



**Substitute House Bill No. 5436**

**Public Act No. 24-41**

**AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION, TEACHERS,  
PARAEDUCATORS AND MANDATED REPORTER  
REQUIREMENTS.**

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

Section 1. Section 10-145b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) The State Board of Education, upon receipt of a proper application, shall issue an initial educator certificate to any person who (1) holds a bachelor's degree or an advanced degree from an institution of higher education that is regionally accredited or has received an equivalent accreditation, and (2) has [completed (A) an educator preparation program approved by the State Board of Education or the appropriate governing body in the state in which the institution of higher education is located, or (B) an alternate route to certification program approved by the State Board of Education or the appropriate governing body in the state in which such alternate route to certification program is located, and satisfies the requirements for a temporary ninety-day certificate, pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, or a resident teacher certificate, pursuant to section 10-145m] successfully completed one of the pathways described in section 6 of this act. In addition, on and after July 1, 2018, each applicant shall have completed

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a subject area major as defined by the State Board of Education, except [(i)] (A) as provided in section 10-145l, or [(ii)] (B) where an applicant achieves a satisfactory evaluation on an appropriate State Board of Education approved subject area assessment or has completed advanced coursework in a relevant subject area. [Each] Any such initial educator certificate issued prior to July 1, 2025, that has not expired on or before July 1, 2025, shall be extended to be valid for a period of ten years from the date of issuance, and any such initial educator certificate issued on and after July 1, 2025, shall be valid for [three] ten years [ except as provided in subsection (c) of this section,] and may be extended by the Commissioner of Education for an additional year for good cause upon the request of the superintendent in whose school district such person is employed or upon the request of the assessment team reviewing such person's performance, provided the commissioner may not grant such extension more than three times to any person. The commissioner may, upon application, reissue an initial educator certificate to any person who holds, but has not served under, an initial educator certificate, if such person can demonstrate that he or she satisfies the preparation and eligibility requirements that were in place at the time such initial educator certificate was originally issued to such person.

(b) During the period of employment in a public school, a person holding an initial educator certificate shall (1) be under the supervision of the superintendent of schools or of a principal, administrator or supervisor designated by such superintendent who shall regularly observe, guide and evaluate the performance of assigned duties by such holder of an initial certificate, and (2) participate in a beginning educator program if there is such a program for such person's certification endorsement area.

(c) (1) The State Board of Education, upon request of a local or regional board of education, shall issue a temporary ninety-day

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certificate to any applicant in the certification endorsement areas of elementary education, middle grades education, secondary academic subjects, special subjects or fields, special education, early childhood education and administration and supervision, or in the certification endorsement areas corresponding to teacher shortage areas, as determined by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 10-8b, when the following conditions are met:

(A) The employing agent of a board of education makes a written request for the issuance of such certificate and attests to the existence of a special plan for supervision of temporary ninety-day certificate holders;

(B) The applicant meets the following requirements, except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision:

(i) Holds a bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited with a major either in or closely related to the certification endorsement area in which the requesting board of education is placing the applicant or, in the case of secondary or special subject or field endorsement area, possesses at least the minimum total number of semester hours of credit required for the content area, except as provided in section 10-145/;

(ii) Has met the requirements pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-145f, as amended by this act;

(iii) Presents a written application on such forms as the Commissioner of Education shall prescribe;

(iv) Has successfully completed an alternate route to certification program provided by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or the Office of Higher Education or public or independent institutions of higher education, regional educational service centers or private teacher

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or administrator training organizations and approved by the State Board of Education;

(v) Possesses an undergraduate college overall grade point average of at least "B" or, if the applicant has completed at least twenty-four hours of graduate credit, possesses a graduate grade point average of at least "B"; and

(vi) Presents supporting evidence of appropriate experience working with children; and

(C) The Commissioner of Education may waive the requirements of subparagraphs (B)(v) or (B)(vi), or both, of this subdivision upon a showing of good cause.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section on and after July 1, 1989, the State Board of Education, upon receipt of a proper application, shall issue an initial educator certificate [, which shall be valid for three years,] to any person who has taught successfully while holding a temporary ninety-day certificate and meets the requirements established in regulations adopted pursuant to section 10-145d, as amended by this act.

(d) (1) On and after July 1, 2019, in order to be eligible to obtain an initial educator certificate, each person shall be required to complete (A) a course of study in special education comprised of not fewer than thirty-six hours, which shall include (i) instruction on the growth and development of exceptional children, including children with a disability, gifted and talented children and children who may require special education, and (ii) methods for identifying, planning for and working effectively with special needs children in a regular classroom, and (B) a course or courses of study in special education relating to instruction on classroom techniques in reading, differentiated instruction, social-emotional learning, culturally responsive pedagogy

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and practice and assistive technology. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to any person who has been issued an initial educator certificate prior to July 1, 2019.

(2) On and after July 1, 2016, in order to be eligible to obtain a provisional educator certificate, each person shall be required to complete a course of study in special education comprised of not fewer than thirty-six hours, which shall include an understanding of the growth and development of exceptional children, including children with a disability, gifted and talented children and children who may require special education, and methods for identifying, planning for and working effectively with special needs children in a regular classroom.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection to the contrary, each applicant for such certificates who has met all requirements for certification except the completion of the course in special education shall be entitled to a certificate (A) for a period not to exceed one year, provided the applicant completed a teacher preparation program either in the state prior to July 1, 1987, or outside the state, or completed the necessary combination of professional experience or coursework as required by the State Board of Education, or (B) for a period not to exceed two years if the applicant applies for certification in an area for which a bachelor's degree is not required.

(e) (1) On and after July 1, 1989, and until June 30, 2025, the State Board of Education, upon receipt of a proper application, shall issue a provisional educator certificate to any person who [(1)] (A) has successfully completed a beginning educator program and one school year of successful teaching as attested to by the superintendent, or the superintendent's designee, in whose local or regional school district such person was employed, [(2)] (B) has completed at least three years of successful teaching in a public school in another state or a nonpublic school approved by the State Board of Education or appropriate governing body in another state within ten years prior to application for

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such provisional educator certificate, as attested to by the superintendent, or the superintendent's designee, in whose school district such person was employed, or by the supervising agent of the nonpublic school in which such person was employed, and has met preparation and eligibility requirements for an initial educator certificate, or [(3)] (C) has successfully taught with a provisional teaching certificate for the year immediately preceding an application for a provisional educator certificate as an employee of a local or regional board of education or facility approved for special education by the State Board of Education. The commissioner may, upon application, reissue a provisional educator certificate to any person who holds a provisional educator certificate, if such person can demonstrate that he or she satisfies the preparation and eligibility requirements that were in place at the time such provisional educator certificate was originally issued to such person.

(2) The commissioner may not issue or reissue any provisional educator certificates on or after July 1, 2025. Any person who holds a provisional educator certificate and is not eligible to advance to the professional educator certificate shall be eligible to be issued an initial educator certificate.

(f) Any person holding a standard or permanent certificate on July 1, 1989, shall be eligible to receive upon application a professional educator certificate to replace said standard or permanent certificate. On and after July 1, 1989, standard and permanent certificates shall no longer be valid.

(g) (1) On or after July 1, 1989, and prior to July 1, 2018, to qualify for a professional educator certificate, a person who holds or has held a provisional educator certificate under subsection (e) of this section shall have completed thirty credit hours of course work beyond the baccalaureate degree. It is not necessary that such course work be taken for a master's degree and such work may include graduate or

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undergraduate courses.

(2) On and after July 1, 2018, and prior to July 1, 2025, to qualify for a professional educator certificate, a person who holds or has held a provisional educator certificate under subsection (d) of this section shall hold a master's degree in an appropriate subject matter area, as determined by the State Board of Education, related to such teacher's certification endorsement area.

(3) On and after July 1, 2025, to qualify for a professional educator certificate, a person who holds an initial educator certificate or a provisional educator certificate shall (A) have completed at least fifty school months of successful teaching for one or more boards of education or approved nonpublic schools in this state while holding such initial educator certificate or provisional educator certificate, (B) have satisfactorily completed the teacher education and mentoring program, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-145o, and (C) either (i) hold a master's degree or higher in an appropriate subject matter area, or (ii) complete an alternate pathway to professional licensure jointly approved by the State Board of Education and the Educator Preparation and Certification Board. On and after July 1, 2025, the state board, upon receipt of a proper application, shall issue a professional educator certificate to any person who satisfies the qualifications described in this subdivision, except the state board may waive the requirement described in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision upon a showing of good cause.

[(h) (1) Unless otherwise provided in regulations adopted under section 10-145d, in not less than three years or more than eight years after the issuance of a provisional educator certificate pursuant to subsection (e) of this section and upon the statement of the superintendent, or the superintendent's designee, in whose school district such certificate holder was employed, or the supervisory agent of a nonpublic school approved by the State Board of Education, in

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whose school such certificate holder was employed, that the provisional educator certificate holder and such superintendent, or such superintendent's designee, or supervisory agent have mutually determined or approved an individual program pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (g) of this section and upon the statement of such superintendent, or such superintendent's designee, or supervisory agent that such certificate holder has a record of competency in the discharge of such certificate holder's duties during such provisional period, the state board upon receipt of a proper application shall issue such certificate holder a professional educator certificate. A signed recommendation from the superintendent of schools, or the superintendent's designee, for the local or regional board of education or from the supervisory agent of a nonpublic school approved by the State Board of Education shall be evidence of competency. Such recommendation shall state that the person who holds or has held a provisional educator certificate has successfully completed at least three school years of satisfactory teaching for one or more local or regional boards of education or such nonpublic schools. Each applicant for a certificate pursuant to this subsection shall provide to the Department of Education, in such manner and form as prescribed by the commissioner, evidence that the applicant has successfully completed coursework pursuant to subsection (g) of this section, as appropriate.]

[(2)] (h) Each professional educator certificate shall be valid for ten years and continued every ten years thereafter.

[(3) Except as otherwise provided in section 10-146c, upon receipt of a proper application, the State Board of Education shall issue to a teacher from another state, territory or possession of the United States or the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico who (A) has taught in another state, territory or possession of the United States or the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for a



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minimum of two years in the preceding ten years, (B) has received at least two satisfactory performance evaluations while teaching in such other state, territory or possession of the United States or the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and (C) has fulfilled post-preparation assessments as approved by the commissioner, a provisional educator certificate with the appropriate endorsement, subject to the provisions of subsection (i) of this section relating to denial of applications for certification. An applicant who has taught under an appropriate certificate issued by another state, territory or possession of the United States or the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for two or more years shall be exempt from completing the beginning educator program based upon such teaching experience upon a showing of effectiveness as a teacher, as determined by the State Board of Education, which may include, but need not be limited to, a demonstrated record of improving student achievement. An applicant who has successfully completed a teacher preparation program or an alternate route to certification program in another state, territory or possession of the United States or the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and holds an appropriate certificate issued by another state, territory or possession of the United States or the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall not be required to complete a course of study in special education, pursuant to subsection (d) of this section. An applicant with two or more years of teaching experience in this state at a nonpublic school, approved by the State Board of Education, in the past ten years shall be exempt from completing the beginning educator program based upon such teaching experience upon a showing of effectiveness as a teacher, as determined by the State Board of Education, which may include, but need not be limited to, a demonstrated record of improving student achievement.]

(i) (1) The State Board of Education may take one or more of the following actions, in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection, against a person holding a certificate, permit or

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authorization based on conduct that occurred prior or subsequent to the issuance of such certificate, permit or authorization: (A) Revoke the holder's certificate, permit or authorization; (B) suspend the holder's certificate, permit or authorization; or (C) place the holder's certificate on probation, subject to conditions determined by the Commissioner of Education.

(2) The State Board of Education may take any of the actions described in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of this subsection with respect to a holder's certificate, permit or authorization issued pursuant to sections 10-144o to 10-149, inclusive, for any of the following reasons: (A) The holder of the certificate, permit or authorization obtained such certificate, permit or authorization through fraud or misrepresentation of a material fact; (B) the holder has persistently neglected to perform the duties for which the certificate, permit or authorization was granted; (C) the holder is professionally unfit to perform the duties for which the certificate, permit or authorization was granted; (D) the holder is convicted in a court of law of a crime involving moral turpitude or of any other crime of such nature that in the opinion of the board continued holding of a certificate, permit or authorization by the person would impair the standing of certificates, permits or authorizations issued by the board; or (E) other due and sufficient cause. The State Board of Education may revoke any certificate, permit or authorization issued pursuant to said sections if the holder is found to have intentionally disclosed specific questions or answers to students or otherwise improperly breached the security of any administration of a mastery examination, pursuant to section 10-14n. In any revocation proceeding pursuant to this section, the State Board of Education shall have the burden of establishing the reason for such revocation by a preponderance of the evidence. Revocation shall be in accordance with procedures established by the State Board of Education pursuant to chapter 54.

