



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 5437

LCO No. 2727



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING MANDATE RELIEF.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) There is established the
2 Educator Professional Development Mandate Review Advisory
3 Council. The council shall advise and provide annual reports to the joint
4 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
5 matters relating to education on the cost and implementation of existing
6 mandates concerning educator professional development and in-service
7 training, as well as the impact of any proposals relating to additions or
8 revisions to such professional development and in-service training.

9 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:

10 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
11 who shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association of Boards
12 of Education;

13 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
14 shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association of Public School
15 Superintendents;

16 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
17 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut
18 Association of Schools;

19 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
20 a representative of the Connecticut Association of School Business
21 Officials;

22 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
23 Representatives, who shall be a member of a local or regional board of
24 education;

25 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
26 a representative of the Connecticut Federation of School
27 Administrators;

28 (7) One appointed by the House chairperson of the joint standing
29 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
30 relating to education, who shall be a paraeducator in a public school in
31 this state;

32 (8) One appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing
33 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
34 relating to education, who shall be a teacher in a public school in this
35 state;

36 (9) One appointed by the House ranking member of the joint standing
37 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
38 relating to education, who shall be a paraeducator in a public school in
39 this state; and

40 (10) One appointed by the Senate ranking member of the joint
41 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
42 matters relating to education, who shall be a teacher in a public school
43 in this state.

44 (c) All initial appointments to the council shall be made not later than

45 August 1, 2024. The initial terms for the members appointed shall
46 terminate on January 31, 2029. Terms following the initial terms shall be
47 for five years. Any member of the council may serve more than one
48 term. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

49 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
50 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the council
51 from among the members of the council. Such chairpersons shall
52 schedule the first meeting of the council, which shall be held not later
53 than October 1, 2024.

54 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
55 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
56 shall serve as administrative staff of the council.

57 (f) Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the council
58 shall develop and submit an annual report on its review of the
59 implementation and cost of existing requirements relating to
60 professional development, as described in sections 10-148a, 10-148b and
61 10-148d of the general statutes, and in-service training, as described in
62 section 10-220a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, on
63 educators and local and regional boards of education. Such annual
64 report shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) a review of all
65 existing professional development and in-service training mandates
66 required by state and federal law, (2) the costs incurred by local and
67 regional boards of education resulting from the provision of such
68 professional development and in-service training, (3) how such
69 professional development and in-service training is being provided and
70 implemented by local and regional boards of education, including who
71 is receiving and completing such professional development and in-
72 service training, and (4) the manner in which and how often such
73 professional development and in-service training is offered and
74 provided. The council shall submit such report, and any
75 recommendations for legislation, to the joint standing committee of the
76 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
77 and the Commissioner of Education, in accordance with the provisions

78 of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

79 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) On and after July 1, 2025, the
80 Department of Education shall establish and implement a state-wide
81 educator professional development and in-service training records
82 database for the purpose of collecting and storing records of educator
83 professional development and in-service training completion. The
84 database shall be designed for the purpose of establishing a
85 standardized electronic data collection and reporting protocol that will
86 (1) facilitate compliance with the professional development
87 requirements under sections 10-148a and 10-148b of the general statutes,
88 and in-service training requirements under section 10-220a of the
89 general statutes, as amended by this act, (2) improve intradistrict and
90 interdistrict sharing of records and information exchanges, and (3)
91 maintain the confidentiality of such educator data. Such database shall
92 be accessible by superintendents, administrators and educators for the
93 purpose of reporting, sharing and accessing such educator data.

94 (b) The database shall not be considered a public record for the
95 purposes of section 1-210 of the general statutes.

96 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) The Department of Education may
97 collaborate with any association that represents schools in the state and
98 has experience in the development or implementation of a database that
99 collects and maintains records of training or professional development
100 completion, in the establishment of the state-wide educator professional
101 development and in-service training records database, as described in
102 section 2 of this act. The department may develop the state-wide
103 educator professional development and in-service training database, or
104 the department may purchase a database that conforms to the
105 requirements for such database described in section 2 of this act.

