shall incorporate the
1112 following procedures:

1113 A. Local education agency administrative officials shall waive
1114 specific courses required for graduation if similar course work has been
1115 satisfactorily completed in another local education agency or shall
1116 provide reasonable justification for denial. Should a waiver not be
1117 granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending
1118 school, the local education agency shall provide an alternative means of
1119 acquiring required coursework so that graduation may occur on time.

1120 B. States shall accept: (1) Exit or end-of-course exams required for

1121 graduation from the sending state; or (2) national norm-referenced
1122 achievement tests; or (3) alternative testing, in lieu of testing
1123 requirements for graduation in the receiving state. In the event the
1124 above alternatives cannot be accommodated by the receiving state for a
1125 student transferring in his senior year, then the provisions of Article VII,
1126 Section C shall apply.

1127 C. Should a military student transferring at the beginning or during
1128 his or her senior year be ineligible to graduate from the receiving local
1129 education agency after all alternatives have been considered, the
1130 sending and receiving local education agencies shall ensure the receipt
1131 of a diploma from the sending local education agency, if the student
1132 meets the graduation requirements of the sending local education
1133 agency. In the event that one of the states in question is not a member of
1134 this compact, the member state shall use best efforts to facilitate the on-
1135 time graduation of the student in accordance with Sections A and B of
1136 this Article.

1137 ARTICLE VIII

1138 STATE COORDINATION

1139 A. Each member state shall, through the creation of a State Council or
1140 use of an existing body or board, provide for the coordination among its
1141 agencies of government, local education agencies and military
1142 installations concerning the state's participation in, and compliance
1143 with, this compact and Interstate Commission activities. While each
1144 member state may determine the membership of its own State Council,
1145 its membership must include at least: The state superintendent of
1146 education, superintendent of a school district with a high concentration
1147 of military children, representative from a military installation, one
1148 representative each from the legislative and executive branches of
1149 government, and other offices and stakeholder groups the State Council
1150 deems appropriate. A member state that does not have a school district
1151 deemed to contain a high concentration of military children may
1152 appoint a superintendent from another school district to represent local

1153 education agencies on the State Council.

1154 B. The State Council of each member state shall appoint or designate
1155 a military family education liaison to assist military families and the
1156 state in facilitating the implementation of this compact.

1157 C. The compact commissioner responsible for the administration and
1158 management of the state's participation in the compact shall be
1159 appointed by the Governor or as otherwise determined by each member
1160 state.

1161 D. The compact commissioner and the military family education
1162 liaison designated herein shall be ex-officio members of the State
1163 Council, unless either is already a full voting member of the State
1164 Council.

1165 ARTICLE IX

1166 INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
1167 FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

1168 The member states hereby create the "Interstate Commission on
1169 Educational Opportunity for Military Children". The activities of the
1170 Interstate Commission are the formation of public policy and are a
1171 discretionary state function. The Interstate Commission shall:

1172 A. Be a body corporate and joint agency of the member states and
1173 shall have all the responsibilities, powers and duties set forth herein,
1174 and such additional powers as may be conferred upon it by a
1175 subsequent concurrent action of the respective legislatures of the
1176 member states in accordance with the terms of this compact.

1177 B. Consist of one Interstate Commission voting representative from
1178 each member state who shall be that state's compact commissioner.

1179 1. Each member state represented at a meeting of the Interstate
1180 Commission is entitled to one vote.

1181 2. A majority of the total member states shall constitute a quorum for
1182 the transaction of business, unless a larger quorum is required by the
1183 bylaws of the Interstate Commission.

1184 3. A representative shall not delegate a vote to another member state.
1185 In the event the compact commissioner is unable to attend a meeting of
1186 the Interstate Commission, the Governor or State Council may delegate
1187 voting authority to another person from their state for a specified
1188 meeting.

1189 4. The bylaws may provide for meetings of the Interstate Commission
1190 to be conducted by telecommunication or electronic communication.

1191 C. Consist of ex-officio, nonvoting representatives who are members
1192 of interested organizations. Such ex-officio members, as defined in the
1193 bylaws, may include, but not be limited to, members of the
1194 representative organizations of military family advocates, local
1195 education agency officials, parent and teacher groups, the U.S.
1196 Department of Defense, the Education Commission of the States, the
1197 Interstate Agreement on the Qualification of Educational Personnel and
1198 other interstate compacts affecting the education of children of military
1199 members.

1200 D. Meet at least once each calendar year. The chairperson may call
1201 additional meetings and, upon the request of a simple majority of the
1202 member states, shall call additional meetings.

1203 E. Establish an executive committee, whose members shall include
1204 the officers of the Interstate Commission and such other members of the
1205 Interstate Commission as determined by the bylaws. Members of the
1206 executive committee shall serve a one-year term. Members of the
1207 executive committee shall be entitled to one vote each. The executive
1208 committee shall have the power to act on behalf of the Interstate
1209 Commission, with the exception of rulemaking, during periods when
1210 the Interstate Commission is not in session. The executive committee
1211 shall oversee the day-to-day activities of the administration of the
1212 compact including enforcement and compliance with the provisions of

1213 the compact, its bylaws and rules, and other such duties as deemed
1214 necessary. The U.S. Dept. of Defense, shall serve as an ex-officio,
1215 nonvoting member of the executive committee.

1216 F. Establish bylaws and rules that provide for conditions and
1217 procedures under which the Interstate Commission shall make its
1218 information and official records available to the public for inspection or
1219 copying. The Interstate Commission may exempt from disclosure
1220 information or official records to the extent they would adversely affect
1221 personal privacy rights or proprietary interests.

1222 G. Give public notice of all meetings and all meetings shall be open
1223 to the public, except as set forth in the rules or as otherwise provided in
1224 the compact. The Interstate Commission and its committees may close a
1225 meeting, or portion thereof, where it determines by two-thirds vote that
1226 an open meeting would be likely to:

1227 1. Relate solely to the Interstate Commission's internal personnel
1228 practices and procedures;

1229 2. Disclose matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal
1230 and state statute;

1231 3. Disclose trade secrets or commercial or financial information which
1232 is privileged or confidential;

1233 4. Involve accusing a person of a crime, or formally censuring a
1234 person;

1235 5. Disclose information of a personal nature where disclosure would
1236 constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

1237 6. Disclose investigative records compiled for law enforcement
1238 purposes; or

1239 7. Specifically relate to the Interstate Commission's participation in a
1240 civil action or other legal proceeding.

1241 H. Cause its legal counsel or designee to certify that a meeting may
1242 be closed and shall reference each relevant exemptible provision for any
1243 meeting, or portion of a meeting, which is closed pursuant to this
1244 provision. The Interstate Commission shall keep minutes which shall
1245 fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall
1246 provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, and the reasons
1247 therefor, including a description of the views expressed and the record
1248 of a roll call vote. All documents considered in connection with an action
1249 shall be identified in such minutes. All minutes and documents of a
1250 closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject to release by a majority
1251 vote of the Interstate Commission.