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(3) When the Commissioner of Education is notified, pursuant to section 10-149a, as amended by this act, or 17a-101i, as amended by this act, that a person holding a certificate, permit or authorization issued by the State Board of Education under the provisions of sections 10-144o to 10-149, inclusive, has been convicted of (A) a capital felony, under the provisions of section 53a-54b in effect prior to April 25, 2012, (B) arson murder, pursuant to section 53a-54d, (C) a class A felony, (D) a class B felony, except a violation of section 53a-122, 53a-252 or 53a-291, (E) a crime involving an act of child abuse or neglect as described in section 46b-120, or (F) a violation of section [17a-101a] 17a-101o, as amended by this act, 53-21, 53-37a, 53a-60b, 53a-60c, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b, 53a-73a, 53a-88, 53a-90a, 53a-99, 53a-103a, 53a-181c, 53a-191, 53a-196, 53a-196c, 53a-216, 53a-217b or 21a-278 or subsection (a) of section 21a-277, any certificate, permit or authorization issued by the State Board of Education and held by such person shall be deemed revoked and the commissioner shall notify such person of such revocation, provided such person may request reconsideration pursuant to regulations adopted by the State Board of Education, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. As part of such reconsideration process, the board shall make the initial determination as to whether to uphold or overturn the revocation. The commissioner shall make the final determination as to whether to uphold or overturn the revocation.

(4) The State Board of Education may deny an application for the initial issuance or renewal of a certificate, permit or authorization for any of the following reasons: (A) The applicant seeks to obtain a certificate, permit or authorization through fraud or misrepresentation of a material fact; (B) the applicant has been convicted in a court of law of a crime involving moral turpitude or of any other crime of such nature that in the opinion of the board issuance of a certificate, permit or authorization would impair the standing of certificates, permits or authorizations issued by the board; or (C) other due and sufficient cause. Any applicant denied a certificate, permit or authorization shall be

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notified in writing of the reasons for denial. Any applicant denied a certificate, permit or authorization may request a review of such denial by the State Board of Education.

(5) A person whose certificate, permit or authorization has been denied, revoked or suspended may not be employed in a public school during the period of denial, revocation or suspension. A person whose certificate, permit or authorization has been placed on probation may be employed in a public school during the period of probation in accordance with the terms of such probation.

(6) The State Board of Education may take any of the actions described in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of this subsection, with respect to an applicant's or holder's certificate, permit or authorization a result of the applicant or holder having been subject to disciplinary action for any of the reasons described in subdivision (2) of this subsection by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of any state, a federal governmental agency, the District of Columbia, a United States possession or territory or a foreign jurisdiction. The State Board of Education may rely upon the findings and conclusions made by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of any state, a federal governmental agency, the District of Columbia, a United States possession or territory or foreign jurisdiction in taking such action.

(7) Any local or regional board of education or private special education facility approved by the commissioner shall report to the commissioner when an employee, who holds a certificate, permit or authorization, is dismissed pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (d) of section 10-151.

(8) The State Board of Education may, pursuant to chapter 54, adopt or revise regulations relating to the procedure by which the State Board of Education may take any of the actions described in subparagraphs

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(A) to (C), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(j) Not later than thirty days after receipt of notification, any initial educator certificate holder who is not granted a provisional educator certificate, or any provisional educator certificate holder who is not granted a professional educator certificate, or any professional educator certificate holder who is not granted a continuation, under the provisions of sections 10-145a to 10-145d, inclusive, as amended by this act, and 10-146b, may appeal to the State Board of Education for reconsideration. Said board shall review the records of the appropriate certification period, and, if a hearing is requested in writing, hold such hearing not later than sixty days after such request and render a written decision not later than thirty days after the conclusion of such hearing. Any teacher aggrieved by the decision of said board may appeal from such decision in accordance with the provisions of section 4-183 and such appeal shall be privileged with respect to assignment of such appeal.

(k) For the purposes of this section "supervisory agent" means the superintendent of schools or the principal, administrator or supervisor designated by such superintendent to provide direct supervision to a provisional certificate holder.

(l) Upon application to the State Board of Education for the issuance of any certificate in accordance with this section and section 10-145d, as amended by this act, there shall be paid to the board by or on behalf of the applicant a nonreturnable fee of two hundred dollars in the case of an applicant for an initial educator certificate, two hundred fifty dollars in the case of an applicant for a provisional educator certificate and three hundred seventy-five dollars in the case of an applicant for a professional educator certificate, except that applicants for certificates for teaching adult education programs mandated under subparagraph (A) of subsection (a) of section 10-69 shall pay a fee of one hundred dollars; persons eligible for a certificate or endorsement for which the

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fee is less than that applied for shall receive an appropriate refund; persons not eligible for any certificate shall receive a refund of the application fee minus fifty dollars; and persons holding standard or permanent certificates on July 1, 1989, who apply for professional certificates to replace the standard or permanent certificates, shall not be required to pay such a fee. Upon application to the State Board of Education for the issuance of a subject area endorsement there shall be paid to the board by or on behalf of such applicant a nonreturnable fee of one hundred dollars. With each request for a duplicate copy of any such certificate or endorsement there shall be paid to the board a nonreturnable fee of fifty dollars.

Sec. 2. Subsection (f) of section 10-145d of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(f) (1) (A) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, (i) an endorsement issued prior to July 1, 2013, to teach elementary education grades one to six, inclusive, shall be valid for grades kindergarten to six, inclusive, and (ii) for the period commencing July 1, 2013, until June 30, 2025, for such an endorsement issued [on or after] between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2025, the endorsement shall be valid for grades one to six, inclusive, except such an endorsement issued between July 1, 2013, and July 1, 2017, to any student who was admitted to and successfully completes a teacher preparation program, as defined in section 10-10a, in the certification endorsement area of elementary education on or before June 30, 2017, shall be valid for grades kindergarten to six, inclusive.

(B) The Commissioner of Education may permit, upon the request of a superintendent, any person who holds such endorsement issued [on or after] between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2025, to teach kindergarten for one school year. The commissioner may, upon the request of such superintendent, permit such person who so taught kindergarten under

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such endorsement for one school year to teach kindergarten an additional school year.

(C) An endorsement to teach elementary education grades one to six, inclusive, or an endorsement to teach elementary education grades kindergarten to six, inclusive, issued prior to July 1, 2025, shall be valid for grades prekindergarten to six, inclusive.

(D) An endorsement to teach elementary education issued on and after July 1, 2025, shall be valid for grades prekindergarten to six, inclusive.

(2) An endorsement to teach comprehensive special education grades one to twelve, inclusive, shall be valid for grades prekindergarten to twelve, inclusive. On and after September 1, 2013, any (A) certified employee applying for a comprehensive special education endorsement, or (B) applicant for an initial, provisional or professional educator certificate and a comprehensive special education endorsement shall achieve a satisfactory score on the reading instruction examination approved by the State Board of Education on April 1, 2009, or a comparable reading instruction examination with minimum standards that are equivalent to the examination approved by the State Board of Education on April 1, 2009.

(3) On and after July 1, 2024, the following endorsements issued prior to or on or after July 1, 2024, and for grades seven to twelve, inclusive, shall be valid for grades four to twelve, inclusive: Biology, business, chemistry, earth science, English, French, German, general science, history and social studies, Italian, Latin and classical humanities, Mandarin Chinese, mathematics, Portuguese, physics, Russian, Spanish and any other world language.

Sec. 3. Section 10-145a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*

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1, 2024):

(a) Any candidate in a program of teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall be encouraged to successfully complete an intergroup relations component of such a program which shall be developed with the participation of both sexes, and persons of various ethnic, cultural and economic backgrounds. Such intergroup relations program shall have the following objectives: (1) The imparting of an appreciation of the contributions to American civilization of the various ethnic, cultural and economic groups composing American society and an understanding of the life styles of such groups; (2) the counteracting of biases, discrimination and prejudices; and (3) the assurance of respect for human diversity and personal rights. The State Board of Education, the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities and the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity shall establish a joint committee composed of members of the four agencies, which shall develop and implement such programs in intergroup relations.

(b) Any candidate in a program of teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall be encouraged to complete a (1) health component of such a program, which includes, but need not be limited to, human growth and development, nutrition, first aid, disease prevention and community and consumer health, and (2) mental health component of such a program, which includes, but need not be limited to, youth suicide, child abuse and alcohol and drug abuse.

(c) Any candidate in a program of teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall complete a school violence, bullying, as defined in section 10-222d, as amended by this act, and suicide prevention and conflict resolution component of such a program.

(d) On and after July 1, 2020, any program of teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall include, as part of the



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curriculum, instruction in computer science, and instruction in information technology skills as applied to student learning and classroom instruction that are grade-level and subject area appropriate.

(e) On and after July 1, 2006, any program of teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall include, as part of the curriculum, instruction in literacy skills and processes that reflects current research and best practices in the field of literacy training. Such instruction shall (1) be incorporated into requirements of student major and concentration, and (2) on and after July 1, 2015, include not fewer than twelve clock hours of instruction in the detection and recognition of, and evidence-based structured literacy interventions for, students with dyslexia, as defined in section 10-3d.

(f) On and after July 1, 2006, any program of teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall include, as part of the curriculum, instruction in the concepts of second language learning and second language acquisition and processes that reflects current research and best practices in the field of second language learning and second language acquisition. Such instruction shall be incorporated into requirements of student major and concentration.

(g) On and after July 1, 2011, any program of teacher preparation leading to professional certification may permit teaching experience in a nonpublic school, approved by the State Board of Education, and offered through a public or private institution of higher education to count towards the preparation and eligibility requirements for an initial educator certificate, provided such teaching experience is completed as part of a cooperating teacher program, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (d) of section 10-220a.

(h) On and after July 1, 2019, any candidate entering a program of teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall be required to complete training in competency areas contained in the

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professional teaching standards established by the State Board of Education, including, but not limited to, development and characteristics of learners, evidence-based and standards-based instruction, evidence-based classroom and behavior management, assessment and professional behaviors and responsibilities and the awareness and identification of the unique learning style of gifted and talented children, social and emotional development and learning of children, and culturally responsive pedagogy and practice. The training in social and emotional development and learning of children shall include instruction concerning a comprehensive, coordinated social and emotional assessment and early intervention for children displaying behaviors associated with social or emotional problems, the availability of treatment services for such children and referring such children for assessment, intervention or treatment services. The training in culturally responsive pedagogy and practice shall include instruction concerning the awareness of students' background and experience that lead to the development of skills, knowledge and behaviors that enable educators and students to build positive relationships and work effectively in cross-cultural situations.

(i) On and after July 1, 2023, any program of teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall require, as part of the curriculum, clinical experience, field experience or student teaching experience in a classroom during four semesters of such program of teacher preparation. Such clinical experience, field experience or student teaching experience may include a cooperating teacher serving as a mentor to student teachers.

(j) On and after July 1, 2012, any program of teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall include, as part of the curriculum, instruction in the implementation of student individualized education programs as it relates to the provision of special education and related services, including, but not limited to, the provision of

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services to gifted and talented children.

(k) On and after July 1, 2025, any program of teacher preparation leading to professional certification in the endorsement area of elementary education shall also be aligned with any professional standards and competencies for early childhood educators developed by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) On and after July 1, 2024, any person who holds an initial educator certificate, a provisional educator certificate or a professional educator certificate, and whose endorsement has been revised pursuant to section 10-145d of the general statutes, as amended by this act, shall not be required to submit an application for the issuance of any such revised endorsement and shall be allowed to provide instruction in any course in which the subject matter content of such course corresponds with such revised endorsement. On and after July 1, 2026, the State Board of Education shall assign such revised endorsement upon the issuance or reissuance of any professional educator certificate.

Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 10-145f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(b) (1) Any person who does not hold a valid certificate pursuant to section 10-145b, as amended by this act, shall achieve a satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate State Board of Education approved subject area assessment in order to be eligible for a certificate pursuant to said section unless such assessment has not been approved by the State Board of Education at the time of application, in which case the applicant shall not be denied a certificate solely because of the lack of an evaluation on such assessment.

(2) Any person applying for an additional certification endorsement

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shall achieve a satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate State Board of Education approved subject area assessment in order to be eligible for such additional endorsement, unless such assessment has not been approved by the State Board of Education at the time of application, in which case the applicant shall not be denied the additional endorsement solely because of the lack of an evaluation on such assessment.