106 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the 2024 supplement to the
107 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
108 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

109 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-
110 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil
111 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or
112 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such
113 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)
114 the nature and the relationship of alcohol and drugs, as defined in
115 section 21a-240, to health and personality development, and procedures
116 for discouraging their abuse, (2) health and mental health risk reduction
117 education that includes, but need not be limited to, the prevention of
118 risk-taking behavior by children and the relationship of such behavior
119 to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, including
120 HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in section 19a-581, violence, teen
121 dating violence, domestic violence and child abuse, (3) school violence
122 prevention, conflict resolution [] and the prevention of and response to
123 youth suicide, [and the identification and prevention of and response to
124 bullying, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10-222d, except that (A)
125 those boards of education that implement any evidence-based model
126 approach that is approved by the Department of Education and is
127 consistent with subsection (c) of section 10-145a, sections 10-222d, 10-
128 222g and 10-222h, subsection (g) of section 10-233c and sections 1 and 3
129 of public act 08-160, shall not be required to provide in-service training
130 on the identification and prevention of and response to bullying, and
131 (B)] provided such school violence prevention training shall be in a
132 manner prescribed in a school security and safety plan, in accordance
133 with the provisions of section 10-222n, (4) cardiopulmonary
134 resuscitation and other emergency life saving procedures, (5) the
135 requirements and obligations of a mandated reporter, (6) the detection
136 and recognition of, and evidence-based structured literacy interventions
137 for, students with dyslexia, as defined in section 10-3d, [(7) culturally
138 responsive pedagogy and practice, including, but not limited to, the
139 video training module relating to implicit bias and anti-bias in the hiring
140 process in accordance with the provisions of section 10-156hh, (8) the
141 principles and practices of social-emotional learning and restorative
142 practices, (9)] ~~(7)~~ the laws governing the implementation of planning
143 and placement team meetings and concerning plans pursuant to Section

144 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to time,
145 [(10)] (8) an annual update of the new state and federal policies
146 concerning special education, recommendations and best practices, and
147 [(11)] (9) emergency response to students who experience a seizure in a
148 school, including, but not limited to, the recognition of the signs and
149 symptoms of seizures, the appropriate steps for seizure first aid,
150 information about seizure action plans for students and, for those
151 authorized to administer medication under section 10-212a, the
152 administration of seizure rescue medication or prescribed electrical
153 stimulation using a Vagus Nerve Stimulator magnet. The manner and
154 frequency of the provision of the information described in subdivisions
155 (1) to (9), inclusive, of this subsection shall be determined by the
156 professional development and evaluation committee, established
157 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, provided such information is
158 provided at least once every five years. Each local or regional board of
159 education shall allow any school paraeducator or noncertified employee
160 to participate, on a voluntary basis, in any in-service training program
161 provided pursuant to this section.

162 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the 2024 supplement to the
163 general statutes, as amended by section 60 of public act 23-167, is
164 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
165 *2025*):

166 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-
167 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil
168 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or
169 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such
170 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)
171 the nature and the relationship of alcohol and drugs, as defined in
172 subdivision (17) of section 21a-240, to health and personality
173 development, and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health
174 and mental health risk reduction education that includes, but need not
175 be limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the
176 relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually

177 transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in
178 section 19a-581, violence, teen dating violence, domestic violence and
179 child abuse, (3) school violence prevention, conflict resolution [,] and the
180 prevention of and response to youth suicide, [and the identification and
181 prevention of and response to bullying, as defined in section 10-222aa,
182 except that those boards of education that implement any evidence-
183 based model approach that is approved by the Department of Education
184 and is consistent with subsection (c) of section 10-145a, subsection (g) of
185 section 10-233c and sections 1 and 3 of public act 08-160, shall not be
186 required to provide in-service training on the identification and
187 prevention of and response to bullying,] (4) cardiopulmonary
188 resuscitation and other emergency life saving procedures, (5) the
189 requirements and obligations of a mandated reporter, and (6) the
190 detection and recognition of, and evidence-based structured literacy
191 interventions for, students with dyslexia, as defined in section 10-3d. [,
192 (7) culturally responsive pedagogy and practice, including, but not
193 limited to, the video training module relating to implicit bias and anti-
194 bias in the hiring process in accordance with the provisions of section
195 10-156hh, and (8) the principles and practices of social-emotional
196 learning and restorative practices.] The manner and frequency of the
197 provision of the information described in subdivisions (1) to (6),
198 inclusive, of this subsection shall be determined by the professional
199 development and evaluation committee, established pursuant to
200 subsection (b) of this section, provided such information is provided at
201 least once every five years. Each local or regional board of education
202 may allow any [paraprofessional] paraeducator or noncertified
203 employee to participate, on a voluntary basis, in any in-service training
204 program provided pursuant to this section.

