



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

**Governor's Bill No. 5051**

LCO No. 585



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:

Request of the Governor  
Pursuant to Joint Rule 9

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING EARLY START CT.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) As used in this section and  
2 sections 2 to 11, inclusive, of this act:

3 (1) "Accredited" means accredited by the National Association for the  
4 Education of Young Children, National Association for Family Child  
5 Care, Early Head Start or Head Start federal approval, or other  
6 nationally recognized accreditations or certifications as approved by the  
7 commissioner;

8 (2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Early Childhood;

9 (3) "Office" means the Office of Early Childhood; and

10 (4) "Early Start CT" means the state-funded early care and education  
11 system administered by the office that coordinates and facilitates the  
12 efficient delivery of early childhood care and education programs for  
13 eligible children.

14 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The Office of Early Childhood  
15 shall operate and administer Early Start CT in order to:

16 (1) Provide open access for infants and toddlers and preschool-age  
17 children to high-quality programs that promote the health and safety of  
18 children and prepare them for school;

19 (2) Provide opportunities for parents to choose among affordable and  
20 accredited and Head Start approved programs;

21 (3) Encourage coordination and cooperation among programs and  
22 prevent the duplication of services;

23 (4) Recognize the specific service needs and unique resources  
24 available to particular municipalities;

25 (5) Prevent or minimize the potential for developmental delay in  
26 children prior to their reaching the age of five;

27 (6) Strengthen the family through: (A) Encouragement of family  
28 engagement and partnership in a child's development and education,  
29 and (B) enhancement of a family's capacity to meet the special needs of  
30 the children, including children with disabilities;

31 (7) Reduce educational costs by decreasing the need for special  
32 education services for school-age children;

33 (8) Assure that children with disabilities are integrated into programs  
34 available to children who do not have disabilities;

35 (9) Improve the availability and quality of Early Start CT programs  
36 and their coordination with the services of child care providers;

37 (10) Facilitate the racial, ethnic and socioeconomic diversity of the  
38 children, families and staff in Early Start CT programs; and

39 (11) Maximize local and federal early childhood education funding  
40 to expand capacity and access.

41       Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The Office of Early Childhood  
42 shall establish a sliding fee scale for families participating in Early Start  
43 CT. Such sliding scale shall be based on family income and align with  
44 the sliding fee scale used in the child care subsidy program described in  
45 section 17b-249 of the general statutes.

46       Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The Commissioner of Early  
47 Childhood shall implement policies and procedures necessary to (1)  
48 administer the provisions of sections 1 to 3, inclusive, and 5 to 11,  
49 inclusive, of this act, (2) implement infant and toddler and school-age  
50 ratios and group size requirements, and (3) implement head teacher  
51 staffing requirements for programs that serve only school-age children,  
52 while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures in  
53 regulation form. Any existing regulations relating to infant and toddler  
54 and school-age ratios, group size requirements and head teacher  
55 staffing requirements for programs that serve only school-age children  
56 that are generally applicable to child care centers and group child care  
57 homes shall continue to be applicable to such centers and homes that  
58 serve infants and toddlers and school-age children until replaced by the  
59 policies and procedures described in this section. The commissioner  
60 shall post notice of the intent to adopt regulations on the department's  
61 Internet web site and the eRegulations System not later than twenty  
62 days after the date of implementation of such policies and procedures.  
63 Such policies and procedures shall be valid until the time final  
64 regulations are adopted.

65       Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As part of Early Start CT, the  
66 state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of Early  
67 Childhood, may enter into direct or third-party contracts to provide  
68 financial assistance to municipalities, local and regional boards of  
69 education, regional educational service centers, family resource centers,  
70 Head Start programs, preschool programs, nonprofit organizations,  
71 child care centers, group child care homes, family child care homes, as  
72 such terms are described in section 19a-77 of the general statutes, and  
73 any other programs that meet standards established by the