(3) On and after July 1, 1992, any teacher who held a valid teaching certificate but whose certificate lapsed and who had completed all requirements for the issuance of a new certificate pursuant to section 10-145b, as amended by this act, except for filing an application for such certificate, prior to the date on which the lapse occurred, may file, within one year of the date on which the lapse occurred, an application with the Commissioner of Education for the issuance of such certificate. Upon the filing of such an application, the commissioner may grant such certificate and such certificate shall be retroactive to the date on which the lapse occurred, provided the commissioner finds that the lapse of the certificate occurred as a result of a hardship or extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the applicant. If such teacher has attained tenure and is reemployed by the same board of education in any equivalent unfilled position for which the person is qualified as a result of the issuance of a certificate pursuant to this subdivision, the lapse period shall not constitute a break in employment for such person reemployed and shall be used for the purpose of calculating continuous employment pursuant to section 10-151. If such teacher has not attained tenure, the time unemployed due to the lapse of a certificate shall not be counted toward tenure, except that if such teacher is reemployed by the same board of education as a result of the issuance of a certificate pursuant to this subdivision, such teacher may count the previous continuous employment immediately prior to the lapse towards tenure. Using information provided by the Teachers' Retirement Board, the Department of Education shall annually notify each local or regional board of education of the name of each teacher employed by such board

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of education whose provisional certificate will expire during the period of twelve months following such notice. Upon receipt of such notice the superintendent of each local and regional board of education shall notify each such teacher in writing, at such teacher's last-known address, that the teacher's provisional certificate will expire.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection to the contrary, to be eligible for a certificate to teach subjects for which a bachelor's degree is not required, any applicant who is otherwise eligible for certification in such endorsement areas shall be entitled to a certificate without having met the requirements of the competency examination and subject area assessment pursuant to this subsection for a period not to exceed two years, except that for a certificate to teach skilled trades or trade-related or occupational subjects, the commissioner may waive the requirement that the applicant take the competency examination. The commissioner may, upon the showing of good cause, extend the certificate.

(5) On and after July 1, 2011, any person applying for a certification in the endorsement area of elementary education shall achieve a satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate State Board of Education approved mathematics assessment in order to be eligible for such elementary education endorsement.

(6) On and after July 1, 2018, any person who holds an initial, provisional or professional educator certificate and achieves a satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate State Board of Education approved subject area assessment shall be issued a cross endorsement in the relevant certification endorsement area corresponding to a teacher shortage area, as determined by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 10-8b.

(7) On and after July 1, 2024, any person who holds an initial educator certificate, a provisional educator certificate or a professional educator

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certificate and achieves a satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate State Board of Education approved subject area assessment shall be issued a cross endorsement in the relevant certification endorsement area. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to the endorsement areas of special education, teaching English to speakers of other languages, bilingual, remedial reading and remedial language arts or school library media specialist.

Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The State Board of Education shall issue, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-145b of the general statutes, as amended by this act, an initial educator certificate to any person who successfully satisfies one of the following pathways to professional certification:

(1) Successful completion of an educator preparation program approved by the State Board of Education.

(2) Successful completion of an alternate route to certification program pursuant to section 10-145p, 10-145t, as amended by this act, 10-145w, as amended by this act, or 10-155d of the general statutes.

(3) Is an educator from another state and meets the requirements set forth in subsections (c) and (f) of section 10-145f, section 10-146c or section 10-146i of the general statutes.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the State Board of Education may waive any of the requirements of this section and issue an initial educator certificate to any person who presents a combination of education and experience that the state board determines is the equivalent of the education and experience required under this section.

Sec. 7. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-145t of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

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(a) For purposes of this section, "school support staff" means any person employed by a local or regional board of education as a behavior analyst or an assistant behavior analyst, as such terms are defined in section 20-185i, an athletic coach, as defined in section 10-149d, or a [school paraprofessional] paraeducator.

(b) (1) The Department of Education shall review and approve proposals for alternate route to certification programs for persons employed as school support staff. In order to be approved, a proposal shall provide that the alternate route to certification program [(1)] (A) be provided by a public or independent institution of higher education, a local or regional board of education, a regional educational service center or a private, nonprofit teacher or administrator training organization approved by the State Board of Education; [(2)] (B) accept only those participants who [(A) hold a bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or the Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited, (B)] (i) have been employed as school support staff by a local or regional board of education for at least forty school months, and [(C)] (ii) are recommended by the immediate supervisor or district administrator of such person on the basis of such person's performance; [(3)] (C) require each participant to complete a one-year residency that requires such person to serve [(A)] (i) in a position requiring professional certification, and [(B)] (ii) in a full-time position for ten school months at a local or regional board of education in the state under the supervision of [(i)] (I) a certified administrator or teacher, and [(ii)] (II) a supervisor from an institution or organization described in [subdivision (1) of this subsection] subparagraph (A) of this subdivision; and [(4)] (D) meet such other criteria as the department requires.

(2) The department may approve any program that (A) accepts participants who hold a bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or

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the Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited, or (B) partners with an institution of higher education that is regionally accredited, or has received an equivalent accreditation, to provide a dual degree-plus-certification program for participants who hold an associate degree. The department shall give priority to those programs that provide participants flexibility in remaining in their positions as a school support staff while pursuing an initial educator certificate, other than the period when such participants are completing the one-year residency requirement described in subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 10-145w of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) As used in this section, "person from an alternate profession" means a person who (1) holds at least a bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or that is regionally accredited, and (A) is a paraeducator, (B) is a veteran, as defined in section 27-103, (C) holds a charter school educator permit, issued by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-145q, [or] (D) is employed or was previously employed as a professor at an accredited institution of higher education, as defined in section 10a-34, or (E) has completed at least five years of work experience requiring consistent exercise of discretion and independent judgment in the field related to the relevant endorsement area, or (2) holds a master's degree from a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or, for any person educated outside the United States or its territories, an educational program deemed equivalent by the council.

Sec. 9. Subsection (e) of section 10-144d of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):



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(e) The council shall (1) advise the [State Board of Education, the Governor] Commissioner of Education and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education concerning [teacher preparation,] teacher recruitment, teacher retention, [teacher certification,] teacher professional development, teacher assessment and evaluation, [and] teacher professional discipline, [; (2) review and comment upon all regulations and other standards concerning the approval of teacher preparation programs and teacher certification] the equitable distribution of teachers, diversity of the teaching workforce, special education, testing and assessment of students, school safety and social-emotional learning; (2) share perspectives on the impact of proposed policies and initiatives on classroom practice with the commissioner and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education; (3) provide suggestions and feedback on guidance to be sent to school districts related to the implementation of such policies and initiatives with the commissioner; and [(3)] (4) report to the [State Board of Education, the Governor] commissioner and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education not later than January 15, 1991, and annually thereafter, on its activities and recommendations, if any, concerning the condition of the teaching profession.

Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) There is established the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board. The board shall be responsible for modernizing and aligning educator preparation and certification to ensure that policies are optimized to attract and retain effective and diverse professionals for employment in the state's public schools.

(b) The board shall develop standards and proposals for regulations or legislation relating to educator preparation and certification. Such

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standards and proposals shall reflect the teaching profession and respond to emerging understandings of effective, evidence-based practices and address the following objectives: (1) Building streamlined, flexible pathways in the educator profession that are grounded in a commitment to educator effectiveness, (2) enabling educators to broaden their scope of practice to meet more students' needs, (3) ensuring educator preparation programs are accountable for both the quality training experiences and outcomes for candidates, (4) creating a system to help educators continuously improve their practice that supports and rewards educators who demonstrate mastery, (5) supporting improved data transparency regarding the state's distribution of educators and educator vacancies and accountability for remedying observed inequities, and (6) treating educators as professionals and lifelong learners who need access to high-quality professional learning and mentorships throughout their careers.

(c) The board shall consist of the following members:

(1) Four public school classroom teachers, who are classroom teachers at the time of their appointment and throughout their term on the board, as follows:

(A) Two appointed by the Connecticut Education Association, one of whom is a teacher for students in grades kindergarten to grade six, inclusive, and one of whom is a high school teacher;

(B) One appointed by the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut, one of whom is a special education teacher; and

(C) One appointed by the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council.

(2) Three representatives from an educator preparation program approved by the State Board of Education, as follows:

(A) One appointed by the American Association of Colleges for

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Teacher Education Connecticut Chapter, who is a representative from an educator preparation program offered by a public institution of higher education;

(B) One appointed by the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges; and

(C) One appointed by the Commissioner of Education, who is a representative of an alternate route to certification program.

(3) Three administrators, who are employed by a local or regional board of education, as follows:

(A) One appointed by the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, who is a superintendent of schools for an urban school district;

(B) One appointed by the Connecticut Association of Schools, who represents a rural school district; and

(C) One appointed by the Connecticut Federation of School Administrators, who represents a suburban school district.

(4) One appointed by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education.

(5) One appointed by the Connecticut Business and Industry Association, who is a representative from the education and workforce affiliate of the association.

(6) A representative from the Increasing Educator Diversity Policy Oversight Council, established pursuant to section 10-156bb of the general statutes, designated by the council.

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

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(8) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's designee.

(9) The superintendent of the Technical Education and Career System, or the superintendent's designee.

(d) All initial appointments to the board shall be made not later than August 1, 2024. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority not later than ten days following such vacancy. Members shall serve three-year terms.

(e) The chairperson and vice chairperson of the board shall be elected from among the voting members of the board. The board shall establish bylaws for the operation and management of the board. An employee of the Department of Education shall be designated by the Commissioner of Education to serve as the administrator of the board.

(f) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the board shall develop an annual report that includes a detailed summary of the substance and disposition of any standards and proposals for regulations or legislation developed by the board or the State Board of Education pursuant to section 11 of this act. The board shall submit such annual report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board and the State Board of Education shall each have the authority to develop standards and proposals for regulations and legislation relating to educator preparation and certification.

(b) (1) Any such standard or proposal developed by the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board shall be submitted to the State Board of Education for review. The State Board of Education shall

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approve or reject any such standard or proposal not later than sixty days after receipt of such standard or proposal. If such standard or proposal is approved, such standard or proposal shall be implemented.

(2) Any such standard or proposal developed by the State Board of Education shall be submitted to the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board for review. The Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board shall approve or reject any such standard or proposal not later than sixty days after receipt of such standard or proposal. If such standard or proposal is approved, such standard or proposal shall be implemented.

(3) If such approved proposal is for regulations, the State Board of Education shall adopt regulations consistent with such approved proposal in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes.

(4) If such approved proposal is for legislation, such approved proposal shall be submitted to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2025, the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board, established pursuant to section 10 of this act, shall develop standards and proposals for regulations and legislation regarding (1) the evaluation criteria that will be used to assess proposals from local or regional boards of education, regional educational service centers and educator preparation programs for alternative pathways for educators to progress from an initial educator certificate to a professional educator certificate or to be issued a cross endorsement that will enable such educators to teach in content areas or grades beyond their initial certification areas, (2) the manner in which degrees from educator preparation programs approved by the State Board of Education will

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align with the revised endorsement codes under section 10-145d of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (3) the adequacy and relevance of existing certification endorsement areas, (4) the implementation of the standards for educator preparation programs developed by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, (5) the necessity of the temporary ninety-day certificate issued under section 10-145b of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and (6) the design and development of a state-wide data dashboard that enables longitudinal monitoring of educator workforce data.

(b) Not later than July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the board shall (1) collect and review (A) state-specific data, including, but not limited to, qualitative data on stakeholders' experiences and quantitative data from the Department of Education on educator vacancies, shortage areas and the educator preparation program dashboard, and (B) data on applicable national policy developments relating to educator preparation, certification and employment, (2) evaluate whether any changes are needed to the current educator preparation and certification frameworks, and (3) develop, as necessary, evidence-based standards and proposals for regulations and legislation to strengthen existing systems.

Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board, established pursuant to section 10 of this act, shall (1) conduct a review of the existing regulations and statutes relating to educator preparation and certification to identify obsolete or conflicting provisions of such regulations and statutes, (2) review the state's approach to assessing whether candidates for certification have demonstrated minimum content knowledge within their endorsement areas for purposes of section 10-145f of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and (3) develop recommendations as to whether alternative approaches should be offered to allow candidates to demonstrate such minimum content knowledge. Not later than

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January 31, 2025, the board shall submit a report on its findings, as well as any recommendations for legislation, to the State Board of Education and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

(b) The Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board, established pursuant to section 10 of this act, shall (1) undertake a comprehensive review of the certification endorsement areas for the purpose of (A) developing standards regarding the adequacy and relevance of such endorsement areas, and (B) considering whether the grade ranges for the endorsement areas should be expanded, (2) explore alternative pathways for educators to receive cross endorsements, and (3) consider whether to transfer authority over candidate admission criteria for alternate route to certification programs to the program providers. Not later than July 1, 2025, the board shall submit a report on its findings, as well as any recommendations for legislation, to the State Board of Education and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Not later than July 1, 2026, the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board, established pursuant to section 10 of this act, shall develop standards regarding the criteria to be used when reviewing educator preparation programs and alternate route to certification programs for new or continuing program approval. Such standards shall include a requirement that (1) any educator preparation program or alternate route to certification program shall obtain continuing program approval every seven years, and (2) the methodology for determinations regarding continuing program approval shall be based on final accreditation decisions of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and be classified in the following categories: Approval, provisional, probationary or

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denial of approval.

Sec. 15. Section 10-145aa of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

[On and after July 1, 2022, the preservice performance assessment, edTPA, as adopted by the State Board of Education on December 7, 2016, shall be used exclusively as an accountability tool for teacher preparation programs, as defined in section 10-10a, offered at institutions of higher education in the state. The results of such preservice performance assessment shall not be used by the State Board of Education to deny an application for the issuance of an initial educator certificate under section 10-145b.]

(a) On and after July 1, 2024, the State Board of Education shall not (1) use the results of the preservice performance assessment, edTPA, as adopted by the State Board of Education on December 7, 2016, to deny an application for the issuance of an initial educator certificate under section 10-145b, as amended by this act, and (2) require a teacher preparation program, as defined in section 10-10a, offered at an institution of higher education in the state to use edTPA as a (A) preservice performance assessment for such teacher preparation program, and (B) program completion requirement.