1252 I. Collect standardized data concerning the educational transition of
1253 the children of military families under this compact as directed through
1254 its rules which shall specify the data to be collected, the means of
1255 collection and data exchange and reporting requirements. Such
1256 methods of data collection, exchange and reporting shall, insofar as is
1257 reasonably possible, conform to current technology and coordinate its
1258 information functions with the appropriate custodian of records as
1259 identified in the bylaws and rules.

1260 J. Create a process that permits military officials, education officials
1261 and parents to inform the Interstate Commission if and when there are
1262 alleged violations of the compact or its rules or when issues subject to
1263 the jurisdiction of the compact or its rules are not addressed by the state
1264 or local education agency. This section shall not be construed to create a
1265 private right of action against the Interstate Commission or any member
1266 state.

1267 ARTICLE X

1268 POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION

1269 The Interstate Commission shall have the following powers:

1270 A. To provide for dispute resolution among member states.

1271 B. To promulgate rules and take all necessary actions to effect the
1272 goals, purposes and obligations as enumerated in this compact. The
1273 rules shall have the force and effect of statutory law and shall be binding
1274 in the compact states to the extent and in the manner provided in this
1275 compact.

1276 C. To issue, upon request of a member state, advisory opinions
1277 concerning the meaning or interpretation of the interstate compact, its
1278 bylaws, rules and actions.

1279 D. To enforce compliance with the compact provisions, the rules
1280 promulgated by the Interstate Commission, and the bylaws, using all
1281 necessary and proper means, including but not limited to the use of
1282 judicial process.

1283 E. To establish and maintain offices which shall be located within one
1284 or more of the member states.

1285 F. To purchase and maintain insurance and bonds.

1286 G. To borrow, accept, hire or contract for services of personnel.

1287 H. To establish and appoint committees including, but not limited to,
1288 an executive committee as required by Article IX, Section E, which shall
1289 have the power to act on behalf of the Interstate Commission in carrying
1290 out its powers and duties hereunder.

1291 I. To elect or appoint such officers, attorneys, employees, agents, or
1292 consultants, and to fix their compensation, define their duties and
1293 determine their qualifications; and to establish the Interstate
1294 Commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of
1295 interest, rates of compensation, and qualifications of personnel.

1296 J. To accept any and all donations and grants of money, equipment,
1297 supplies, materials, and services, and to receive, utilize, and dispose of
1298 it.

1299 K. To lease, purchase, accept contributions or donations of, or

1300 otherwise to own, hold, improve or use any property, real, personal or
1301 mixed.

1302 L. To sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or
1303 otherwise dispose of any property, real, personal or mixed.

1304 M. To establish a budget and make expenditures.

1305 N. To adopt a seal and bylaws governing the management and
1306 operation of the Interstate Commission.

1307 O. To report annually to the legislatures, governors, judiciary, and
1308 state councils of the member states concerning the activities of the
1309 Interstate Commission during the preceding year. Such reports shall
1310 also include any recommendations that may have been adopted by the
1311 Interstate Commission.

1312 P. To coordinate education, training and public awareness regarding
1313 the compact, its implementation and operation for officials and parents
1314 involved in such activity.

1315 Q. To establish uniform standards for the reporting, collecting and
1316 exchanging of data.

1317 R. To maintain corporate books and records in accordance with the
1318 bylaws.

1319 S. To perform such functions as may be necessary or appropriate to
1320 achieve the purposes of this compact.

1321 T. To provide for the uniform collection and sharing of information
1322 between and among member states, schools and military families under
1323 this compact.

1324 ARTICLE XI

1325 ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THE INTERSTATE
1326 COMMISSION

1327 A. The Interstate Commission shall, by a majority of the members
1328 present and voting, within twelve months after the first Interstate
1329 Commission meeting, adopt bylaws to govern its conduct as may be
1330 necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the compact,
1331 including, but not limited to:

1332 1. Establishing the fiscal year of the Interstate Commission;

1333 2. Establishing an executive committee, and such other committees as
1334 may be necessary;

1335 3. Providing for the establishment of committees and for governing
1336 any general or specific delegation of authority or function of the
1337 Interstate Commission;

1338 4. Providing reasonable procedures for calling and conducting
1339 meetings of the Interstate Commission, and ensuring reasonable notice
1340 of each such meeting;

1341 5. Establishing the titles and responsibilities of the officers and staff
1342 of the Interstate Commission;

1343 6. Providing a mechanism for concluding the operations of the
1344 Interstate Commission and the return of surplus funds that may exist
1345 upon the termination of the compact after the payment and reserving of
1346 all of its debts and obligations;

1347 7. Providing start-up rules for initial administration of the compact.

1348 B. The Interstate Commission shall, by a majority of the members,
1349 elect annually from among its members a chairperson, a vice-
1350 chairperson, and a treasurer, each of whom shall have such authority
1351 and duties as may be specified in the bylaws. The chairperson or, in the
1352 chairperson's absence or disability, the vice-chairperson, shall preside at
1353 all meetings of the Interstate Commission. The officers so elected shall
1354 serve without compensation or remuneration from the Interstate
1355 Commission provided that, subject to the availability of budgeted
1356 funds, the officers shall be reimbursed for ordinary and necessary costs

1357 and expenses incurred by them in the performance of their
1358 responsibilities as officers of the Interstate Commission.

1359 C. Executive Committee, Officers and Personnel

1360 1. The executive committee shall have such authority and duties as
1361 may be set forth in the bylaws, including, but not limited to:

1362 a. Managing the affairs of the Interstate Commission in a manner
1363 consistent with the bylaws and purposes of the Interstate Commission;

1364 b. Overseeing an organizational structure within, and appropriate
1365 procedures for the Interstate Commission to provide for the creation of
1366 rules, operating procedures, and administrative and technical support
1367 functions; and

1368 c. Planning, implementing, and coordinating communications and
1369 activities with other state, federal and local government organizations
1370 in order to advance the goals of the Interstate Commission.

1371 2. The executive committee may, subject to the approval of the
1372 Interstate Commission, appoint or retain an executive director for such
1373 period, upon such terms and conditions and for such compensation, as
1374 the Interstate Commission may deem appropriate. The executive
1375 director shall serve as secretary to the Interstate Commission, but shall
1376 not be a member of the Interstate Commission. The executive director
1377 shall hire and supervise such other persons as may be authorized by the
1378 Interstate Commission.

1379 D. The Interstate Commission's executive director and its employees
1380 shall be immune from suit and liability, either personally or in their
1381 official capacity, for a claim for damage to or loss of property or personal
1382 injury or other civil liability caused or arising out of or relating to an
1383 actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that such
1384 person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred, within the scope
1385 of Interstate Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities
1386 provided, such person shall not be protected from suit or liability for

1387 damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the intentional or willful and
1388 wanton misconduct of such person.