74 commissioner for the purpose of operating early childhood care and  
75 education programs that focus on providing early childhood access  
76 based on economic, social or environmental conditions, including in  
77 regions with insufficient access to child care. At least sixty per cent of  
78 the eligible children participating in Early Start CT and enrolled in a  
79 child care center, group child care home or family child care home shall  
80 be members of a family that is at or below seventy-five per cent of the  
81 state median income. No such financial assistance shall be available to  
82 (1) any such child care center, group child care home or family child care  
83 home unless such center or home has been licensed by the  
84 Commissioner of Early Childhood pursuant to section 19a-80 or 19a-87b  
85 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or (2) any such local or  
86 regional board of education or regional educational service center  
87 unless the preschool program is approved by the Department of  
88 Education. The majority of such programs eligible for such financial  
89 assistance shall serve children that reside in or attend programs located  
90 in priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p of the general  
91 statutes, former priority school districts or towns with schools deemed  
92 severe need schools because forty per cent or more of the lunches served  
93 are served to students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches  
94 pursuant to federal law. In determining eligibility for financial  
95 assistance, the commissioner may consider (A) a community's  
96 participation in the state's subsidized child care subsidy program  
97 established pursuant to section 17b-749 of the general statutes, as  
98 amended by this act, and (B) the Centers for Disease Control and  
99 Prevention's social vulnerability index determined by census tract, and  
100 such index may include a review of a community's indices of social,  
101 economic, racial, ethnic, housing, transportation and household  
102 characteristics as determined by the Centers for Disease Control and  
103 Prevention.

104 (b) Any contract entered into under this section shall be made  
105 contingent upon available funding and a successful application to a  
106 request for proposal issued by the office and informed by the  
107 appropriate local governance partner's needs assessment and

108 community plan, as described in section 8 of this act. Any Early Start CT  
109 facility that has been approved to operate a child care program financed  
110 through the Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority and  
111 has received a commitment for debt service from the Department of  
112 Social Services, pursuant to section 17b-749i of the general statutes, on  
113 or before June 30, 2014, and on or after July 1, 2014, from the office are  
114 exempt from the requirement for issuance of requests for proposals.

115 (c) The office, in operating and administering Early Start CT, shall  
116 allocate an amount up to ten per cent of the total funding for each town  
117 or city, or, in the case of a regional application, the participating towns  
118 or cities, but not more than one hundred fifty thousand dollars per town  
119 or city, for coordination, program evaluation and administration. Such  
120 amount shall be increased by an amount equal to local funding provided  
121 for early childhood education coordination, program evaluation and  
122 administration, not to exceed fifty thousand dollars. Each local  
123 governance partner, established pursuant to section 8 of this act, shall  
124 designate a staff person to be responsible for such coordination,  
125 program evaluation and administration and to act as a liaison between  
126 the town and the commissioner.

127 (d) Any program under Early Start CT that receives funds pursuant  
128 to this section shall not discriminate based on ancestry, race, color,  
129 national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation,  
130 religion, learning, physical, intellectual or mental disability or any other  
131 protected class described in chapter 814c of the general statutes.

132 (e) No funds received as part of Early Start CT under this section shall  
133 be used to supplant federal, state or local funding received for early  
134 childhood education on behalf of children in an early childhood  
135 education program.

136 (f) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the office may pay, in an  
137 individual contract entered into under this section, a per-child rate, or  
138 an equivalent per-classroom rate, that has been determined by the  
139 commissioner. The per-child cost paid by the office under this section

140 for each eligible child enrolled in a program under Early Start CT who  
141 is three or four years of age and each child who is five years of age and  
142 not eligible to enroll in school, pursuant to section 10-15c of the general  
143 statutes, shall be at least ten thousand five hundred dollars for each such  
144 child, or paid at an equivalent rate and amount per classroom for  
145 eighteen children. For each eligible child who is under the age of three  
146 and enrolled in an infant or toddler classroom and not in a preschool  
147 classroom, the per-child cost paid by the office shall be at least thirteen  
148 thousand five hundred dollars for each such child, or paid at an  
149 equivalent rate and amount per classroom of eight children. The office  
150 shall use data-driven, outcomes-based contract provisions to facilitate  
151 and incentivize full enrollment.

152 (g) The office may use up to three per cent of funds allocated to the  
153 early care and education appropriation to evaluate program  
154 effectiveness and impact on participating children, families and  
155 programs, including, but not limited to, child outcomes, later school  
156 performance, quality standards, professional development and  
157 preparation, and parent engagement impact.