(b) On and after July 1, 2024, no institution of higher education in the state that offers a teacher preparation program shall use the results of edTPA to deny a candidate successful completion of such teacher preparation program. Nothing in this subsection shall prevent an institution of higher education from using such results as a diagnostic tool for the purpose of providing any necessary remedial instruction to a candidate while such candidate is enrolled in such teacher preparation program.



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Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section, "occupational subject" includes, but is not limited to, automobile servicing, carpentry, plumbing, culinary arts, electronics, cosmetology and public safety.

(b) The State Board of Education may issue an initial educator certificate for occupational subjects in technical education and career schools to an applicant who has (1) obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent, (2) completed five years of experience in the field for which the certificate is sought, which may include not more than two years of in a registered apprenticeship, work-based learning program or other specialized schooling, (3) completed a minimum of six semester hours of credit teaching vocational and industrial education, and (4) completed a course of study in special education comprised of not fewer than three semester hours, which shall include study in understanding the growth and development of exceptional children, including children with a disability, gifted and talented children and children who may require special education, and methods for identifying, planning for and working effectively with special needs children in the regular classroom. An initial educator certificate for occupational subjects in technical education and career schools shall authorize the holder to teach an occupational subject in the Technical Education and Career System.

(c) An applicant who is otherwise eligible for an initial educator certificate for occupational subjects in technical education and career schools, but is deficient in meeting the course requirements to the extent of not more than six semester hours of credit, as described in subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section, and a course of study in special education, as described in subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of this section, may be issued an interim educator certificate, valid for one year, which may be reissued for a second year by the Commissioner of Education. If the holder of such interim educator certificate fails to meet

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such course requirements at the expiration of such interim educator certificate, the commissioner shall prevent the holder from serving in the employ of a board of education in a position covered by the initial educator certificate for occupational subjects in technical education and career schools, except that the course work in which the applicant is deficient may be deferred for one additional year for good cause shown.

Sec. 17. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section, "trade and industrial occupations" includes, but is not limited to, food service, automotive servicing, machine tool and operation, building maintenance and repairs, welding, appliance repair and public safety.

(b) The State Board of Education may issue an initial educator certificate for trade and industrial occupations in comprehensive high schools to an applicant who has (1) provided a written request from a local or regional board of education, (2) obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent, (3) completed a minimum of three years of approved successful work experience appropriate to the field for which such certificate is sought, which may include not more than two years of specialized appropriate schooling, (4) completed a minimum of six semester hours of credit in professional education in areas such as (A) teaching vocational and industrial education, or (B) foundations of education, educational psychology, adolescent psychology, psychology of learning, curriculum and methods of teaching, classroom instruction and management, multicultural diversity or equity issues in education, and (5) completed a course of study in special education comprised of not fewer than three semester hours, which shall include study in understanding the growth and development of exceptional children, including children with a disability, gifted and talented children and children who may require special education, and methods for identifying, planning for and working effectively with special needs children in the regular classroom. An initial educator certificate for trade and industrial occupations in comprehensive high schools shall

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authorize the holder to teach in a comprehensive high school trade and industrial program in grades six to twelve, inclusive, except such initial educator certificate for trade and industrial occupations in comprehensive high schools shall not be valid to teach in the Technical Education and Career System.

(c) An applicant who is otherwise eligible for an initial educator certificate for trade and industrial occupations in comprehensive high schools, but is deficient in meeting the course requirements to the extent of not more than six semester hours of credit, as described in subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of this section, and a course of study in special education, as described in subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of this section, may be issued an interim educator certificate, valid for one year, which may be reissued for a second year by the Commissioner of Education. If the holder of such interim educator certificate fails to meet such course requirements at the expiration of such interim educator certificate, the commissioner shall prevent the holder from serving in the employ of a board of education in a position covered by the initial educator certificate for trade and industrial occupations in comprehensive high schools, except that the course work in which the applicant is deficient may be deferred for one additional year for good cause shown.

Sec. 18. Section 31-51rr of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) Each political subdivision of the state shall ~~[grant]~~ provide the same family and medical leave benefits under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, P.L. 103-3, and 29 CFR 825.112 to (1) any employee of such political subdivision who is ~~[(1)]~~ a party to a marriage in which the other party is of the same sex as the employee, and who has been employed for at least twelve months by such employer and for at least one thousand two hundred fifty hours of service with such employer during the previous twelve-month period, ~~[the same family and medical~~

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leave benefits under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, P.L. 103-3, and 29 CFR 825.112,] which benefits shall be the same as are provided to an employee who is a party to a marriage in which the other party is of the opposite sex of such employee, [or] (2) on or after the effective date of regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, a [school paraprofessional in an educational setting] paraeducator who has been employed in an educational setting for at least twelve months by such employer and for at least nine hundred fifty hours of service with such employer during the previous twelve-month period, [the same family and medical leave benefits provided under subdivision (1) of this subsection to an employee who has been employed for at least twelve months by such employer and for at least one thousand two hundred fifty hours of service with such employer during the previous twelve-month period] or (3) on or after October 1, 2024, any person employed by a local or regional board of education who does not hold a professional certification under chapter 166 and has been employed for at least twelve months by such employer and for at least nine hundred fifty hours of service with such employer during the previous twelve-month period.

(b) (1) Any employee of a political subdivision of the state who has worked at least twelve months and one thousand two hundred fifty hours for such employer during the previous twelve-month period, [or] (2) on or after the effective date of regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, a [school paraprofessional in an educational setting] paraeducator who has been employed in an educational setting for at least twelve months by such employer and for at least nine hundred fifty hours of service with such employer during the previous twelve-month period, or (3) on or after October 1, 2024, any person employed by a local or regional board of education who does not hold a professional certification under chapter 166 and has been employed for at least twelve months by such employer and for at least nine hundred fifty hours of service with such employer during the

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previous twelve-month period may request leave in order to serve as an organ or bone marrow donor, provided such employee may be required, prior to the inception of such leave, to provide sufficient written certification from the physician of such employee, a physician assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse of the proposed organ or bone marrow donation and the probable duration of the employee's recovery from such donation.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing leave in addition to the total of twelve workweeks of leave during any twelve-month period provided under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, P.L. 103-3.

(d) The Labor Department shall enforce compliance with the provisions of this section.

(e) For the purposes of subdivision (2) of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, no hours of service worked by a [paraprofessional] paraeducator prior to the effective date of regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (f) of this section shall be included in the requisite nine hundred fifty hours of service.

(f) The Labor Commissioner shall adopt regulations for the provision of family and medical leave benefits to [school paraprofessionals] paraeducators employed in an educational setting pursuant to this section.

Sec. 19. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, shall reclassify one authorized position at the Department of Education that remains unfilled for the purpose of hiring an individual to serve as the administrator of the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board, established pursuant to section 10 of this act. The department shall use funds

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appropriated to the department's personal services account for the purpose of filling such position reclassified pursuant to this section.

Sec. 20. Subsection (a) of section 10-66r of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) Each regional educational service center shall develop, in consultation with the Department of Education, a regional model for the provision of special education services related to transportation, training and therapeutic services to be used for the provision of such special education services to all school districts served by such regional educational service center. Each regional model shall take into account the least restrictive environment for students receiving special education and related services and include (1) a regional transportation plan, developed in consultation with public transit districts, that provides transportation to children requiring special education and related services, (2) a regional educator training plan that provides special education training to teachers, [school paraprofessionals] paraeducators and administrators that includes, but need not be limited to, instruction regarding classroom techniques to improve the provision of special education and related services to children and the implementation of scientific research-based interventions, (3) a regional plan for the provision of therapeutic services, including, but not limited to, speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy, and (4) a plan for the provision of transportation, training and therapeutic services in a manner that makes such services readily available to each school district served by the regional educational service center rather than by request of a school district.

Sec. 21. Section 10-74q of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

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(a) Not later than July 1, 2024, the Department of Education, in consultation with the Departments of Developmental Services and Aging and Disability Services and the regional educational service centers, shall develop a training program for transition coordinators, educators and [school paraprofessionals] paraeducators. Such training program shall comply with the minimum standards established by the State-wide Transition Services Coordinator pursuant to section 10-74o.

(b) Each regional educational service center shall provide the training program developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section at no cost to transition coordinators, educators and [school paraprofessionals] paraeducators who provide transition services and any other educators or school staff interested in becoming a transition coordinator or providing transition services.

Sec. 22. Subsection (b) of section 10-74r of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(b) Each educator and [school paraprofessional] paraeducator who provides special education for students fourteen years of age or older shall complete the training program developed by the Department of Education pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-74q, as amended by this act, provided (1) each such educator and [school paraprofessional] paraeducator hired prior to the date upon which the training program commences shall complete such training program during the five-year period immediately following such date, and (2) each such educator and [school paraprofessional] paraeducator hired after such date shall complete such training program not later than one year from the date such educator or [school paraprofessional] paraeducator is hired to provide such services.

Sec. 23. Subdivision (10) of subsection (a) of section 10-76d of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is

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substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(10) (A) Each local and regional board of education responsible for providing special education and related services to a child or pupil shall notify the parent or guardian of a child who requires or who may require special education, a pupil if such pupil is an emancipated minor or eighteen years of age or older who requires or who may require special education or a surrogate parent appointed pursuant to section 10-94g, in writing, at least five school days before such board proposes to, or refuses to, initiate or change the child's or pupil's identification, evaluation or educational placement or the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child or pupil.

(B) Upon request by a parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent, the responsible local or regional board of education shall provide such parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent an opportunity to meet with a member of the planning and placement team designated by such board prior to the referral planning and placement team meeting at which the assessments and evaluations of the child or pupil who requires or may require special education is presented to such parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent for the first time. Such meeting shall be for the sole purpose of discussing the planning and placement team process and any concerns such parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent has regarding the child or pupil who requires or may require special education.

(C) Such parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent shall (i) be given at least five school days' prior notice of any planning and placement team meeting conducted for such child or pupil, (ii) have the right to be present at and participate in all portions of such meeting at which an educational program for such child or pupil is developed, reviewed or revised, (iii) have the right to have (I) advisors of such person's own choosing and at such person's own expense, (II) the [school paraprofessional] paraeducator assigned to such child or pupil, if any,



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(III) such child or pupil's birth-to-three service coordinator, if any, and (IV) a language interpreter, including a registered interpreter for persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind, who is present in person or available by telephone or through an online technology platform, or through an Internet web site or other electronic application approved by the State Board of Education, provided by the responsible local or regional board of education if there is an apparent need or upon the request of such parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent, who shall attend and participate or be available in all portions of such meeting at which an educational program for such child or pupil is developed, reviewed or revised, and (iv) have the right to have each recommendation made in such child or pupil's birth-to-three individualized transition plan, as required by section 17a-248e, if any, addressed by the planning and placement team during such meeting at which an educational program for such child or pupil is developed. The notice given pursuant to clause (i) of this subparagraph shall include, but need not be limited to, specification of the rights enumerated in this subparagraph.

(D) Immediately upon the formal identification of any child as a child requiring special education and at each planning and placement team meeting for such child, the responsible local or regional board of education shall inform the parent or guardian of such child or surrogate parent or, in the case of a pupil who is an emancipated minor or eighteen years of age or older, the pupil of (i) the laws relating to special education, (ii) the rights of such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil under such laws and the regulations adopted by the State Board of Education relating to special education, including the right of a parent, guardian or surrogate parent to (I) withhold from enrolling such child in kindergarten, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-184, (II) have advisors and the [school paraprofessional] paraeducator assigned to such child or pupil attend and participate in all portions of such meeting at which an educational program for such child or pupil

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is developed, reviewed or revised, in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, (III) obtain the plain language resources available on the Department of Education's Internet web site pursuant to subsection (g) of section 10-76h explaining the hearing and appeals process, as provided in section 10-76h, available to such child or pupil if there is a disagreement about the individualized education program, identification, evaluation or educational placement of or the provision of a free appropriate public education to such child or pupil, and (IV) receive information regarding free and low-cost legal assistance, and (iii) any relevant information and resources relating to individualized education programs created by the Department of Education, including, but not limited to, information relating to transition resources and services for high school students and the Parent's Guide to Special Education in Connecticut developed by the department. If such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil does not attend a planning and placement team meeting, the responsible local or regional board of education shall mail such information to such person. Each responsible local or regional board of education shall provide a child or pupil's individualized education program, any documents relating to such program and all the information required pursuant to this subparagraph translated into the primary language spoken by such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil if there is an apparent need or upon the request of the parent guardian, surrogate parent or pupil.

(E) Each local and regional board of education shall have in effect at the beginning of each school year an educational program for each child or pupil who has been identified as eligible for special education, and shall provide (i) the informational handout described in section 10-74v to each child with an individualized education program or plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and (ii) the Parent's Guide to Special Education in Connecticut developed by the Department of Education and the rights and resources available to such child in the provision of special education and related services.