1389 1. The liability of the Interstate Commission's executive director and
1390 employees or Interstate Commission representatives, acting within the
1391 scope of such person's employment or duties for acts, errors, or
1392 omissions occurring within such person's state may not exceed the
1393 limits of liability set forth under the Constitution and laws of that state
1394 for state officials, employees, and agents. The Interstate Commission is
1395 considered to be an instrumentality of the states for the purposes of any
1396 such action. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to protect
1397 such person from suit or liability for damage, loss, injury, or liability
1398 caused by the intentional or willful and wanton misconduct of such
1399 person.

1400 2. The Interstate Commission shall defend the executive director and
1401 its employees and, subject to the approval of the Attorney General or
1402 other appropriate legal counsel of the member state represented by an
1403 Interstate Commission representative, shall defend such Interstate
1404 Commission representative in any civil action seeking to impose
1405 liability arising out of an actual or alleged act, error or omission that
1406 occurred within the scope of Interstate Commission employment, duties
1407 or responsibilities, or that the defendant had a reasonable basis for
1408 believing occurred within the scope of Interstate Commission
1409 employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that the actual or
1410 alleged act, error, or omission did not result from intentional or willful
1411 and wanton misconduct on the part of such person.

1412 3. To the extent not covered by the state involved, member state, or
1413 the Interstate Commission, the representatives or employees of the
1414 Interstate Commission shall be held harmless in the amount of a
1415 settlement or judgment, including attorney's fees and costs, obtained
1416 against such persons arising out of an actual or alleged act, error, or
1417 omission that occurred within the scope of Interstate Commission
1418 employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that such persons had a
1419 reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Interstate

1420 Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that the
1421 actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from intentional
1422 or willful and wanton misconduct on the part of such persons.

1423 ARTICLE XII

1424 RULEMAKING FUNCTIONS OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION

1425 A. The Interstate Commission shall promulgate reasonable rules in
1426 order to effectively and efficiently achieve the purposes of this compact.
1427 Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event the Interstate Commission
1428 exercises its rulemaking authority in a manner that is beyond the scope
1429 of the purposes of this compact, or the powers granted hereunder, then
1430 such an action by the Interstate Commission shall be invalid and have
1431 no force or effect.

1432 B. Rules shall be made pursuant to a rulemaking process that
1433 substantially conforms to the "Model State Administrative Procedure
1434 Act," of 1981 Act, Uniform Laws Annotated, Vol. 15, p.1 (2000) as
1435 amended, as may be appropriate to the operations of the Interstate
1436 Commission.

1437 C. Not later than thirty days after a rule is promulgated, any person
1438 may file a petition for judicial review of the rule provided, the filing of
1439 such a petition shall not stay or otherwise prevent the rule from
1440 becoming effective unless the court finds that the petitioner has a
1441 substantial likelihood of success. The court shall give deference to the
1442 actions of the Interstate Commission consistent with applicable law and
1443 shall not find the rule to be unlawful if the rule represents a reasonable
1444 exercise of the Interstate Commission's authority.

1445 D. If a majority of the legislatures of the compacting states rejects a
1446 rule by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to
1447 adopt the compact, then such rule shall have no further force and effect
1448 in any compacting state.

1449 ARTICLE XIII

1450 OVERSIGHT, ENFORCEMENT, AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

1451 A. Oversight

1452 1. The executive, legislative and judicial branches of state government
1453 in each member state shall enforce this compact and shall take all actions
1454 necessary and appropriate to effectuate the compact's purposes and
1455 intent. The provisions of this compact and the rules promulgated
1456 hereunder shall have standing as statutory law.

1457 2. All courts shall take judicial notice of the compact and the rules in
1458 any judicial or administrative proceeding in a member state pertaining
1459 to the subject matter of this compact which may affect the powers,
1460 responsibilities or actions of the Interstate Commission.

1461 3. The Interstate Commission shall be entitled to receive all service of
1462 process in any such proceeding, and shall have standing to intervene in
1463 the proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide service of process to
1464 the Interstate Commission shall render a judgment or order void as to
1465 the Interstate Commission, this compact or promulgated rules.

1466 B. If the Interstate Commission determines that a member state has
1467 defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities under
1468 this compact, or the bylaws or promulgated rules, the Interstate
1469 Commission shall:

1470 1. Provide written notice to the defaulting state and other member
1471 states of the nature of the default, the means of curing the default and
1472 any action taken by the Interstate Commission. The Interstate
1473 Commission shall specify the conditions by which the defaulting state
1474 must cure its default.

1475 2. Provide remedial training and specific technical assistance
1476 regarding the default.

1477 3. If the defaulting state fails to cure the default, the defaulting state
1478 shall be terminated from the compact upon an affirmative vote of a
1479 majority of the member states and all rights, privileges and benefits

1480 conferred by this compact shall be terminated from the effective date of
1481 termination. A cure of the default does not relieve the offending state of
1482 obligations or liabilities incurred during the period of the default.

1483 4. Suspension or termination of membership in the compact shall be
1484 imposed only after all other means of securing compliance have been
1485 exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate shall be given by the
1486 Interstate Commission to the Governor, the majority and minority
1487 leaders of the defaulting state's legislature, and each of the member
1488 states.

1489 5. The state which has been suspended or terminated is responsible
1490 for all assessments, obligations and liabilities incurred through the
1491 effective date of suspension or termination including obligations, the
1492 performance of which extends beyond the effective date of suspension
1493 or termination.

1494 6. The Interstate Commission shall not bear any costs relating to any
1495 state that has been found to be in default or which has been suspended
1496 or terminated from the compact, unless otherwise mutually agreed
1497 upon in writing between the Interstate Commission and the defaulting
1498 state.

1499 7. The defaulting state may appeal the action of the Interstate
1500 Commission by petitioning the U.S. District Court for the District of
1501 Columbia or the federal district where the Interstate Commission has its
1502 principal offices. The prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such
1503 litigation including reasonable attorney's fees.

1504 C. Dispute Resolution

1505 1. The Interstate Commission shall attempt, upon the request of a
1506 member state, to resolve disputes which are subject to the compact and
1507 which may arise among member states and between member and
1508 nonmember states.

1509 2. The Interstate Commission shall promulgate a rule providing for

1510 both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as
1511 appropriate.

1512 D. Enforcement

1513 1. The Interstate Commission, in the reasonable exercise of its
1514 discretion, shall enforce the provisions and rules of this compact.

1515 2. The Interstate Commission may, by majority vote of the members,
1516 initiate legal action in the United States District Court for the District of
1517 Columbia or, at the discretion of the Interstate Commission, in the
1518 federal district where the Interstate Commission has its principal offices,
1519 to enforce compliance with the provisions of the compact, its
1520 promulgated rules and bylaws, against a member state in default. The
1521 relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. In the
1522 event judicial enforcement is necessary the prevailing party shall be
1523 awarded all costs of such litigation including reasonable attorney's fees.

1524 3. The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive remedies of the
1525 Interstate Commission. The Interstate Commission may avail itself of
1526 any other remedies available under state law or the regulation of a
1527 profession.

1528 ARTICLE XIV

1529 FINANCING OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION

1530 A. The Interstate Commission shall pay, or provide for the payment
1531 of, the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization and
1532 ongoing activities.