158 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Except as otherwise provided  
159 in subsection (b) of this section, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025,  
160 and each fiscal year thereafter, if funds appropriated to the Office of  
161 Early Childhood for Early Start CT are not expended by the  
162 Commissioner of Early Childhood, an amount up to two million dollars  
163 of such unexpended funds may be available (1) for the provision of  
164 professional development for early childhood care and education  
165 program providers, and staff employed in such programs, provided  
166 such programs accept state funds for infant, toddler and preschool slots,  
167 or (2) to support early childhood education programs in satisfying the  
168 staff qualifications requirements, provided such programs accept state  
169 funds. The commissioner shall determine how such unexpected funds  
170 shall be distributed.

171 (b) If any unexpended funds described in subsection (a) of this section  
172 are not expended by the office under said subsection (a), the

173 commissioner, with the consent of the Secretary of the Office of Policy  
174 and Management, may use such unexpended funds to provide support  
175 for purposes that include, but are not limited to, (1) assisting programs  
176 in meeting and maintaining accreditation requirements, (2) providing  
177 training in implementing preschool assessments and curricula,  
178 including training to enhance literacy teaching skills, (3) developing and  
179 implementing best practices for parents in supporting preschool and  
180 kindergarten student learning, (4) developing and implementing  
181 strategies for children to successfully transition to preschool and from  
182 preschool to kindergarten, including through parental engagement and  
183 whole-family supports that may be utilized through the two-  
184 generational initiative, established pursuant to section 17b-112l of the  
185 general statutes, or through other available resources, and (5) providing  
186 for professional development.

187       Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Any program participating in  
188 Early Start CT, including, but not limited to, licensed family child care  
189 homes, group child care homes, child care centers and other licensed  
190 exempt child care providers and settings, shall be accredited or Early  
191 Head Start or Head Start approved not later than three years after  
192 entering into a contract with the Office of Early Childhood to serve  
193 children under Early Start CT. Any such program that is not accredited  
194 shall have an approved program plan not later than twelve months after  
195 entering into a contract with the office.

196       Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) There shall be established local  
197 governance partners to assist in the provision of early care and  
198 education in a community under Early Start CT. Two or more towns or  
199 school districts and appropriate representatives of groups or entities  
200 interested in early childhood education in a region may establish a  
201 regional governance partner.

202       (b) The membership of each local governance partner shall reflect the  
203 racial, ethnic and socioeconomic composition of the town or region it  
204 serves and consist of early care and education stakeholders, including,  
205 but not limited to, elected and appointed officials, parents,

206 representatives with expertise in early childhood education, a  
207 representative, where applicable, of Smart Start established pursuant to  
208 section 10-506 of the general statutes, local education and healthcare  
209 providers in the community, a local homeless education liaison,  
210 community representatives from a workforce or job training entity and  
211 other community representatives who provide services to children.

212 (c) The role and responsibilities of a local governance partner shall  
213 include, but are not limited to, (1) conducting and administering a data-  
214 driven needs assessment for its respective community or region in  
215 accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, (2)  
216 employing strategies to solicit parental engagement and membership,  
217 (3) providing periodic technical assistance regarding best practices in  
218 early childhood and family engagement for its town or region, (4) jointly  
219 sponsoring with the office, professional development opportunities,  
220 and (5) ensuring that community outreach is regularly conducted and  
221 maintained with community stakeholders.

222 (d) Each local governance partner shall conduct a data-driven needs  
223 assessment for the town or region in which such partner serves. Such  
224 needs assessment may include recommendations for the preferred  
225 distribution and allocation of child care spaces within such partner's  
226 respective town or region, and, subject to the office's approval, may  
227 include a data-driven methodology to reassign child care spaces before  
228 the contract date has lapsed. Such needs assessment shall be created by  
229 the office in collaboration with communities and shall directly inform,  
230 among other things, the assignment of child care spaces across a mixed-  
231 delivery system, including, but not limited to, licensed family child care  
232 providers, group child care homes, child care centers and license-  
233 exempt public schools.