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(F) (i) At each initial planning and placement team meeting for a child or pupil, the responsible local or regional board of education shall inform the parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil of the laws relating to physical restraint and seclusion pursuant to section 10-236b, as amended by this act, and the rights of such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil under such laws and the regulations adopted by the State Board of Education relating to physical restraint and seclusion and the right of such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil, during such meeting at which an educational program for such child or pupil is developed, to have (I) such child or pupil's birth-to-three service coordinator attend and participate in all portions of such meeting, and (II) each recommendation made in the transition plan, as required by section 17a-248e, by such child or pupil's birth-to-three service coordinator addressed by the planning and placement team.

(ii) At the first planning and placement team meeting after a child who requires special education and related services reaches the age of fourteen, each responsible local or regional board of education shall provide information to the child and the parent, guardian or surrogate parent about the full range of decision-making supports, including alternatives to guardianship and conservatorship, and the online resource developed by the Department of Education pursuant to section 10-74s. The responsible local or regional board of education shall continue to provide such information to the child and the parent, guardian or surrogate parent at least annually thereafter.

(iii) Each responsible local or regional board of education shall provide the notice created by the Mediation Services Coordinator pursuant to subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section 10-76z to each parent, guardian or surrogate parent of any child who requires special education by (I) distributing such notice to such parents, guardians or surrogate parents at the beginning of each school year, and (II) reading such notice out loud at the conclusion of the first planning and

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placement team meeting at the beginning of each school year.

(G) Upon request by a parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent, the responsible local or regional board of education shall provide the results of the assessments and evaluations used in the determination of eligibility for special education for a child or pupil to such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil at least three school days before the referral planning and placement team meeting at which such results of the assessments and evaluations will be discussed for the first time.

(H) Each local or regional board of education shall monitor the development of each child who, pursuant to subsection (a) of section 17a-248e, has been (i) referred for a registration on a mobile application designated by the Commissioner of Early Childhood, in partnership with such child's parent, guardian or surrogate parent, or (ii) provided a form for such child's parent, guardian or surrogate parent to complete and submit to such local or regional board of education that screens for developmental and social-emotional delays using a validated screening tool, such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire and the Ages and Stages Social-Emotional Questionnaire, or its equivalent. If such monitoring results in suspecting a child of having a developmental delay, the board shall schedule a planning and placement team meeting with such child's parent, guardian or surrogate parent for the purposes of identifying services for which such child may be eligible, including, but not limited to, a preschool program under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Act, 20 USC 1471 et seq. If a parent, guardian or surrogate parent of any child referred for a registration on the mobile application or provided a form to complete and submit, pursuant to subsection (a) of section 17a-248e, fails to complete such registration or complete and submit such form after a period of six months from the date of such referral or provision of such form, the board shall send a reminder, in the form and manner determined by the board, to such parent, guardian or surrogate parent to complete such registration or complete and submit such form.

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The board shall send another reminder after a period of one year from such referral or provision of such form if such registration remains incomplete or such form is not submitted.

(I) Prior to any planning and placement team meeting for a child or pupil in which an educational program for such child or pupil is developed, reviewed or revised, if the parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent has requested that the [school paraprofessional] paraeducator assigned to such child or pupil attend such meeting, then the responsible local or regional board of education shall provide (i) adequate notice of such meeting to such [school paraprofessional] paraeducator so that such [school paraprofessional] paraeducator may adequately prepare for such meeting, and (ii) training, upon request of such [school paraprofessional] paraeducator, on the role of such [school paraprofessional] paraeducator at such meeting. Following such meeting, such [school paraprofessional] paraeducator, or any other paraprofessional who is providing special education or related services to such child, shall review such educational program with a supervisor, as needed, and be permitted to view such educational program in order to be able to provide special education or related services to such child or pupil in accordance with such educational program.

Sec. 24. Section 10-155j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

The Department of Education shall, within available appropriations, promote and encourage professional development activities for [school paraprofessionals] paraeducators with instructional responsibilities. Such activities may include, but shall not be limited to, providing local and regional boards of education with training modules and curricula for professional development for [paraprofessionals] paraeducators and assisting boards of education in the effective use of [paraprofessionals] paraeducators and the development of strategies to improve communications between teachers and [paraprofessionals]

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paraeducators in the provision of effective student instruction.

Sec. 25. Section 10-155k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

On and after July 1, 2013, the Commissioner of Education shall establish a School Paraprofessional Advisory Council, which on and after July 1, 2021, shall be known as the School Paraeducator Advisory Council, consisting of (1) one [school paraprofessional] paraeducator from each state-wide bargaining representative organization that represents [school paraprofessionals] paraeducators with instructional responsibilities, (2) one representative from each of the exclusive bargaining units for certified employees, chosen pursuant to section 10-153b, (3) the most recent recipient of the Connecticut [Paraprofessional] Paraeducator of the Year Award, (4) two representatives from the regional educational service centers, appointed by the Commissioner of Education, and (5) a school administrator, appointed by the Connecticut Federation of School Administrators. The council shall hold quarterly meetings and advise, at least quarterly, the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee, of the needs for (A) professional development and the training of [paraprofessionals] paraeducators and the effectiveness of the content and the delivery of existing training for such [paraprofessionals] paraeducators, (B) appropriate staffing strategies for [paraprofessionals, and (C)] paraeducators, and (C) consideration of other relevant issues relating to [paraprofessionals] paraeducators. The council shall report, annually, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the recommendations given to the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, pursuant to the provisions of this section, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education.

Sec. 26. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-156gg of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

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(2) "Minority candidate" means an individual who is a minority and employed by a local or regional board of education as a [school paraprofessional] paraeducator or an associate instructor;

Sec. 27. Section 10-212a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) (1) A school nurse or, in the absence of such nurse, any other nurse licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 378, including a nurse employed by, or providing services under the direction of a local or regional board of education at, a school-based health clinic, who shall administer medical preparations only to students enrolled in such school-based health clinic in the absence of a school nurse, the principal, any teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, or coach of intramural and interscholastic athletics of a school may administer, subject to the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection, medicinal preparations, including such controlled drugs as the Commissioner of Consumer Protection may, by regulation, designate, to any student at such school pursuant to the written order of a physician licensed to practice medicine, or a dentist licensed to practice dental medicine in this or another state, or an optometrist licensed to practice optometry in this state under chapter 380, or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a, or a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-12d, and the written authorization of a parent or guardian of such child. The administration of medicinal preparations by a nurse licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 378, a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, or coach shall be under the general supervision of a school nurse. No such school nurse or other nurse, principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or [school paraprofessional]

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paraeducator administering medication pursuant to this section shall be liable to such student or a parent or guardian of such student for civil damages for any personal injuries that result from acts or omissions of such school nurse or other nurse, principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or [school paraprofessional] paraeducator administering medication pursuant to this section in administering such preparations that may constitute ordinary negligence. This immunity does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence.

(2) Each local and regional board of education that allows a school nurse or, in the absence of such nurse, any other nurse licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 378, including a nurse employed by, or providing services under the direction of a local or regional board of education at, a school-based health clinic, who shall administer medical preparations only to students enrolled in such school-based health clinic in the absence of a school nurse, the principal, any teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach of intramural and interscholastic athletics or [school paraprofessional] paraeducator of a school to administer medicine or that allows a student to possess, self-administer or possess and self-administer medicine, including medicine administered through the use of an asthmatic inhaler or an automatic prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment, shall adopt written policies and procedures, in accordance with this section and the regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, that shall be approved by the school medical advisor, if any, or other qualified licensed physician. Once so approved, such administration of medication shall be in accordance with such policies and procedures.

(3) A director of a school readiness program as defined in section 10-16p or a before or after school program exempt from licensure by the



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Department of Public Health pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 19a-77, or the director's designee, may administer medications to a child enrolled in such a program in accordance with regulations adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. No individual administering medications pursuant to this subdivision shall be liable to such child or a parent or guardian of such child for civil damages for any personal injuries that result from acts or omissions of such individual in administering such medications which may constitute ordinary negligence. This immunity shall not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton negligence.

(b) Each school wherein any controlled drug is administered under the provisions of this section shall keep such records thereof as are required of hospitals under the provisions of subsections (f) and (h) of section 21a-254 and shall store such drug in such manner as the Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall, by regulation, require.

(c) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, determined to be necessary by the board to carry out the provisions of this section, including, but not limited to, regulations that (1) specify conditions under which a coach of intramural and interscholastic athletics may administer medicinal preparations, including controlled drugs specified in the regulations adopted by the commissioner, to a child participating in such intramural and interscholastic athletics, (2) specify conditions and procedures for the administration of medication by school personnel to students, including, but not limited to, (A) the conditions and procedures for the storage and administration of epinephrine by school personnel to students for the purpose of emergency first aid to students who experience allergic reactions and who do not have a prior written authorization for the administration of epinephrine, in accordance with

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the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section, and (B) the conditions and procedures for the storage and administration of opioid antagonists by school personnel to students who experience an opioid-related drug overdose and who do not have a prior written authorization for the administration of an opioid antagonist, in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of this section, and (3) specify conditions for the possession, self-administration or possession and self-administration of medication by students, including permitting a child diagnosed with: (A) Asthma to retain possession of an asthmatic inhaler at all times while attending school for prompt treatment of the child's asthma and to protect the child against serious harm or death provided a written authorization for self-administration of medication signed by the child's parent or guardian and an authorized prescriber is submitted to the school nurse; and (B) an allergic condition to retain possession of an automatic prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment at all times, including while attending school or receiving school transportation services, for prompt treatment of the child's allergic condition and to protect the child against serious harm or death provided a written authorization for self-administration of medication signed by the child's parent or guardian and an authorized prescriber is submitted to the school nurse. The regulations shall require authorization pursuant to: (i) The written order of a physician licensed to practice medicine in this or another state, a dentist licensed to practice dental medicine in this or another state, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under chapter 378, a physician assistant licensed under chapter 370, a podiatrist licensed under chapter 375, or an optometrist licensed under chapter 380; and (ii) the written authorization of a parent or guardian of such child.

(d) (1) (A) With the written authorization of a student's parent or guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order of a qualified medical professional, a school nurse and a school medical advisor, if any, may

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jointly approve and provide general supervision to an identified [school paraprofessional] paraeducator to administer medication, including, but not limited to, medication administered with a cartridge injector, to a specific student with a medically diagnosed allergic condition that may require prompt treatment in order to protect the student against serious harm or death.

(2) A school nurse or, in the absence of a school nurse, a qualified school employee shall maintain epinephrine in cartridge injectors for the purpose of emergency first aid to students who experience allergic reactions and do not have a prior written authorization of a parent or guardian or a prior written order of a qualified medical professional for the administration of epinephrine. A school nurse or a school principal shall select qualified school employees to administer such epinephrine under this subdivision, and there shall be at least one such qualified school employee on the grounds of the school during regular school hours in the absence of a school nurse. A school nurse or, in the absence of such school nurse, such qualified school employee may administer such epinephrine under this subdivision, provided such administration of epinephrine is in accordance with policies and procedures adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such administration of epinephrine by a qualified school employee shall be limited to situations when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. No qualified school employee shall administer such epinephrine under this subdivision unless such qualified school employee annually completes the training program described in section 10-212g. The parent or guardian of a student may submit, in writing, to the school nurse and school medical advisor, if any, that epinephrine shall not be administered to such student under this subdivision.

(3) In the case of a student with a medically diagnosed life-threatening allergic condition, (A) with the written authorization of such student's parent or guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order

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of a qualified medical professional, such student may possess, self-administer or possess and self-administer medication, including, but not limited to, medication administered with a cartridge injector, to protect such student against serious harm or death.

(4) For purposes of this subsection, (A) "cartridge injector" means an automatic prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment used to deliver epinephrine in a standard dose for emergency first aid response to allergic reactions, (B) "qualified school employee" means a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or [school paraprofessional] paraeducator, and (C) "qualified medical professional" means (i) a physician licensed under chapter 370, (ii) an optometrist licensed to practice optometry under chapter 380, (iii) an advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a, or (iv) a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-12d.

(e) (1) With the written authorization of a student's parent or guardian, and (2) pursuant to a written order of the student's physician licensed under chapter 370 or the student's advanced practice registered nurse licensed under chapter 378, a school nurse or a school principal shall select, and a school nurse shall provide general supervision to, a qualified school employee to administer medication with injectable equipment used to administer glucagon to a student with diabetes that may require prompt treatment in order to protect the student against serious harm or death. Such authorization shall be limited to situations when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. No qualified school employee shall administer medication under this subsection unless (A) such qualified school employee annually completes any training required by the school nurse and school medical advisor, if any, in the administration of medication with injectable equipment used to administer glucagon, (B) the school nurse and school medical advisor,

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if any, have attested, in writing, that such qualified school employee has completed such training, and (C) such qualified school employee voluntarily agrees to serve as a qualified school employee. For purposes of this subsection, "injectable equipment used to administer glucagon" means an injector or injectable equipment used to deliver glucagon in an appropriate dose for emergency first aid response to diabetes. For purposes of this subsection, "qualified school employee" means a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or [school paraprofessional] paraeducator.