1533 B. The Interstate Commission may levy on and collect an annual
1534 assessment from each member state to cover the cost of the operations
1535 and activities of the Interstate Commission and its staff which must be
1536 in a total amount sufficient to cover the Interstate Commission's annual
1537 budget as approved each year. The aggregate annual assessment
1538 amount shall be allocated based upon a formula to be determined by the
1539 Interstate Commission, which shall promulgate a rule binding upon all

1540 member states.

1541 C. The Interstate Commission shall not incur obligations of any kind
1542 prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the same; nor shall the
1543 Interstate Commission pledge the credit of any of the member states,
1544 except by and with the authority of the member state.

1545 D. The Interstate Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all
1546 receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the
1547 Interstate Commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting
1548 procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts and
1549 disbursements of funds handled by the Interstate Commission shall be
1550 audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant and the
1551 report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual
1552 report of the Interstate Commission.

1553 ARTICLE XV

1554 MEMBER STATES, EFFECTIVE DATE AND AMENDMENT

1555 A. Any state is eligible to become a member state.

1556 B. The compact shall become effective and binding upon legislative
1557 enactment of the compact into law by no less than ten of the states. The
1558 effective date shall be no earlier than December 1, 2007. Thereafter it
1559 shall become effective and binding as to any other member state upon
1560 enactment of the compact into law by that state. The governors of
1561 nonmember states or their designees shall be invited to participate in
1562 the activities of the Interstate Commission on a nonvoting basis prior to
1563 adoption of the compact by all states.

1564 C. The Interstate Commission may propose amendments to the
1565 compact for enactment by the member states. No amendment shall
1566 become effective and binding upon the Interstate Commission and the
1567 member states unless and until it is enacted into law by unanimous
1568 consent of the member states.

1569 ARTICLE XVI

1570 WITHDRAWAL AND DISSOLUTION

1571 A. Withdrawal

1572 1. Once effective, the compact shall continue in force and remain
1573 binding upon each and every member state provided a member state
1574 may withdraw from the compact by specifically repealing the statute,
1575 which enacted the compact into law.

1576 2. Withdrawal from this compact shall be by the enactment of a
1577 statute repealing the same, but shall not take effect until one year after
1578 the effective date of such statute and until written notice of the
1579 withdrawal has been given by the withdrawing state to the Governor of
1580 each other member jurisdiction.

1581 3. The withdrawing state shall immediately notify the chairperson of
1582 the Interstate Commission in writing upon the introduction of
1583 legislation repealing this compact in the withdrawing state. The
1584 Interstate Commission shall notify the other member states of the
1585 withdrawing state's intent to withdraw within sixty days of its receipt
1586 thereof.

1587 4. The withdrawing state is responsible for all assessments,
1588 obligations and liabilities incurred through the effective date of
1589 withdrawal, including obligations, the performance of which extend
1590 beyond the effective date of withdrawal.

1591 5. Reinstatement following withdrawal of a member state shall occur
1592 upon the withdrawing state reenacting the compact or upon such later
1593 date as determined by the Interstate Commission.

1594 B. Dissolution of Compact

1595 1. This compact shall dissolve effective upon the date of the
1596 withdrawal or default of the member state which reduces the
1597 membership in the compact to one member state.

1598 2. Upon the dissolution of this compact, the compact becomes null

1599 and void and shall be of no further force or effect, and the business and
1600 affairs of the Interstate Commission shall be concluded and surplus
1601 funds shall be distributed in accordance with the bylaws.

1602 ARTICLE XVII

1603 SEVERABILITY AND CONSTRUCTION

1604 A. The provisions of this compact shall be severable, and if any
1605 phrase, clause, sentence or provision is deemed unenforceable, the
1606 remaining provisions of the compact shall be enforceable.

1607 B. The provisions of this compact shall be liberally construed to
1608 effectuate its purposes.

1609 C. Nothing in this compact shall be construed to prohibit the
1610 applicability of other interstate compacts to which the states are
1611 members.

1612 ARTICLE XVIII

1613 BINDING EFFECT OF COMPACT AND OTHER LAWS

1614 A. Other Laws

1615 1. Nothing herein prevents the enforcement of any other law of a
1616 member state that is not inconsistent with this compact.

1617 2. All member states' laws conflicting with this compact are
1618 superseded to the extent of the conflict.

1619 B. Binding Effect of the Compact

1620 1. All lawful actions of the Interstate Commission, including all rules
1621 and bylaws promulgated by the Interstate Commission, are binding
1622 upon the member states.

1623 2. All agreements between the Interstate Commission and the
1624 member states are binding in accordance with their terms.

1625 3. In the event any provision of this compact exceeds the
1626 constitutional limits imposed on the legislature of any member state,
1627 such provision shall be ineffective to the extent of the conflict with the
1628 constitutional provision in question in that member state.

1629 Sec. 35. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-16p of the
1630 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1631 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

1632 (2) "Eligible children" means children [three and] from birth to four
1633 years of age, inclusive, and children five years of age who are not
1634 eligible to enroll in school pursuant to section 10-15c, or who are eligible
1635 to enroll in school and will attend a school readiness program pursuant
1636 to section 10-16t;

1637 Sec. 36. Subsections (c) to (l), inclusive, of section 10-16p of the general
1638 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
1639 (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

1640 (c) The commissioner shall establish a grant program to provide
1641 spaces in accredited school readiness programs located in priority
1642 school districts, as described in section 10-266p, or in former priority
1643 school districts for eligible children. The state, acting by and in the
1644 discretion of the Commissioner of Early Childhood, in consultation with
1645 a town or regional school readiness council, may enter into a contract
1646 with a municipality, local or regional board of education, regional
1647 educational service center, family resource center, provider of a child
1648 care center, group child care home or family child care home, as
1649 described in section 19a-77, Head Start program, preschool program or
1650 other program that meets such standards established by the
1651 commissioner, to provide, within available appropriations, state
1652 financial assistance. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year period
1653 based on an applicant's designation as a priority school district for the
1654 initial year of application, except that if a school district that receives a
1655 grant pursuant to this subsection is no longer designated as a priority
1656 school district at the end of such five-year period, such former priority
1657 school district shall continue to be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to

1658 this subsection. Grant awards shall be made [annually] for the fiscal year
1659 ending June 30, 2023, and biennially thereafter, contingent upon
1660 available funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief elected
1661 official of such town and the superintendent of schools for such priority
1662 school district or former priority school district shall submit a plan for
1663 the expenditure of grant funds and responses to the local request for
1664 proposal process to the commissioner. The commissioner shall review
1665 and approve such plans. The plan shall: (1) Be developed in consultation
1666 with the local or regional school readiness council established pursuant
1667 to section 10-16r; (2) be based on a needs and resource assessment; (3)
1668 provide for the issuance of requests for proposals for providers of
1669 accredited school readiness programs, provided, after the initial
1670 requests for proposals, facilities that have been approved to operate a
1671 child care program financed through the Connecticut Health and
1672 Education Facilities Authority and have received a commitment for debt
1673 service from the Department of Social Services, pursuant to section 17b-
1674 749i, on or before June 30, 2014, and on or after July 1, 2014, from the
1675 office, are exempt from the requirement for issuance of annual requests
1676 for proposals; and (4) identify the need for funding pursuant to section
1677 17b-749a in order to extend the hours and days of operation of school
1678 readiness programs in order to provide child care services for children
1679 attending such programs.