234 (e) Each local governance partner shall employ a staff liaison to aid  
235 and support the local governance partner in implementing the  
236 provisions of this section. Each staff liaison shall ensure (1) that  
237 partnerships are established and fostered among child care providers,  
238 (2) that cooperation is maintained with the Office of Early Childhood in



239 monitoring and evaluating child care programs, (3) that existing and  
240 potential resources and services available to children and families are  
241 identified, (4) facilitation and coordination of efficient, data-driven,  
242 delivery of services to children and families, including (A) referral  
243 procedures, and (B) before and after school child care for children  
244 attending school day, school year programs, (5) the exchange of  
245 information with other community organizations serving the needs of  
246 children and families, (6) that recommendations are made to school  
247 officials concerning transition from child care programs to preschool  
248 programs and kindergarten, (7) that effective community engagement  
249 strategies are employed to ensure diverse participation, (8) that  
250 biannual child assessments, approved by the office, are performed at  
251 programs, and conducted in partnership with families, and (9)  
252 collaboration with the office related to planning improvements to the  
253 state early care and education governance structure.

254 (f) The office shall monitor each local governance partner to ensure  
255 compliance with the provisions of this section.

256 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:

257 (1) "Office of Early Childhood funded early childhood education  
258 program" means a program that accepts state funds directly from the  
259 office or indirectly through office subcontractors, for any combination  
260 of infant, toddler, preschool and before and after school, but does not  
261 include the child care subsidy program established pursuant to section  
262 17b-749 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

263 (2) "Designated staff member" means the person assigned the  
264 primary responsibility for a classroom of children.

265 (3) "Designated qualified staff member" means a designated staff  
266 member who possesses at least one of the following:

267 (A) A bachelor's degree or higher with a concentration in early  
268 childhood education from an institution of higher education that is (i)  
269 regionally accredited and accredited by the National Association for the

270 Education of Young Children, (ii) regionally accredited and working  
271 toward achieving accreditation from the National Association for the  
272 Education of Young Children, or (iii) regionally accredited;

273 (B) A certificate issued pursuant to section 10-145b of the general  
274 statutes with an endorsement in early childhood education or early  
275 childhood special education;

276 (C) Deemed to meet the bachelor's degree requirements by the office  
277 by confirmed employment, without a concentration in early childhood  
278 education, but with at least twelve early childhood credits from an  
279 institution of higher education that is regionally accredited;

280 (D) A bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education that  
281 is regionally accredited, without a concentration in early childhood  
282 education, but with at least twelve applicable early childhood credits as  
283 determined by the office;

284 (E) Permission from the office if such designated staff member is  
285 enrolled in an institution of higher education and engaged in and  
286 making progress in an early childhood planned program of study  
287 leading to an early childhood bachelor's degree.

288 (b) When a bachelor-level designated qualified staff member is not  
289 assigned, a person may be deemed a designated qualified staff member  
290 if such person possesses at least one of the qualifications included in  
291 subsection (c) of this section and is under the supervision of an on-site  
292 bachelor's degree designated qualified staff member, except any family  
293 child care home provider that accepts state funds shall meet the  
294 designated qualified staff member qualifications.

295 (c) When a bachelor's degree designated qualified staff member  
296 supervises an associate degree designated qualified staff member, the  
297 person possessing a bachelor's degree may supervise off-site. The  
298 designated qualified staff member, under the supervision of a bachelor-  
299 level qualified staff member, shall possess at least one of the following:

300 (1) An associate degree or higher with a concentration in early  
301 childhood education from an institution of higher education that is (i)  
302 regionally accredited and accredited by the National Association for the  
303 Education of Young Children, (ii) regionally accredited and working  
304 toward achieving accreditation from the National Association for the  
305 Education of Young Children, or (iii) regionally accredited;

306 (2) Deemed to meet the associate degree requirements by the office  
307 through confirmed employment in the Early Childhood Professional  
308 Registry, without a concentration in early childhood education, but with  
309 at least twelve early childhood credits from an institution of higher  
310 education that is regionally accredited;

311 (3) An associate degree from an institution of higher education that is  
312 regionally accredited, without a concentration in early childhood  
313 education, but with at least twelve applicable early childhood credits as  
314 determined by the office;

315 (4) Permission from the office if such designated qualified staff  
316 member is enrolled in an institution of higher education and engaged in  
317 an early childhood planned program of study leading to an early  
318 childhood associate degree.