(f) (1) (A) With the written authorization of a student's parent or guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order of a physician licensed under chapter 370 or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under chapter 378, a school nurse and a school medical advisor, if any, shall select, and a school nurse shall provide general supervision to, a qualified school employee to administer antiepileptic medication, including by rectal syringe, to a specific student with a medically diagnosed epileptic condition that requires prompt treatment in accordance with the student's individual seizure action plan. Such authorization shall be limited to situations when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. No qualified school employee shall administer medication under this subsection unless (i) such qualified school employee annually completes the training program described in subdivision (2) of this subsection, (ii) the school nurse and school medical advisor, if any, have attested, in writing, that such qualified school employee has completed such training, (iii) such qualified school employee receives monthly reviews by the school nurse to confirm such qualified school employee's competency to administer antiepileptic medication under this subsection, and (iv) such qualified school employee voluntarily agrees to serve as a qualified school employee. For purposes of this subsection, "qualified school employee" means a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or

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occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or [school paraprofessional] paraeducator.

(2) The Department of Education, in consultation with the School Nurse Advisory Council, established pursuant to section 10-212f, and the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut, shall develop an antiepileptic medication administrating training program. Such training program shall include instruction in (A) an overview of childhood epilepsy and types of seizure disorders, (B) interpretation of individual student's emergency seizure action plan and recognition of individual student's seizure activity, (C) emergency management procedures for seizure activity, including administration techniques for emergency seizure medication, (D) when to activate emergency medical services and postseizure procedures and follow-up, (E) reporting procedures after a student has required such delegated emergency seizure medication, and (F) any other relevant issues or topics related to emergency interventions for students who experience seizures.

(g) (1) A school nurse or, in the absence of a school nurse, a qualified school employee may maintain opioid antagonists for the purpose of emergency first aid to students who experience an opioid-related drug overdose and do not have a prior written authorization of a parent or guardian or a prior written order of a qualified medical professional for the administration of such opioid antagonist. A school nurse or a school principal shall select qualified school employees to administer such opioid antagonist under this subdivision, and there shall be at least one such qualified school employee on the grounds of the school during regular school hours in the absence of a school nurse. A school nurse or, in the absence of such school nurse, such qualified school employee may administer such opioid antagonist under this subdivision, provided such administration of the opioid antagonist is in accordance with policies and procedures adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such administration of an opioid antagonist by a qualified

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school employee shall be limited to situations when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. No school nurse or qualified school employee shall administer such opioid antagonist under this subdivision unless such school nurse or qualified school employee completes a training program in the distribution and administration of an opioid antagonist developed by the Department of Education, Department of Public Health and the Department of Consumer Protection, or under an agreement entered into pursuant to section 21a-286. The parent or guardian of a student may submit a request, in writing, to the school nurse and school medical advisor, if any, that an opioid antagonist shall not be administered to such student under this subdivision.

(2) Not later than October 1, 2022, the Department of Education, in consultation with the Departments of Consumer Protection and Public Health, shall develop guidelines for use by local and regional boards of education on the storage and administration of opioid antagonists in schools in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

(3) For purposes of this subsection, (A) "opioid antagonist" means naloxone hydrochloride or any other similarly acting and equally safe drug approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of a drug overdose, (B) "qualified school employee" means a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or [school paraprofessional] paraeducator, and (C) "qualified medical professional" means (i) a physician licensed under chapter 370, (ii) an optometrist licensed to practice optometry under chapter 380, (iii) an advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a, or (iv) a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-12d.

Sec. 28. Subsection (b) of section 10-221o of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

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(b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall adopt a policy, as the board deems appropriate, concerning the circumstances when a school employee may prevent or otherwise restrict a student from participating in the entire time devoted to physical exercise in the regular school day, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, as a form of discipline. Such policy shall (1) permit such prevention or restriction (A) when a student poses a danger to the health or safety of other students or school personnel, or (B) when such prevention or restriction is limited to the period devoted to physical exercise that is the shortest in duration if there are two or more periods devoted to physical exercise in a school day, provided the period of time devoted to physical exercise that such student may participate in during such school day is at least twenty minutes in duration, (2) only permit such prevention or restriction once during a school week, unless such student is a danger to the health or safety of other students or school personnel, (3) not include any provisions that such board determines are unreasonably restrictive or punitive, (4) distinguish between (A) discipline imposed prior to the start of such time devoted to physical exercise and discipline imposed during such time devoted to physical exercise, and (B) discipline that (i) prevents or otherwise restricts a student from participating in such time devoted to physical exercise prior to such time devoted to physical exercise, and (ii) methods used to redirect a student's behavior during such time devoted to physical exercise, and (5) not permit such prevention or restriction if a student does not complete such student's work on time or for such student's academic performance. For purposes of this section, "school employee" means (A) a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, school counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator or coach employed by a local or regional board of education or working in a public elementary, middle or high school; or (B) any other individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular



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contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high school, pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of education.

Sec. 29. Section 10-221u of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

Not later than October 1, 2013, each local and regional board of education shall adopt a policy, as the board deems appropriate, concerning the issue regarding any school employee being involved in requiring any student enrolled in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, to engage in physical activity as a form of discipline during the regular school day. For purposes of this section, "school employee" means (1) a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, school counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator or coach employed by a local or regional board of education or working in a public elementary, middle or high school; or (2) any other individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high school, pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of education.

Sec. 30. Subdivision (8) of subsection (a) of section 10-222d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(8) "School employee" means (A) a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, school counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator or coach employed by a local or regional board of education or working in a public elementary, middle or high school; or (B) any other individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to

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or on behalf of students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high school, pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of education;

Sec. 31. Subsections (d) to (g), inclusive, of section 10-223e of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(d) (1) For those schools classified as category three schools, the department may require such schools to (A) develop and implement plans consistent with this section and federal law to elevate the school from low achieving status, and (B) be the subject of actions as described in the state-wide performance management and support plan, prepared in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section.

(2) For those schools classified as category three schools, the department may require the local or regional board of education for such schools to collaborate with the regional educational service center that serves the area in which such schools are located to develop plans to ensure such schools provide (A) early education opportunities, (B) summer school, (C) extended school day or year programming, (D) weekend classes, (E) tutorial assistance to their students, or (F) professional development to their administrators, principals, teachers and [paraprofessionals] paraeducators. In requiring any educational program authorized by this subdivision, the Commissioner of Education may limit the offering of such program to the subgroup of students that have failed to reach performance benchmarks or those in transitional or milestone grades or those who are otherwise at substantial risk of educational failure as described in the state-wide performance management and support plan, prepared in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section.

(e) (1) (A) Any school or school district identified as in need of

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improvement pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section and requiring corrective action pursuant to the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, shall be designated and listed as a low achieving school or school district and shall be subject to intensified supervision and direction by the State Board of Education.

(B) Any school classified as a category four school or category five school or a school designated as a focus school shall be designated as low achieving and shall be subject to intensified supervision and direction by the State Board of Education.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of this title or any regulation adopted pursuant to said title, except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, in carrying out the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection and this subdivision, the State Board of Education shall take any of the following actions to improve student performance of the school district, a particular school in the district or among student subgroups, and remove the school or district from the list of schools or districts designated and listed as a low achieving school or district pursuant to said subdivision (1), and to address other needs of the school or district: (A) Require an operations audit to identify possible programmatic savings and an instructional audit to identify any deficits in curriculum and instruction or in the learning environment of the school or district; (B) require the local or regional board of education for such school or district to use state and federal funds for critical needs, as directed by the State Board of Education; (C) provide incentives to attract highly qualified teachers and principals; (D) direct the transfer and assignment of teachers and principals; (E) require additional training and technical assistance for parents and guardians of children attending the school or a school in the district and for teachers, principals, and central office staff members hired by the district; (F) require the local or regional board of education for the school or district to implement model curriculum, including, but not limited to,

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recommended textbooks, materials and supplies approved by the Department of Education; (G) identify schools for reconstitution, as may be phased in by the commissioner, as state or local charter schools, schools established pursuant to section 10-74g, innovation schools established pursuant to section 10-74h, or schools based on other models for school improvement, or for management by an entity other than the local or regional board of education for the district in which the school is located; (H) direct the local or regional board of education for the school or district to develop and implement a plan addressing deficits in achievement and in the learning environment as recommended in the instructional audit; (I) assign a technical assistance team to the school or district to guide school or district initiatives and report progress to the Commissioner of Education; (J) establish instructional and learning environment benchmarks for the school or district to meet as it progresses toward removal from the list of low achieving schools or districts; (K) provide funding to any proximate district to a district designated as a low achieving school district so that students in a low achieving district may attend public school in a neighboring district; (L) direct the establishment of learning academies within schools that require continuous monitoring of student performance by teacher groups; (M) require a local or regional board of education to (i) undergo training designed to improve the operational efficiency and effectiveness of the board of education as leaders of its district improvement plans by distinguishing and making clear the proper roles and different functions of the board of education, including the responsibility of developing the improvement plans and education policy for the district, and the school and district-level administrators, including the responsibility of implementing such improvement plans and policies, and (ii) submit an annual action plan to the Commissioner of Education outlining how, when and in what manner their effectiveness shall be monitored; (N) require the appointment of (i) a superintendent, approved by the Commissioner of Education, or (ii) a district improvement officer, selected by the commissioner, whose

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authority is consistent with the provisions of section 138 of public act 11-61, and whose term shall be for one school year, except that the State Board of Education may extend such period; or (O) any combination of the actions described in this subdivision or similar, closely related actions.

(3) If a directive of the State Board of Education pursuant to subparagraph (C), (D), (E), (G) or (L) of subdivision (2) of this subsection or a directive to implement a plan pursuant to subparagraph (H) of said subdivision (2) affects working conditions, such directive shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of sections 10-153a to 10-153n, inclusive.

(f) The State Board of Education shall monitor the progress of each school or district designated as a low achieving school or district pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of this section and provide notice to the local or regional board of education for each such school or district of the school or district's progress toward meeting the benchmarks established by the State Board of Education pursuant to subsection (e) of this section. If a school or district fails to make acceptable progress toward meeting such benchmarks established by the State Board of Education or fails to make adequate yearly progress pursuant to the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, for two consecutive years while designated as a low achieving school district, the State Board of Education, after consultation with the Governor and chief elected official or officials of the district, may (1) request that the General Assembly enact legislation authorizing that control of the district be reassigned to the State Board of Education or other authorized entity, or (2) notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 146, any special act, charter or ordinance, grant the Commissioner of Education the authority to reconstitute the local or regional board of education for such school district in accordance with the provisions of subsection (i) of this section.

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(g) Any school district or elementary school after two successive years of failing to make adequate yearly progress shall be designated as a low achieving school district or school and shall be evaluated by the Commissioner of Education. After such evaluation, the commissioner may require that such school district or school provide full-day kindergarten classes, summer school, extended school day, weekend classes, tutorial assistance to its students or professional development to its administrators, principals, teachers and [paraprofessional teacher aides] paraeducators if (1) on any subpart of the mastery examination administered to students in grade three, pursuant to section 10-14n, thirty per cent or more of the students in any subgroup, as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, do not achieve the level of proficiency or higher, or (2) the commissioner determines that it would be in the best educational interests of the school or the school district to have any of these programs. In ordering any educational program authorized by this subsection, the commissioner may limit the offering of the program to the subgroup of students that have failed to achieve proficiency as determined by this subsection, those in particular grades or those who are otherwise at substantial risk of educational failure. The costs of instituting the ordered educational programs shall be borne by the identified low achieving school district or the school district in which an identified low achieving school is located. The commissioner shall not order an educational program that costs more to implement than the total increase in the amount of the grant that a town receives pursuant to section 10-262i in any fiscal year above the prior fiscal year.

Sec. 32. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 10-223j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(4) The provisions of subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of this subsection shall not apply to a school described in said subdivisions if (A) such school consists of a single grade level, or (B) such school is

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under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education that has adopted a similar school governance council model on or before July 1, 2011, that consists of parents, teachers from each grade level or subject area, administrators and [paraprofessionals] paraeducators and such school governance council model is being administered at such school at the time such school is so identified as in need of improvement or so designated as a low achieving school.