1680 (d) (1) The commissioner shall establish a competitive grant program
1681 to provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs or school
1682 readiness programs seeking accreditation located in (A) an area served
1683 by a priority school or a former priority school, (B) a town ranked one
1684 to fifty when all towns are ranked in ascending order according to town
1685 wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f, whose school
1686 district is not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p, (C) a
1687 town formerly a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,
1688 as provided for in subdivision (2) of this subsection, or (D) a town
1689 designated as an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u, whose
1690 school district is not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-
1691 266p. A town in which a priority school is located, a regional school

1692 readiness council, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-16r, for a
1693 region in which such a school is located or a town described in
1694 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision may apply for such a grant in an
1695 amount equal to the number of spaces in an accredited school readiness
1696 program or a school readiness program seeking accreditation multiplied
1697 by the per child cost set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of
1698 section 10-16q. Eligibility shall be determined for a three-year period
1699 based on an applicant's designation as having a priority school or being
1700 a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision for the initial
1701 year of application. The state, acting by and in the discretion of the
1702 Commissioner of Early Childhood, in consultation with a town or
1703 regional school readiness council, may enter into a contract with a
1704 municipality, local or regional board of education, regional educational
1705 service center, family resource center, provider of a child care center,
1706 group child care home or family child care home, as described in section
1707 19a-77, Head Start program, preschool program or other program that
1708 meets such standards established by the commissioner, to provide,
1709 within available appropriations, state financial assistance. The chief
1710 elected official of such town and the superintendent of schools of the
1711 school district or the regional school readiness council shall submit a
1712 plan, as described in subsection (c) of this section, for the expenditure of
1713 such grant funds to the commissioner. In awarding grants pursuant to
1714 this subsection, the commissioner shall give preference to applications
1715 submitted by regional school readiness councils and may, within
1716 available appropriations, provide a grant to such town or regional
1717 school readiness council that increases the number of spaces for eligible
1718 children who reside in an area or town described in subparagraphs (A)
1719 to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision, in an accredited school readiness
1720 program or a school readiness program seeking accreditation.

1721 (2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision,
1722 commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, if a town received
1723 a grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection and is no longer
1724 eligible to receive such a grant, the town may receive a phase-out grant
1725 for each of the three fiscal years following the fiscal year such town

1726 received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

1727 (B) The amount of such phase-out grants shall be determined as
1728 follows: (i) For the first fiscal year following the fiscal year such town
1729 received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in
1730 an amount that does not exceed seventy-five per cent of the grant
1731 amount such town received for the town or school's final year of
1732 eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection; (ii) for the
1733 second fiscal year following the fiscal year such town received its final
1734 grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, in an amount that
1735 does not exceed fifty per cent of the grant amount such town received
1736 for the town's or school's final year of eligibility pursuant to subdivision
1737 (1) of this subsection; and (iii) for the third fiscal year following the fiscal
1738 year such town received its final grant pursuant to subdivision (1) of
1739 this subsection, in an amount that does not exceed twenty-five per cent
1740 of the grant amount such town received for the town's or school's final
1741 year of eligibility pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

1742 (C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, and each fiscal year
1743 thereafter, any town that received a grant pursuant to subparagraph (B)
1744 of subdivision (1) of this subsection for the fiscal year ending June 30,
1745 2010, shall continue to receive a grant under this subsection even if the
1746 town no longer meets the criteria for such grant pursuant to
1747 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

1748 (e) (1) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of this
1749 section are not expended, the commissioner may deposit such
1750 unexpended funds in the account established under section 10-16aa and
1751 use such unexpended funds in accordance with the provisions of section
1752 10-16aa.

1753 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, and each fiscal year
1754 thereafter, if funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of
1755 this section are not expended, an amount up to one million dollars of
1756 such unexpended funds may be available for the provision of
1757 professional development for early childhood care and education

1758 program providers, and staff employed in such programs, provided
1759 such programs accept state funds for infant, toddler and preschool slots.
1760 Such unexpended funds may be available for use in accordance with the
1761 provisions of this subparagraph for the subsequent fiscal year. The
1762 commissioner may use such unexpended funds on and after July 1, 2015,
1763 to support early childhood education programs accepting state funds in
1764 satisfying the staff qualifications requirements of subparagraphs (B) and
1765 (C) of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section. The commissioner
1766 shall use any such funds to provide assistance to individual staff
1767 members, giving priority to those staff members (A) attending an
1768 institution of higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for
1769 Higher Education or the Office of Higher Education, and approved by
1770 the Office of Early Childhood, and regionally accredited, at a maximum
1771 of ten thousand dollars per staff member per year for the cost of higher
1772 education courses leading to a bachelor's degree or, not later than
1773 December 31, 2015, an associate degree, as such degrees are described
1774 in said subparagraphs (B) and (C), or (B) receiving noncredit
1775 competency-based training approved by the office, at a maximum of one
1776 thousand dollars per staff member per year, provided such staff
1777 members have applied for all available federal and state scholarships
1778 and grants, and such assistance does not exceed such staff members'
1779 financial need. Individual staff members shall apply for such
1780 unexpended funds in a manner determined by the commissioner. The
1781 commissioner shall determine how such unexpended funds shall be
1782 distributed.

1783 (3) If funds appropriated for the purposes of subsection (c) of this
1784 section are not expended pursuant to subsection (c) of this section,
1785 deposited pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, or used
1786 pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, the commissioner may
1787 use such unexpended funds to support local school readiness programs.
1788 The commissioner may use such funds for purposes including, but not
1789 limited to, (A) assisting local school readiness programs in meeting and
1790 maintaining accreditation requirements, (B) providing training in
1791 implementing the preschool assessment and curriculum frameworks,

1792 including training to enhance literacy teaching skills, (C) developing a
1793 state-wide preschool curriculum, (D) developing student assessments
1794 for students in grades kindergarten to two, inclusive, (E) developing
1795 and implementing best practices for parents in supporting preschool
1796 and kindergarten student learning, (F) developing and implementing
1797 strategies for children to successfully transition to preschool and from
1798 preschool to kindergarten, including through parental engagement and
1799 whole-family supports that may be utilized through the two-
1800 generational initiative, established pursuant to section 17b-112l, or
1801 through other available resources, (G) providing for professional
1802 development, including assisting in career ladder advancement, for
1803 school readiness staff, (H) providing supplemental grants to other
1804 towns that are eligible for grants pursuant to subsection (c) of this
1805 section, and (I) developing a plan to provide spaces in an accredited
1806 school readiness program or a school readiness program seeking
1807 accreditation to all eligible children who reside in an area or town
1808 described in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of
1809 subsection (d) of this section.