319 (d) (1) From July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2027, inclusive, twenty-five per  
320 cent of the designated staff members at each Office of Early Childhood  
321 funded early childhood education program shall be designated  
322 qualified staff members meeting one of the criteria at the bachelor's  
323 degree level. For family child care providers accepting state funds, the  
324 designated qualified staff member shall have achieved or be working  
325 toward an early childhood associate degree or bachelor's degree.

326 (2) From July 1, 2027, to June 30, 2030, inclusive, fifty per cent of the  
327 designated qualified members at each Office of Early Childhood funded  
328 early childhood education program shall be designated qualified staff  
329 members meeting one of the criteria at the bachelor's degree level. For  
330 family child care providers accepting state funds, the designated

331 qualified staff member shall have achieved or be working toward an  
332 early childhood associate degree or bachelor's degree.

333 (3) On and after July 1, 2030, sixty per cent of the designated qualified  
334 members at each Office of Early Childhood funded child care program  
335 shall be designated qualified staff members meeting one of the criteria  
336 at the bachelor's degree level. For family child care providers accepting  
337 state funds, the designated qualified staff member shall have achieved  
338 or be working toward an early childhood associate degree or bachelor's  
339 degree.

340 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As part of Early Start CT, the  
341 Commissioner of Early Childhood shall establish a state-funded  
342 competitive program in which contracts are entered into with nonprofit  
343 agencies and local and regional boards of education, which are federal  
344 Head Start grantees, to assist in (1) establishing extended-day and full-  
345 day, year-round, Head Start programs or expanding existing Head Start  
346 programs to extended-day or full-day, year-round programs, (2)  
347 enhancing program quality, (3) increasing the number of children  
348 served in programs that are both a Head Start program and Early Head  
349 Start grantee or delegate, (4) increasing the number of Early Head Start  
350 children served above those who are federally funded, and (5)  
351 increasing the hours for children currently receiving Early Head Start  
352 services. Nonprofit agencies or boards of education seeking contracts  
353 pursuant to this section shall make application to the commissioner on  
354 such forms and at such times as the commissioner shall prescribe. The  
355 commissioner shall include contract provisions that mandate at least  
356 twenty-five per cent of the funding for such contracts shall be for the  
357 purpose of enhancing program quality. All contracts entered into under  
358 this section shall be funded within the limits of available appropriations  
359 or otherwise from federal funds and private donations. All Head Start  
360 programs funded pursuant to this section shall be in compliance with  
361 federal Head Start performance standards.

362 (b) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
363 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, for purposes of this

364 section.

365 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding the provisions  
366 of sections 4-98, 4-212 to 4-219, inclusive, 4a-51 and 4a-57 of the general  
367 statutes, the Commissioner of Early Childhood may allocate funds to  
368 regional educational service centers for the provision of professional  
369 development services, technical assistance and evaluation and program  
370 planning and implementation activities, local and regional boards of  
371 education, child care centers, group child care homes and family child  
372 care homes, as such terms are described in section 19a-77 of the general  
373 statutes, and other early childhood care and education entities, as  
374 determined by the commissioner. Any funds allocated by the  
375 commissioner under this section shall be expended in accordance with  
376 procedures and conditions prescribed by the commissioner.

377 Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The Office of Early  
378 Childhood shall, within available appropriations, establish and  
379 administer the Tri-Share Child Care Matching Program serving New  
380 London County. Under such program, child care costs shall be shared  
381 equally among participating employers, employees and the state.

382 (b) The office shall select a regional or state-wide educational or  
383 business organization to collaborate with employers and participating  
384 licensed child care providers to provide child care placement for  
385 participating employees.

386 (c) An administrator shall serve as an intermediary among  
387 participating employers, employees and licensed child care providers  
388 and perform fiduciary, administrative and outreach services to recruit  
389 employer participation in the program. Not more than ten per cent of  
390 the administrator's award may be used for administrative costs.

391 (d) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall establish policies and  
392 procedures to implement the provisions of this section.

393 Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 17b-749 of the 2024 supplement to  
394 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu

395 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

396 (b) The commissioner shall establish income standards for applicants  
397 and recipients at a level to include a family with gross income up to  
398 [fifty] sixty-five per cent of the state-wide median income, except the  
399 commissioner (1) may increase the income level up to the maximum  
400 level allowed under federal law, (2) upon the request of the  
401 Commissioner of Children and Families, may waive the income  
402 standards for adoptive families so that children adopted on or after  
403 October 1, 1999, from the Department of Children and Families are  
404 eligible for the child care subsidy program, and (3) shall establish a two-  
405 tiered income eligibility threshold in accordance with 45 CFR 98.21(b),  
406 as amended from time to time. The commissioner may adopt  
407 regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to establish income criteria  
408 and durational requirements for such waiver of income standards.