Sec. 33. Subsection (o) of section 10-236b of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(o) (1) Each local or regional board of education shall provide training regarding the physical restraint and seclusion of students to the members of the crisis intervention team for each school in the district, identified pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. A local or regional board of education may provide such training to any teacher, as defined in section 10-144d, as amended by this act, administrator, as defined in section 10-144e, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator or other school employee, as defined in section 10-222d, as amended by this act, designated by the school principal and who has direct contact with students. Such training shall be provided during the school year commencing July 1, 2017, and each school year thereafter, and shall include, but not be limited to:

(A) An overview of the relevant laws and regulations regarding the use of physical restraint and seclusion on students and the proper uses of physical restraint and seclusion. For the school year commencing July 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, such overview shall be provided by the Department of Education, in a manner and form as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education;

(B) The creation of a plan by which each local and regional board of education shall provide training regarding the prevention of incidents

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requiring physical restraint or seclusion of students. Such plan shall be implemented not later than July 1, 2018. The Department of Education may, within available appropriations, provide ongoing monitoring and support to local or regional boards of education regarding the formulation and implementation of the plan; and

(C) The creation of a plan by which each local or regional board of education shall provide training regarding the proper means of physical restraint or seclusion of a student, including, but not limited to, (i) various types of physical restraint and seclusion; (ii) the differences between life-threatening physical restraint and other varying levels of physical restraint; (iii) the differences between permissible physical restraint and pain compliance techniques; and (iv) monitoring methods to prevent harm to a student who is physically restrained or in seclusion. Such plan shall be implemented not later than July 1, 2018;

(2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2017, and each school year thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall require each school in the district to identify a crisis intervention team consisting of any teacher, as defined in section 10-144d, as amended by this act, administrator, as defined in section 10-144e, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator or other school employee, as defined in section 10-222d, as amended by this act, designated by the school principal and who has direct contact with students. Such teams shall respond to any incident in which the use of physical restraint or seclusion may be necessary as an emergency intervention to prevent immediate or imminent injury to a student or to others. Each member of the crisis intervention team shall be recertified in the use of physical restraint and seclusion pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection or chapter 814e on an annual basis. Each local and regional board of education shall maintain a list of the members of the crisis intervention team for each school.

Sec. 34. Subsection (o) of section 10-236b of the 2024 supplement to



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the general statutes, as amended by section 67 of public act 23-167, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(o) (1) Each local or regional board of education shall provide training regarding the physical restraint and seclusion of students to the members of the crisis intervention team for each school in the district, identified pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. A local or regional board of education may provide such training to any teacher, as defined in section 10-144d, as amended by this act, administrator, as defined in section 10-144e, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator or other school employee, as defined in section 10-222aa, designated by the school principal and who has direct contact with students. Such training shall be provided during the school year commencing July 1, 2017, and each school year thereafter, and shall include, but not be limited to:

(A) An overview of the relevant laws and regulations regarding the use of physical restraint and seclusion on students and the proper uses of physical restraint and seclusion. For the school year commencing July 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, such overview shall be provided by the Department of Education, in a manner and form as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education;

(B) The creation of a plan by which each local and regional board of education shall provide training regarding the prevention of incidents requiring physical restraint or seclusion of students. Such plan shall be implemented not later than July 1, 2018. The Department of Education may, within available appropriations, provide ongoing monitoring and support to local or regional boards of education regarding the formulation and implementation of the plan; and

(C) The creation of a plan by which each local or regional board of education shall provide training regarding the proper means of physical restraint or seclusion of a student, including, but not limited to, (i)

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various types of physical restraint and seclusion; (ii) the differences between life-threatening physical restraint and other varying levels of physical restraint; (iii) the differences between permissible physical restraint and pain compliance techniques; and (iv) monitoring methods to prevent harm to a student who is physically restrained or in seclusion. Such plan shall be implemented not later than July 1, 2018;

(2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2017, and each school year thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall require each school in the district to identify a crisis intervention team consisting of any teacher, as defined in section 10-144d, as amended by this act, administrator, as defined in section 10-144e, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator or other school employee, as defined in section 10-222aa, designated by the school principal and who has direct contact with students. Such teams shall respond to any incident in which the use of physical restraint or seclusion may be necessary as an emergency intervention to prevent immediate or imminent injury to a student or to others. Each member of the crisis intervention team shall be recertified in the use of physical restraint and seclusion pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection or chapter 814e on an annual basis. Each local and regional board of education shall maintain a list of the members of the crisis intervention team for each school.

Sec. 35. Subsection (a) of section 10-239e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) The demonstration board shall authorize the parents or legal guardian of scholarship recipients to use the demonstration scholarships at any public or private school in which the scholarship recipient is enrolled provided such public or private school: (1) Meets all educational, fiscal, health and safety standards required by law, (2) does not discriminate against the admission of students and the hiring of teachers on the basis of race, color or economic status and has filed a

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certificate with the State Board of Education that the school is in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (3) in no case levies or requires any tuition, fee or charge above the value of the education scholarship, (4) is free from sectarian control or influence except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, (5) provides public access to all financial and administrative records and provides to the parent or guardian of each eligible child in the demonstration area comprehensive information, in written form, on the courses of study offered, curriculum, materials and textbooks, the qualifications of teachers, administrators and [paraprofessionals] paraeducators, the minimum school day, the salary schedules, financial reports of money spent per pupil and such other information as may be required by the demonstration board, (6) provides periodic reports to the parents on the average progress of the pupils enrolled, and (7) meets any additional requirements established for all participating schools by the demonstration board.

Sec. 36. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 17a-812 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(1) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall provide, upon written request from any interested school district, the services of teachers who instruct students who are visually impaired, based on the levels established in the individualized education or service plan. The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall also make available resources, including, but not limited to, the braille and large print library, to all teachers of public and nonpublic school children. The commissioner may also provide vision-related professional development and training to all school districts and cover the actual cost for [paraprofessionals] paraeducators from school districts to participate in agency-sponsored braille training programs. The commissioner shall utilize education consultant positions, funded by

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moneys appropriated from the General Fund, to supplement new staffing that will be made available through the educational aid for children who are blind or visually impaired account, which shall be governed by formal written policies established by the commissioner.

Sec. 37. Subsection (a) of section 46a-11b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) Any physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of chapter 370, any resident physician or intern in any hospital in this state, whether or not so licensed, any registered nurse, any person paid for caring for persons in any facility and any licensed practical nurse, medical examiner, dental hygienist, dentist, occupational therapist, optometrist, chiropractor, psychologist, podiatrist, social worker, school teacher, school principal, school guidance counselor, school counselor, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator, licensed behavior analyst, mental health professional, physician assistant, licensed or certified substance abuse counselor, licensed marital and family therapist, speech and language pathologist, clergyman, police officer, pharmacist, physical therapist, licensed professional counselor or sexual assault counselor or domestic violence counselor, as defined in section 52-146k, who has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any person with intellectual disability or any person who receives services from the Department of Social Services' Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Services has been abused or neglected shall, as soon as practicable but not later than forty-eight hours after such person has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a person with intellectual disability or any person who receives services from the Department of Social Services' Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Services has been abused or neglected, report such information or cause a report to be made in any reasonable manner to the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee. An unsuccessful attempt to make an initial report to the

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commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, on a weekend, holiday or after normal business hours shall not be construed as a violation of this section if reasonable attempts are made by a person required to report under this subsection to reach the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, as soon as practicable after the initial attempt. The initial report shall be followed up by a written report not later than five calendar days after the initial report was made. Any person required to report under this subsection who fails to make such report shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars. For purposes of this subsection, "reasonable manner" and "reasonable attempts" mean efforts that include, but are not limited to, efforts to reach the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, by phone, in person or by electronic mail.

Sec. 38. Subdivision (13) of section 53a-65 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(13) "School employee" means: (A) A teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, school counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator or coach employed by a local or regional board of education or a private elementary, middle or high school or working in a public or private elementary, middle or high school; or (B) any other person who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in (i) a public elementary, middle or high school, pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of education, or (ii) a private elementary, middle or high school, pursuant to a contract with the supervisory agent of such private school.

Sec. 39. Subsection (a) of section 31-3i of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

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(a) Pursuant to Section 101 of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, the members of the Governor's Workforce Council shall be:

(1) The Governor;

(2) A member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, and a member of the Senate, appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

(3) Twenty-four members, appointed by the Governor, who (A) are owners of a business, chief executives or operating officers of a business, or other business executives or employers with optimum policy-making or hiring authority; (B) represent businesses or organizations representing businesses that provide employment opportunities that, at a minimum, include high-quality, work-relevant training and development in in-demand industry sectors or occupation in the state; or (C) have been nominated by state business organizations or business trade associations. At a minimum, at least one such member shall represent small businesses, as defined by the United States Small Business Administration; [.]

(4) The Labor Commissioner, Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, Commissioner of Education, Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the Chief Workforce Officer, or their respective designees;

(5) Four representatives of labor organizations, who have been nominated by state labor federations and appointed by the Governor;

(6) An individual, appointed by the Governor, who is a member of a labor organization or a training director from a joint labor-management apprenticeship program, or, if no such joint program exists in the state, such a representative of an apprenticeship program in the state;

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(7) An individual, appointed by the Governor, who is an expert in residential construction;

(8) Five members, appointed by the Governor, who represent community-based organizations that have demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing employment, training, or education, including one representative of a community action agency, as defined in section 17b-885, and one representative of a philanthropic organization;

(9) A representative from the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, a representative from The University of Connecticut and a representative from a nonprofit institution of higher education in the state, each appointed by the Governor;

(10) A representative from a regional vocational-technical school and a representative from a regional agricultural science and technology school, each appointed by the Governor;

(11) Two superintendents of a local or regional board of education, appointed by the Governor;

(12) A certified teacher employed by a local or regional board of education, appointed by the Governor;

[(12)] (13) Two chief elected officials of municipalities, appointed by the Governor; and

[(13)] (14) Two members of the public, who are enrolled in or who have recently completed a nondegree workforce training program, appointed by the Governor.

Sec. 40. Section 17a-101a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) (1) Any mandated reporter, as described in section 17a-101, who

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in the ordinary course of such person's employment or profession has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any child under the age of eighteen years (A) has been abused or neglected, as described in section 46b-120, (B) has had nonaccidental physical injury, or injury which is at variance with the history given of such injury, inflicted upon such child, or (C) is placed at imminent risk of serious harm, or (2) any school employee, as defined in section 53a-65, as amended by this act, who in the ordinary course of such person's employment or profession has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any person who is being educated by the Technical Education and Career System, [or] a local or regional board of education, other than as part of an adult education program, or a nonpublic school, is a victim under the provisions of section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a, and the perpetrator is a school employee shall report or cause a report to be made in accordance with the provisions of sections 17a-101b to 17a-101d, inclusive.

[(b) (1) Any person required to report under the provisions of this section who fails to make such report or fails to make such report within the time period prescribed in sections 17a-101b to 17a-101d, inclusive, and section 17a-103 shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor, except that such person shall be guilty of a class E felony if (A) such violation is a subsequent violation, (B) such violation was wilful or intentional or due to gross negligence, or (C) such person had actual knowledge that (i) a child was abused or neglected, as described in section 46b-120, or (ii) a person was a victim described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section.

(2) Any person who intentionally and unreasonably interferes with or prevents the making of a report pursuant to this section, or attempts or conspires to do so, shall be guilty of a class D felony. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to any child under the age of eighteen years or any person who is being educated by the Technical Education



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and Career System or a local or regional board of education, other than as part of an adult education program.

(3) Any person found guilty under the provisions of this subsection shall be required to participate in an educational and training program. The program may be provided by one or more private organizations approved by the commissioner, provided the entire cost of the program shall be paid from fees charged to the participants, the amount of which shall be subject to the approval of the commissioner.

(c) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's designee, shall promptly notify the Chief State's Attorney when there is reason to believe that any such person has failed to make a report in accordance with this section.]

[[d)] (b) For purposes of this section and section 17a-101b, a mandated reporter's suspicion or belief may be based on factors including, but not limited to, observations, allegations, facts or statements by a child, victim, as described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, or third party. Such suspicion or belief does not require certainty or probable cause. Nothing in this section shall preclude a mandated reporter from conducting a preliminary inquiry to determine if reasonable cause exists for such mandated reporter to make a report pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 41. Section 17a-101e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) No employer shall (1) discharge, or in any manner discriminate or retaliate against, any employee who in good faith makes a report pursuant to sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, as amended by this act, and 17a-103, testifies or is about to testify in any proceeding involving child abuse or neglect, or (2) hinder or prevent, or attempt to hinder or prevent, any employee from making a report pursuant to

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sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, as amended by this act, and 17a-103, or testifying in any proceeding involving child abuse or neglect. The Attorney General may bring an action in Superior Court against an employer who violates this subsection. The court may assess a civil penalty of not more than two thousand five hundred dollars and may order such other equitable relief as the court deems appropriate.

(b) Any person, institution or agency [which, in good faith,] that (1) makes or does not make, in good faith, a report pursuant to sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, as amended by this act, and 17a-103, or (2) provides, in good faith, professional medical intervention or assistance in any proceeding involving child abuse and neglect, including, but not limited to, (A) causing a photograph, x-ray or a physical custody examination to be made, (B) causing a child to be taken into emergency protective custody, (C) disclosing a medical record or other information pertinent to the proceeding, or (D) performing a medically relevant test, shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, which might otherwise arise from or be related to the actions taken pursuant to this subsection and shall have the same immunity with respect to any judicial proceeding which results from such report or actions, provided such person did not perpetrate or cause such abuse or neglect. The immunity from civil or criminal liability extends only to actions done pursuant to this subsection and does not extend to the malpractice of a medical professional that results in personal injury or death.

(c) Any person who is alleged to have knowingly made a false report of child abuse or neglect pursuant to sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, as amended by this act, and 17a-103 shall be referred to the office of the Chief State's Attorney for purposes of a criminal investigation.