1810 (f) Any school readiness program that receives funds pursuant to this
1811 section or section 10-16u shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color,
1812 national origin, gender, religion or disability. For purposes of this
1813 section, a nonsectarian program means any public or private school
1814 readiness program that is not violative of the Establishment Clause of
1815 the Constitution of the State of Connecticut or the Establishment Clause
1816 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

1817 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, no funds received by
1818 a town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-16u
1819 shall be used to supplant federal, state or local funding received by such
1820 town for early childhood education, provided a town may use an
1821 amount determined in accordance with this subsection for coordination,
1822 program evaluation and administration. Such amount shall be at least
1823 five per cent of the total grant allocation, but not more than seventy-five
1824 thousand dollars and shall be determined by the commissioner based
1825 on the school readiness grant award allocated to the town pursuant to

1826 subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-16u and the number of
1827 operating sites for coordination, program evaluation and
1828 administration. Such amount shall be increased by an amount equal to
1829 local funding provided for early childhood education coordination,
1830 program evaluation and administration, not to exceed twenty-five
1831 thousand dollars. Each town that receives a grant pursuant to
1832 subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-16u shall designate a
1833 person to be responsible for such coordination, program evaluation and
1834 administration and to act as a liaison between the town and the
1835 commissioner. Each school readiness program that receives funds
1836 pursuant to this section or section 10-16u shall provide information to
1837 the commissioner or the school readiness council, as requested, that is
1838 necessary for purposes of any school readiness program evaluation.

1839 (h) Any town receiving a grant pursuant to this section may use such
1840 grant, with the approval of the commissioner, to prepare a facility or
1841 staff for operating a school readiness program and shall be adjusted
1842 based on the number of days of operation of a school readiness program
1843 if a shorter term of operation is approved by the commissioner.

1844 (i) A town may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible
1845 children who reside in such town at an accredited school readiness
1846 program located in another town. A regional school readiness council
1847 may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible children who reside
1848 in the region covered by the council at an accredited school readiness
1849 program located outside such region.

1850 (j) Children enrolled in school readiness programs funded pursuant
1851 to this section shall not be counted (1) as resident students for purposes
1852 of subdivision (22) of section 10-262f, or (2) in the determination of
1853 average daily membership pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a)
1854 of section 10-261.

1855 (k) (1) Up to two per cent of the amount of the appropriation for this
1856 section may be allocated to the competitive grant program pursuant to
1857 subsection (d) of this section. The determination of the amount of such

1858 allocation shall be made on or before August first.

1859 (2) Up to two per cent of the amount of the appropriation for this
1860 section may be used by the commissioner in a manner consistent with
1861 the provisions of section 10-509.

1862 [(l) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, and each fiscal year
1863 thereafter, any school readiness program that (1) is licensed by the
1864 Office of Early Childhood pursuant to chapter 368a, (2) provides full-
1865 day and year-round child care and education programs for children,
1866 and (3) receives funds pursuant to this section or section 10-16u, shall
1867 use any amount of the per child cost as described in subdivision (1) of
1868 subsection (b) of section 10-16q that is over the amount of eight
1869 thousand nine hundred twenty-seven dollars, exclusively to increase
1870 the salaries of those individuals with direct responsibility for teaching
1871 or caring for children in a classroom at such school readiness program.]

1872 Sec. 37. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 10-505 of the
1873 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1874 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

1875 (3) "Eligible children" means children (A) [three and] from birth to
1876 four years of age, inclusive, and children five years of age who are not
1877 eligible to enroll in school pursuant to section 10-15c, or who are eligible
1878 to enroll in school and will attend a school readiness program pursuant
1879 to section 10-16t, and (B) who reside (i) in an area served by a priority
1880 school or a former priority school, as described in subdivision (2) of
1881 subsection (d) of section 10-16p, as amended by this act, (ii) in a town
1882 ranked one to fifty when all towns are ranked in ascending order
1883 according to town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-
1884 262f, whose school district is not a priority school district pursuant to
1885 section 10-266p, (iii) in a town formerly a town described in clause (ii)
1886 of this subparagraph, as provided for in subdivision (2) of subsection
1887 (d) of section 10-16p, as amended by this act, or (iv) in a town designated
1888 as an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u, whose school
1889 district is not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p;

1890 Sec. 38. Subsection (b) of section 8-210 of the general statutes is
1891 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1892 *2023*):

1893 (b) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of
1894 Early Childhood, may enter into a contract with a municipality, a group
1895 child care home or family child care home, as described in section 19a-
1896 77, a human resource development agency or a nonprofit corporation
1897 for state financial assistance in developing and operating child care
1898 centers, group child care homes and family child care homes for
1899 children disadvantaged by reasons of economic, social or environmental
1900 conditions, provided no such financial assistance shall be available for
1901 the operating costs of any such child care center, group child care home
1902 or family child care home unless it has been licensed by the
1903 Commissioner of Early Childhood pursuant to section 19a-80. Such
1904 financial assistance shall be available for a program of a municipality, of
1905 a group child care home or family child care home, of a human resource
1906 development agency or of a nonprofit corporation which may provide
1907 for personnel, equipment, supplies, activities, program materials and
1908 renovation and remodeling of the physical facilities of such child care
1909 centers, group child care homes or family child care homes. Such
1910 contract shall provide for state financial assistance, within available
1911 appropriations, in the form of a state grant-in-aid (1) for a portion of the
1912 cost of such program, as determined by the Commissioner of Early
1913 Childhood, if not federally assisted, (2) equal to one-half of the amount
1914 by which the net cost of such program, as approved by the
1915 Commissioner of Early Childhood, exceeds the federal grant-in-aid
1916 thereof, or (3) in an amount not less than (A) the per child cost as
1917 described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-16q, for each
1918 child in such program that is three or four years of age and each child
1919 that is five years of age who is not eligible to enroll in school, pursuant
1920 to section 10-15c, while maintaining services to children under three
1921 years of age under this section, and (B) thirteen thousand five hundred
1922 dollars for each child three years of age or under who is in infant or
1923 toddler care and not in a preschool program. Any such contract entered

1924 into on or after July 1, 2022, shall include a provision that at least sixty
1925 per cent of the children enrolled in such child care center, group child
1926 care home or family child care home are members of families [that] who
1927 are at or below seventy-five per cent of the state median income. [For
1928 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year thereafter, the
1929 amount per child pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection that is
1930 over the amount of the per child cost that was prescribed pursuant to
1931 the contract under said subdivision (3) for the fiscal year ending June 30,
1932 2023, shall be used exclusively to increase the salaries of early childhood
1933 educators employed at the child care center.] The Commissioner of
1934 Early Childhood may authorize child care centers, group child care
1935 homes and family child care homes receiving financial assistance under
1936 this subsection to apply a program surplus to the next program year.
1937 The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall consult with directors of
1938 child care centers in establishing fees for the operation of such centers.
1939 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the Commissioner of Early
1940 Childhood shall, within available appropriations, enter into contracts
1941 under this section for the purpose of expanding the number of spaces
1942 available to children three years of age or under who are in infant or
1943 toddler care and not in a preschool program.