409 Sec. 14. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025,  
410 the office may pay, in an individual contract entered into under sections  
411 8-210, as amended by this act, and 10-16p of the general statutes, or a  
412 grant awarded pursuant to section 10-16n of the general statutes, as  
413 amended by this act, a per-child rate, or an equivalent per-classroom  
414 rate, that has been determined by the commissioner. The per-child cost  
415 paid by the office under this section for each eligible child enrolled in a  
416 program who is three or four years of age and each child who is five  
417 years of age and not eligible to enroll in school, pursuant to section 10-  
418 15c of the general statutes, shall be at least ten thousand five hundred  
419 dollars for each such child, or paid at an equivalent rate and amount per  
420 classroom for eighteen children. For each eligible child who is under the  
421 age of three and enrolled in an infant or toddler classroom and not in a  
422 preschool classroom, the per-child cost paid by the office shall be at least  
423 thirteen thousand five hundred dollars for each such child, or paid at an  
424 equivalent rate and amount per classroom of eight children. The office  
425 shall use data-driven, outcomes-based contract provisions to facilitate  
426 and incentivize full enrollment.

427 Sec. 15. Subsection (b) of section 8-210 of the 2024 supplement to the

428 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
429 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

430 (b) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of  
431 Early Childhood, may enter into a contract with a municipality, a group  
432 child care home or family child care home, as described in section 19a-  
433 77, a human resource development agency or a nonprofit corporation  
434 for state financial assistance in developing and operating child care  
435 centers, group child care homes and family child care homes for  
436 children disadvantaged by reasons of economic, social or environmental  
437 conditions, provided no such financial assistance shall be available for  
438 the operating costs of any such child care center, group child care home  
439 or family child care home unless it has been licensed by the  
440 Commissioner of Early Childhood pursuant to section 19a-80. Such  
441 financial assistance shall be available for a program of a municipality, of  
442 a group child care home or family child care home, of a human resource  
443 development agency or of a nonprofit corporation which may provide  
444 for personnel, equipment, supplies, activities, program materials and  
445 renovation and remodeling of the physical facilities of such child care  
446 centers, group child care homes or family child care homes. Such  
447 contract shall provide for state financial assistance, within available  
448 appropriations, in the form of a state grant-in-aid (1) for a portion of the  
449 cost of such program, as determined by the Commissioner of Early  
450 Childhood, if not federally assisted, (2) equal to one-half of the amount  
451 by which the net cost of such program, as approved by the  
452 Commissioner of Early Childhood, exceeds the federal grant-in-aid  
453 thereof, or (3) (A) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, in an amount  
454 not less than [(A)] (i) the per child cost as described in subdivision (1) of  
455 subsection (b) of section 10-16q, as amended by this act, for each child  
456 in such program that is three or four years of age and each child that is  
457 five years of age who is not eligible to enroll in school, pursuant to  
458 section 10-15c, while maintaining services to children under three years  
459 of age under this section, and [(B)] (ii) thirteen thousand five hundred  
460 dollars for each child three years of age or under who is in infant or  
461 toddler care and not in a preschool program, and (B) for the fiscal year

462 ending June 30, 2025, in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of  
463 this act. Any such contract entered into on or after July 1, 2022, shall  
464 include a provision that at least sixty per cent of the children enrolled in  
465 such child care center, group child care home or family child care home  
466 are members of families who are at or below seventy-five per cent of the  
467 state median income. The Commissioner of Early Childhood may  
468 authorize child care centers, group child care homes and family child  
469 care homes receiving financial assistance under this subsection to apply  
470 a program surplus to the next program year. The Commissioner of Early  
471 Childhood shall consult with directors of child care centers in  
472 establishing fees for the operation of such centers. For the fiscal year  
473 ending June 30, 2023, the Commissioner of Early Childhood shall,  
474 within available appropriations, enter into contracts under this section  
475 for the purpose of expanding the number of spaces available to children  
476 three years of age or under who are in infant or toddler care and not in  
477 a preschool program.