(d) Any person who knowingly makes a false report of child abuse or neglect pursuant to sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, as amended by this act, and 17a-103 shall be fined not more than two thousand

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dollars or imprisoned not more than one year or both.

Sec. 42. Subsection (d) of section 17a-101i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(d) If a school employee, as defined in section 53a-65, as amended by this act, or any person holding a certificate, permit or authorization issued by the State Board of Education under the provisions of sections 10-144o to 10-149, inclusive, is convicted of a crime involving an act of child abuse or neglect as described in section 46b-120 or a violation of subdivision (2) of subsection [(b) of section 17a-101a] (d) of section 17a-101o, as amended by this act, or section 53-21, 53a-71 or 53a-73a against any person, or a violation of section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-72a or 53a-72b against a victim, as described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 17a-101a, as amended by this act, the state's attorney for the judicial district in which the conviction occurred shall in writing notify the superintendent of the school district or the supervisory agent of the nonpublic school in which the person is employed and the Commissioner of Education of such conviction.

Sec. 43. Section 17a-101o of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) If the Commissioner of Children and Families suspects or knows that a mandated reporter, as defined in section 17a-101, [employed by a local or regional board of education,] has failed to make a report that a child has been abused or neglected or placed in immediate risk of serious harm within the time period prescribed in sections 17a-101a to [17a-101d] 17a-101c, inclusive, as amended by this act, [and section 17a-103,] the commissioner shall make a record of such [delay] failure to report and develop and maintain a database of such records. The commissioner shall [investigate such delayed reporting. Such investigation] conduct an assessment with respect to such failure to

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report. Such assessment shall be conducted in accordance with the policy developed in subsection (b) of this section, and include the actions taken by the employing local or regional board of education or superintendent of schools for the district in response to such employee's failure to report.

(b) The Department of Children and Families shall develop a policy for the [investigation of delayed reports by mandated reporters] assessment of the failure of mandated reporters to make reports within the time period prescribed in sections 17a-101a to 17a-101c, inclusive, as amended by this act. Such policy shall include, but not be limited to, when referrals to the appropriate law enforcement agency for [delayed reporting] the failure to report are required and when the department shall require mandated reporters who have been found to have [delayed making a report] failed to make reports to participate in the educational and training program pursuant to subsection [(b) of section 17a-101a] (d) of this section.

(c) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's designee, shall promptly notify the Chief State's Attorney when there is reason to believe that a mandated reporter has failed to make a report in accordance with sections 17a-101a to 17a-101c, inclusive, as amended by this act.

(d) (1) Any person required to report under the provisions of section 17a-101a, as amended by this act, who fails to make such report or fails to make such report within the time period prescribed in sections 17a-101a to 17a-101c, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor, except that such person shall be guilty of a class E felony if (A) such violation is a subsequent violation, (B) such violation was wilful or intentional or due to gross negligence, or (C) such person had actual knowledge that (i) a child was abused or neglected, as described in section 46b-120, or (ii) a person was a victim described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 17a-101a, as amended by this

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act.

(2) Any person who intentionally and unreasonably interferes with or prevents the making of a report pursuant to section 17a-101a, as amended by this act, or attempts or conspires to do so, shall be guilty of a class D felony. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to any child under the age of eighteen years or any person who is being educated by the Technical Education and Career System, a local or regional board of education, other than as part of an adult education program, or a nonpublic school.

(3) Any person found guilty under the provisions of this subsection shall be required to participate in an educational and training program. The program may be provided by one or more private organizations approved by the commissioner and the entire cost of the program shall be paid from fees charged to the participants, the amount of which shall be subject to the approval of the commissioner.

[(c)] (e) For purposes of this section, "child" includes any victim described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 17a-101a, as amended by this act.

Sec. 44. Section 10-145i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 10-144o to 10-146b, inclusive, and 10-149, the State Board of Education shall not issue or reissue any certificate, authorization or permit pursuant to said sections if (1) the applicant for such certificate, authorization or permit has been convicted of any of the following: (A) A capital felony, as defined under the provisions of section 53a-54b in effect prior to April 25, 2012; (B) arson murder, as defined in section 53a-54d; (C) any class A felony; (D) any class B felony except a violation of section 53a-122, 53a-252 or 53a-291; (E) a crime involving an act of child abuse or neglect as described

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in section 46b-120; or (F) a violation of section [17a-101a] 17a-101o, as amended by this act, 53-21, 53-37a, 53a-60b, 53a-60c, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b, 53a-73a, 53a-88, 53a-90a, 53a-99, 53a-103a, 53a-181c, 53a-191, 53a-196, 53a-196c, 53a-216, 53a-217b or 21a-278 or a violation of subsection (a) of section 21a-277, and (2) the applicant completed serving the sentence for such conviction within the five years immediately preceding the date of the application.

Sec. 45. Section 10-149a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

If a person holding a certificate, authorization or permit issued by the State Board of Education under the provisions of sections 10-144o to 10-149, inclusive, is convicted of a felony or fined pursuant to section [17a-101a] 17a-101o, as amended by this act, the state's attorney or assistant state's attorney for the judicial district in which the conviction or fine occurred shall notify, in writing, the Commissioner of Education of such conviction or fine.

Sec. 46. Subsection (a) of section 10-222c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) No local or regional board of education, governing council of a state or local charter school, interdistrict magnet school operator or supervisory agent of a nonpublic school shall offer employment to an applicant for a position, including any position which is contracted for, if such applicant would have direct student contact, prior to such board, council, operator or supervisory agent:

(1) Requiring of such applicant:

(A) To list the name, address and telephone number of each current or former employer of the applicant, if such current or former employer was a local or regional board of education, council, operator or

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supervisory agent or if such employment otherwise caused the applicant to have contact with children;

(B) A written authorization that (i) consents to and authorizes disclosure by the employers listed under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision of the information requested under subdivision (2) of this subsection and the release of related records by such employers, (ii) consents to and authorizes disclosure by the Department of Education of the information requested under subdivision (3) of this subsection and the release of related records by the department, and (iii) releases those employers and the department from liability that may arise from such disclosure or release of records pursuant to subdivision (2) or (3) of this subsection; and

(C) A written statement of whether the applicant (i) has been the subject of an abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct investigation by any employer, state agency or municipal police department, unless the investigation resulted in a finding that all allegations were unsubstantiated, (ii) has ever been disciplined or asked to resign from employment or resigned from or otherwise separated from any employment while an allegation of abuse or neglect was pending or under investigation by the Department of Children and Families, or an allegation of sexual misconduct was pending or under investigation or due to an allegation substantiated pursuant to section 17a-101g of abuse or neglect, or of sexual misconduct or a conviction for abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct, or (iii) has ever had a professional or occupational license or certificate suspended or revoked or has ever surrendered such a license or certificate while an allegation of abuse or neglect was pending or under investigation by the department or an investigation of sexual misconduct was pending or under investigation, or due to an allegation substantiated by the department of abuse or neglect or of sexual misconduct or a conviction for abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct;

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(2) Conducting a review of the employment history of the applicant by contacting those employers listed by the applicant under subdivision (1) of this subsection. Such review shall be conducted using a form developed by the Department of Education in accordance with section 3 of public act 16-67 that shall request (A) the dates of employment of the applicant, and (B) a statement as to whether the employer has knowledge that the applicant (i) was the subject of an allegation of abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct for which there is an investigation pending with any employer, state agency or municipal police department or which has been substantiated, unless such substantiation has been reversed as a result of an appeal conducted pursuant to section 17a-101k; (ii) was disciplined or asked to resign from employment or resigned from or otherwise separated from any employment while an allegation of abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct was pending or under investigation, or due to a substantiation of abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct, unless such substantiation has been reversed as a result of an appeal conducted pursuant to section 17a-101k; or (iii) has ever had a professional or occupational license, certificate, authorization or permit suspended or revoked or has ever surrendered such a license, certificate, authorization or permit while an allegation of abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct was pending or under investigation, or due to a substantiation of abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct, unless such substantiation has been reversed as a result of an appeal conducted pursuant to section 17a-101k. Such review may be conducted telephonically or through written communication. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (g) of section 31-51i, not later than five business days after any such current or former employer of the applicant receives a request for such information, such employer shall respond with such information. A local or regional board of education, council, operator or supervisory agent may request more information concerning any response made by a current or former employer, and, notwithstanding the provisions of said subsection (g), such employer shall respond not later than five business days after receiving such request; and



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(3) Requesting information from the Department of Education concerning (A) the eligibility status for employment of any applicant for a position requiring a certificate, authorization or permit issued pursuant to chapter 166, (B) whether the department has knowledge that a finding has been substantiated by the Department of Children and Families pursuant to section 17a-101g of abuse or neglect or of sexual misconduct against the applicant and any information concerning such a finding, and (C) whether the department has received notification that the applicant has been convicted of a crime or of criminal charges pending against the applicant and any information concerning such charges.

Sec. 47. Subsection (m) of section 10-222c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(m) No local or regional board of education, council, operator or supervisory agent shall offer employment to any applicant who had any previous employment contract terminated by a board, council, operator or supervisory agent or who resigned from such employment, if such person has been convicted of a violation of section [17a-101a] 17a-101o, as amended by this act, when an allegation of abuse or neglect or sexual assault has been substantiated.

Sec. 48. Section 10-221s of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) Each local and regional board of education shall post the telephone number for the Careline operated by the Department of Children and Families, pursuant to section 17a-103a, and the Internet web site address that provides information about the Careline in a conspicuous location frequented by students in each school under the jurisdiction of the board. Such posting shall be in various languages that are the most appropriate for the students enrolled in the school.

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(b) A local or regional board of education shall permit and give priority to any investigation conducted by the Commissioner of Children and Families or the appropriate local law enforcement agency that a child has been abused or neglected pursuant to sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, as amended by this act, and section 17a-103. Such board of education shall conduct its own investigation and take any disciplinary action, in accordance with the provisions of section 17a-101i, as amended by this act, upon notice from the commissioner or the appropriate local law enforcement agency that such board's investigation will not interfere with the investigation of the commissioner or such local law enforcement agency. A preliminary inquiry described in subsection (b) of section 17a-101a, as amended by this act, shall not be considered an investigation conducted by a board of education under this section.

Sec. 49. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall update the educational training program and refresher training program for the accurate and prompt identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect, developed pursuant to subsection (c) of section 17a-101 of the general statutes, to include training for school employees, as defined in section 53a-65 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, on (1) the proper manner in which to conduct a preliminary inquiry described in subsection (b) of section 17a-101a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and (2) the provisions of section 10-221s of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

Sec. 50. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-156ii of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

(a) There is established an aspiring educators diversity scholarship program administered by the Department of Education. The program shall provide an annual scholarship to diverse students who (1)

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graduated from a public high school in [a priority school district, as described in section 10-266p] an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u, and (2) are enrolled in a teacher preparation program at any four-year institution of higher education. A diverse student may receive an annual scholarship in an amount up to ten thousand dollars for each year such diverse student is enrolled and in good standing in a teacher preparation program. As used in this section, "diverse" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-156bb.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2023, the department shall, in consultation with the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, develop a policy concerning the administration of the scholarship. Such policy shall include, but need not be limited to, provisions regarding (1) any additional eligibility criteria, (2) payment and distribution of the scholarships to diverse students through the teacher preparation programs in which they are enrolled, and (3) the notification of students in high school in [priority school] alliance districts of the scholarship program, including the opportunity to apply for a scholarship under the program while enrolled in high school and prior to graduation if such student will be enrolled in a teacher preparation program during the following fall semester at a four-year institution of higher education.

Sec. 51. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, sections 10-145d-9(b) to 10-145d-9(e), inclusive, 10-145d-9(g)(1), 10-145d-9(i), 10-145d-10(a) to 10-145d-10(b)(9), inclusive, 10-145d-10(c) to 10-145d-10(g), inclusive, 10-145d-11, 10-145d-400a(a) to 10-145d-400a(d), inclusive, 10-145d-401(a), 10-145d-401(c), 10-145d-402, 10-145d-403(b), 10-145d-403(g), 10-145d-404 to 10-145d-406, inclusive, 10-145d-407(a), 10-145d-407(b), 10-145d-407(d), 10-145d-407(f), 10-145d-407(h), 10-145d-407(i), 10-145d-409 to 10-145d-415, inclusive, 10-145d-417, 10-145d-419, 10-145d-420(f), 10-145d-421(b), 10-145d-422, 10-145d-423(a), 10-145d-426, 10-145d-427, 10-145d-434, 10-

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145d-435(b), 10-145d-436 to 10-145d-438, inclusive, 10-145d-441 to 10-145d-453, inclusive, 10-145d-472 to 10-145d-474, inclusive, 10-145d-476 to 10-145d-479, inclusive, 10-145d-481, 10-145d-482(c), 10-145d-482(d), 10-145d-483, 10-145d-484, 10-145d-535 to 10-145d-537, inclusive, 10-145d-539 to 10-145d-542, inclusive, 10-145d-608 and 10-145d-609 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies are repealed.

Approved May 21, 2024