1944 Sec. 39. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-506 of the general statutes
1945 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
1946 *1, 2023*):

1947 (a) For the fiscal [years] year ending June 30, 2015, [to June 30, 2024,
1948 inclusive] and each fiscal year thereafter, the Office of Early Childhood,
1949 in consultation with the Department of Education, shall design and
1950 administer the Connecticut Smart Start competitive grant program to
1951 provide grants to local and regional boards of education for capital and
1952 operating expenses related to establishing or expanding a preschool
1953 program under the jurisdiction of the board of education for the town.
1954 A local or regional board of education may submit an application to the
1955 office, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section,
1956 and may receive (1) a grant for capital expenses in an amount not to
1957 exceed seventy-five thousand dollars per classroom for costs related to

1958 the renovation of an existing public school to accommodate the
1959 establishment or expansion of a preschool program, and (2) an annual
1960 grant for operating expenses (A) in an amount not to exceed five
1961 thousand dollars per child served by such grant, or (B) in an amount not
1962 to exceed seventy-five thousand dollars for each preschool classroom,
1963 provided no town shall receive a total annual grant for operating
1964 expenses greater than three hundred thousand dollars. Each local or
1965 regional board of education that establishes or expands a preschool
1966 program under this section shall be eligible to receive an annual grant
1967 for operating expenses for a period of five years, provided such
1968 preschool program meets standards established by the Commissioner
1969 of Early Childhood. Such local or regional board of education may
1970 submit an application for renewal of such grant to the office.

1971 (b) On and after July 1, 2014, local and regional boards of education,
1972 individually or cooperatively, pursuant to section 10-158a, may apply,
1973 at such time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes, to the
1974 office for a capital grant and an operating grant for the purposes
1975 described in subsection (a) of this section. To be eligible to receive such
1976 grants under this section, an applicant board of education shall (1)
1977 demonstrate that it has a need for establishing or expanding a preschool
1978 program using information requested by the commissioner on a form
1979 prescribed by the commissioner, such as data collected from the
1980 preschool experience survey, described in section 10-515, (2) submit a
1981 plan for the expenditure of grant funds received under this section that
1982 outlines how such board of education will use such funds to establish
1983 or expand a preschool program, including, but not limited to, the
1984 amount that such board will contribute to the operation of such
1985 preschool program and how such board of education will provide
1986 access to preschool for children who would not otherwise be able to
1987 enroll in a preschool program, and (3) submit a letter of support for
1988 establishing or expanding a preschool program by the local or regional
1989 school readiness council, described in section 10-16r, if any, for the
1990 school district. The commissioner shall give priority to boards of
1991 education (A) that demonstrate the greatest need for the establishment

1992 or expansion of a preschool program, and (B) whose plan allocates at
1993 least sixty per cent of the spaces in such preschool program to children
1994 who are members of families [that] who are at or below seventy-five per
1995 cent of the state median income. [, or fifty per cent of the spaces in such
1996 preschool program to children who are eligible for free and reduced
1997 price lunches.] The commissioner, in reviewing applications submitted
1998 under this subsection, shall also take into consideration (i) whether an
1999 applicant board of education (I) currently offers a full-day kindergarten
2000 program, (II) will be cooperating and coordinating with other
2001 governmental and community programs to provide services during
2002 periods when the preschool program is not in session, or (III) will
2003 collaborate with other boards of education, as part of a cooperative
2004 arrangement pursuant to section 10-158a, to offer a regional preschool
2005 program, and (ii) current community capacity for preschool programs
2006 and current opportunities for preschool for children in the community.

2007 Sec. 40. Subsection (b) of section 10-500 of the general statutes is
2008 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
2009 *2023*):

2010 (b) The office shall be responsible for:

2011 (1) Delivering services to young children and their families to ensure
2012 optimal health, safety and learning for each young child, including, but
2013 not limited to, coordinating agency efforts and data sharing in the two-
2014 generational initiative established pursuant to section 17b-112l;

2015 (2) Developing and implementing the early childhood information
2016 system, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-501;

2017 (3) Developing and reporting on the early childhood accountability
2018 plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-503;

2019 (4) Implementing a communications strategy for outreach to families,
2020 service providers and policymakers;

2021 (5) Beginning a state-wide longitudinal evaluation of the school

2022 readiness program examining the educational progress of children from
2023 prekindergarten programs to grade four, inclusive;

2024 (6) Developing, coordinating and supporting public and private
2025 partnerships to aid early childhood initiatives;

2026 (7) Developing a state-wide developmentally appropriate
2027 kindergarten entrance inventory that measures a child's level of
2028 preparedness for kindergarten, but shall not be used as a measurement
2029 tool for program accountability;

2030 (8) Creating a unified set of reporting requirements for the purpose
2031 of collecting the data elements necessary to perform quality assessments
2032 and longitudinal analysis;

2033 (9) Comparing and analyzing data collected pursuant to reporting
2034 requirements created under subdivision (8) of this subsection with the
2035 data collected in the state-wide public school information system,
2036 pursuant to section 10-10a, for population-level analysis of children and
2037 families;

2038 (10) Continually monitoring and evaluating all early care and
2039 education and child development programs and services, focusing on
2040 program outcomes in satisfying the health, safety, developmental and
2041 educational needs of all children;

2042 (11) Coordinating home visitation services across programs for
2043 young children;

2044 (12) Providing information and technical assistance to persons
2045 seeking early care and education and child development programs and
2046 services;

2047 (13) Assisting state agencies and municipalities in obtaining available
2048 federal funding for early care and education and child development
2049 programs and services;

2050 (14) Providing technical assistance to providers of early care and

2051 education programs and services to obtain licensing and improve
2052 program quality;

2053 (15) Establishing a quality rating and improvement system
2054 developed by the office that covers home-based, center-based and
2055 school-based early child care and learning;

2056 (16) Maintaining an accreditation facilitation initiative to assist early
2057 childhood care and education program and service providers in
2058 achieving national standards and program improvement;

2059 (17) Consulting with the Early Childhood Cabinet, established
2060 pursuant to section 10-16z, and the Head Start advisory committee,
2061 established pursuant to section 10-16n;

2062 (18) Ensuring a coordinated and comprehensive state-wide system of
2063 professional development for providers and staff of early care and
2064 education and child development programs and services;

2065 (19) Providing families with opportunities for choice in services
2066 including quality child care and community-based family-centered
2067 services;

2068 (20) Integrating early childhood care and education and special
2069 education services;

2070 (21) Promoting universal access to early childhood care and
2071 education;

2072 (22) Ensuring nonduplication of monitoring and evaluation;

2073 (23) Performing any other activities that will assist in the provision of
2074 early care and education and child development programs and services;

2075 (24) Developing early learning and development standards to be
2076 used by early care and education providers;

2077 (25) Developing and implementing a performance-based evaluation
2078 system to evaluate licensed child care centers, in accordance with the

2079 provisions of section 17b-749f; [and]

2080 (26) Promoting the delivery of services to infants and toddlers to
2081 ensure optimal health, safety and learning of children from birth to three
2082 years of age; and

2083 (27) Establishing a parent cabinet to advise the office on ways to
2084 strengthen partnership and communication with families, bring
2085 awareness to gaps and barriers to services, increase access to services for
2086 families and help make improvements to the lives of young children and
2087 families in the state.