478 Sec. 16. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-16q of the 2024  
479 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
480 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

481 (b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, the per child cost of  
482 the Office of Early Childhood school readiness program offered by a  
483 school readiness provider shall not exceed eight thousand nine hundred  
484 twenty-seven dollars. For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2021, to June  
485 30, 2024, inclusive, the per child cost of the Office of Early Childhood  
486 school readiness program offered by a school readiness provider shall  
487 not exceed nine thousand twenty-seven dollars. For the fiscal year  
488 ending June 30, 2025, the per child cost of the Office of Early Childhood  
489 full-time school readiness program offered by a school readiness  
490 provider shall [not exceed ten thousand five hundred dollars] be in  
491 accordance with the provisions of section 14 of this act.

492 Sec. 17. Subsection (b) of section 10-16n of the general statutes is  
493 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
494 *2024*):



495 (b) The Office of Early Childhood shall annually allocate to each town  
496 in which the number of children under the temporary family assistance  
497 program, as defined in subdivision (17) of section 10-262f, equals or  
498 exceeds nine hundred children, (1) determined for the fiscal [year] years  
499 ending June 30, 1996, to June 30, 2024, inclusive, an amount equal to one  
500 hundred fifty thousand dollars plus eight and one-half dollars for each  
501 child under the temporary family assistance program, provided such  
502 amount may be reduced proportionately so that the total amount  
503 awarded pursuant to this subsection does not exceed two million seven  
504 hundred thousand dollars, and (2) for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
505 2025, an amount determined in accordance with the provisions of  
506 section 14 of this act. The office shall award grants to the local and  
507 regional boards of education for such towns and nonprofit agencies  
508 located in such towns which meet the criteria established pursuant to  
509 subsection (a) of this section to maintain the programs established or  
510 expanded with funds provided pursuant to this subsection in the fiscal  
511 years ending June 30, 1996, and June 30, 1997. Any funds remaining in  
512 the allocation to such a town after grants are so awarded shall be used  
513 to increase allocations to other such towns. Any funds remaining after  
514 grants are so awarded to boards of education and nonprofit agencies in  
515 all such towns shall be available to local and regional boards of  
516 education and nonprofit agencies in other towns in the state for grants  
517 for such purposes.

518 Sec. 18. Subsection (l) of section 19a-87b of the 2024 supplement to the  
519 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
520 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

521 (l) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022, to June 30, [2026] 2028,  
522 inclusive, the Commissioner of Early Childhood may issue a license to  
523 maintain a family child care home in New Britain, New Haven,  
524 Bridgeport, Stamford, Hartford, Danbury, [or] Waterbury or a town in  
525 New London County in accordance with the provisions of this chapter  
526 to a person or group of persons who have partnered with an association,  
527 organization, corporation, institution or agency, public or private, to

528 provide child care services in a space provided by such association,  
 529 organization, corporation, institution or agency, provided such space  
 530 has been approved by the commissioner and is not in a private family  
 531 home. The commissioner shall not approve more than one facility in  
 532 each such city to be used for licenses issued under this subsection. An  
 533 application for a license under this subsection shall include a copy of the  
 534 current fire marshal certificate of compliance with the Fire Safety Code,  
 535 and written verification of compliance with the State Building Code,  
 536 local zoning and building requirements and local health ordinances. The  
 537 commissioner may require an applicant for a license under this  
 538 subsection to comply with additional conditions relating to the health  
 539 and safety of the children who will be served in such facility. The  
 540 commissioner may waive any requirement that does not apply to such  
 541 facility. Any license issued under this subsection shall expire on June 30,  
 542 2026, except that the commissioner may suspend or revoke any such  
 543 license at any time in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-87e.

544 Sec. 19. Sections 8-210, 10-16n to 10-16r, inclusive, 10-16t, 10-16u, 10-  
 545 16aa, 10-520b, 17b-749a and 17b-749d of the general statutes are  
 546 repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2025*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	17b-749(b)

Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	8-210(b)
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-16q(b)(1)
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-16n(b)
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	19a-87b(l)
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	Repealer section

**ED**

*Joint Favorable C/R*

APP