2088 Sec. 41. Subsection (b) of section 17b-749 of the general statutes is
2089 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
2090 *2023*):

2091 (b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for applicants
2092 and recipients at a level to include a family with gross income up to fifty
2093 per cent of the state-wide median income, except the commissioner (1)
2094 may increase the income level up to the maximum level allowed under
2095 federal law, (2) upon the request of the Commissioner of Children and
2096 Families, may waive the income standards for adoptive families so that
2097 children adopted on or after October 1, 1999, from the Department of
2098 Children and Families are eligible for the child care subsidy program,
2099 and (3) [on and after March 1, 2003, shall reduce the income eligibility
2100 level to up to fifty-five per cent of the state-wide median income for
2101 applicants and recipients who qualify based on their loss of eligibility
2102 for temporary family assistance] shall establish a two-tiered income
2103 eligibility threshold in accordance with 45 CFR 98.21(b), as amended
2104 from time to time. The commissioner may adopt regulations in
2105 accordance with chapter 54 to establish income criteria and durational
2106 requirements for such waiver of income standards.

2107 Sec. 42. Section 7-464b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2108 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

2109 (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, and the

2110 provisions of any collective bargaining agreement, a municipality or a
2111 [local or regional board of education] public school operator may join
2112 together with any combination of other municipalities and [local or
2113 regional boards of education] public school operators by written
2114 agreement as a single entity for the purpose of providing medical or
2115 health care benefits for their employees. Such written agreement shall
2116 establish the membership of such group, the duration of such benefits
2117 plan, requirements regarding payment for such benefits plan and the
2118 procedures for a municipality or [local or regional board of education]
2119 public school operator to withdraw from such group and terminate such
2120 benefits plan. Such agreement shall not constitute a multiple employer
2121 welfare arrangement, as defined in Section 3 of the Employee
2122 Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended from time to time.
2123 Any group established pursuant to this section shall not be deemed a
2124 fictitious group. As used in this section, "municipality" means any town,
2125 city or borough, consolidated town and city, consolidated town and
2126 borough or any district, as defined in section 7-324; and "public school
2127 operator" means a local or regional board of education, a regional
2128 educational service center, the governing council of a state or local
2129 charter school, or an operator of an interdistrict magnet school program,
2130 as described in section 10-264L, as amended by this act.

2131 (b) Before a municipality or a [local or regional board of education]
2132 public school operator may enter into an agreement described in
2133 subsection (a) of this section, the legislative body of a municipality shall
2134 approve such an agreement in cases where: (1) There is an existing
2135 arrangement between a municipality and the [board of education]
2136 public school operator serving such municipality for the provision of
2137 medical or health care benefits to the employees of both the municipality
2138 and the [board of education] public school operator serving such
2139 municipality; or (2) a municipality and the [board of education] public
2140 school operator serving such municipality have separate medical or
2141 health care benefits plans for their respective employees and both such
2142 benefits plans are paid for by the general fund of the municipality.

2143 Sec. 43. Section 10-4a of the general statutes is repealed and the

2144 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

2145 For purposes of sections 10-4, 10-4b and 10-220, as amended by this
2146 act, and subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-66dd, as amended
2147 by this act, the educational interests of the state shall include, but not be
2148 limited to, the concern of the state that (1) each child shall have for the
2149 period prescribed in the general statutes equal opportunity to receive a
2150 suitable program of educational experiences; (2) each school district
2151 shall finance at a reasonable level and at least, as appropriate, equal to
2152 the minimum budget requirement pursuant to the provisions of section
2153 10-262j, an educational program designed to achieve this end; (3) in
2154 order to reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation, each school district
2155 shall provide educational opportunities for its students to interact with
2156 students and teachers from other racial, ethnic, and economic
2157 backgrounds and may provide such opportunities with students from
2158 other communities; and (4) the mandates in the general statutes
2159 pertaining to education within the jurisdiction of the State Board of
2160 Education be implemented.

2161 Sec. 44. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-66dd of the
2162 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
2163 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

2164 (b) (1) Subject to the provisions of this subsection and except as may
2165 be waived pursuant to subsection (d) of section 10-66bb, charter schools
2166 shall be subject to all federal and state laws governing public schools,
2167 including the provisions of sections 10-4a, as amended by this act, and
2168 10-4b.

2169 Sec. 45. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Commissioner of Education
2170 shall employ at least one curriculum coordinator to provide assistance
2171 and curriculum materials to local and regional boards of education for
2172 the implementation of the courses of study set forth in subsection (d) of
2173 section 10-16b of the general statutes, in accordance with sections 10-
2174 16pp, 10-16qq, 10-16ss to 10-16ww, inclusive, and 10-18f of the general
2175 statutes."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2023	10-220a(a)
Sec. 3	July 1, 2023	10-220(e)
Sec. 4	July 1, 2023	10-73d
Sec. 5	July 1, 2023	10-15k
Sec. 6	July 1, 2023	10-220(g)
Sec. 7	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 8	July 1, 2023	10-16x(e)
Sec. 9	July 1, 2023	10-357b
Sec. 10	July 1, 2023	10-212k
Sec. 11	from passage	10-211a(a)
Sec. 12	from passage	14-111e(a)(2)
Sec. 13	from passage	10-265s(d)
Sec. 14	from passage	8-210(c)
Sec. 15	from passage	10-15j(c)(5)
Sec. 16	from passage	10-15j(e)
Sec. 17	from passage	10-16
Sec. 18	July 1, 2023	10-16b(a)
Sec. 19	July 1, 2025	10-16b(a)
Sec. 20	from passage	10-204d
Sec. 21	from passage	10-215l(b)
Sec. 22	from passage	10-215l(f)
Sec. 23	from passage	10-221w(b)
Sec. 24	from passage	10-222k(c)(3)
Sec. 25	from passage	10-222w
Sec. 26	from passage	10-222t(c)
Sec. 27	from passage	10-530(b)
Sec. 28	from passage	17a-248(4)
Sec. 29	July 1, 2023	10-264l(a) and (b)
Sec. 30	July 1, 2023	10-264l(c)(3)(C)
Sec. 31	July 1, 2023	10-264l(o)
Sec. 32	July 1, 2023	10-264r
Sec. 33	July 1, 2023	10-262s
Sec. 34	July 1, 2023	10-15f
Sec. 35	July 1, 2023	10-16p(a)(2)
Sec. 36	July 1, 2023	10-16p(c) to (l)
Sec. 37	July 1, 2023	10-505(a)(3)

Sec. 38	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	8-210(b)
Sec. 39	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-506(a) and (b)
Sec. 40	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-500(b)
Sec. 41	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	17b-749(b)
Sec. 42	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	7-464b
Sec. 43	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-4a
Sec. 44	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-66dd(b)(1)
Sec. 45	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section