205 Sec. 6. Subsection (b) of section 10-222d of the general statutes is
206 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
207 *2024*):

208 (b) Each local and regional board of education shall develop and
209 implement a safe school climate plan to address the existence of bullying

210 and teen dating violence in its schools. Such plan shall: (1) Enable
211 students to anonymously report acts of bullying to school employees
212 and require students and the parents or guardians of students to be
213 notified at the beginning of each school year of the process by which
214 students may make such reports, (2) enable the parents or guardians of
215 students to file written reports of suspected bullying, (3) require school
216 employees who witness acts of bullying or receive reports of bullying to
217 orally notify the safe school climate specialist, described in section 10-
218 222k, or another school administrator if the safe school climate specialist
219 is unavailable, not later than one school day after such school employee
220 witnesses or receives a report of bullying, and to file a written report not
221 later than two school days after making such oral report, (4) require the
222 safe school climate specialist to investigate or supervise the
223 investigation of all reports of bullying and ensure that such
224 investigation is completed promptly after receipt of any written reports
225 made under this section and that the parents or guardians of the student
226 alleged to have committed an act or acts of bullying and the parents or
227 guardians of the student against whom such alleged act or acts were
228 directed receive prompt notice that such investigation has commenced,
229 (5) require the safe school climate specialist to review any anonymous
230 reports, except that no disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the
231 basis of an anonymous report, (6) include a prevention and intervention
232 strategy, as defined by section 10-222g, for school employees to deal
233 with bullying and teen dating violence, (7) provide for the inclusion of
234 language in student codes of conduct concerning bullying, (8) require
235 each school to notify the parents or guardians of students who commit
236 any verified acts of bullying and the parents or guardians of students
237 against whom such acts were directed not later than forty-eight hours
238 after the completion of the investigation described in subdivision (4) of
239 this subsection (A) of the results of such investigation, and (B) verbally
240 and by electronic mail, if such parents' or guardians' electronic mail
241 addresses are known, that such parents or guardians may refer to the
242 plain language explanation of the rights and remedies available under
243 sections 10-4a and 10-4b published on the Internet web site of the local
244 or regional board of education pursuant to section 10-222r, (9) require

245 each school to invite the parents or guardians of a student against whom
246 such act was directed to a meeting to communicate to such parents or
247 guardians the measures being taken by the school to ensure the safety
248 of the student against whom such act was directed and policies and
249 procedures in place to prevent further acts of bullying, (10) require each
250 school to invite the parents or guardians of a student who commits any
251 verified act of bullying to a meeting, separate and distinct from the
252 meeting required in subdivision (9) of this subsection, to discuss specific
253 interventions undertaken by the school to prevent further acts of
254 bullying, (11) establish a procedure for each school to document and
255 maintain records relating to reports and investigations of bullying in
256 such school and to maintain a list of the number of verified acts of
257 bullying in such school and make such list available for public
258 inspection, and annually report such number to the Department of
259 Education, and in such manner as prescribed by the Commissioner of
260 Education, (12) direct the development of case-by-case interventions for
261 addressing repeated incidents of bullying against a single individual or
262 recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the same individual that
263 may include both counseling and discipline, (13) prohibit
264 discrimination and retaliation against an individual who reports or
265 assists in the investigation of an act of bullying, (14) direct the
266 development of student safety support plans for students against whom
267 an act of bullying was directed that address safety measures the school
268 will take to protect such students against further acts of bullying, (15)
269 require the principal of a school, or the principal's designee, to notify the
270 appropriate local law enforcement agency when such principal, or the
271 principal's designee, believes that any acts of bullying constitute
272 criminal conduct, (16) prohibit bullying (A) on school grounds, at a
273 school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program
274 whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus
275 or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of
276 education, or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic
277 mobile device owned, leased or used by the local or regional board of
278 education, and (B) outside of the school setting if such bullying (i)
279 creates a hostile environment at school for the student against whom

280 such bullying was directed, or (ii) infringes on the rights of the student
281 against whom such bullying was directed at school, or (iii) substantially
282 disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school, (17)
283 require, at the beginning of each school year, each school to provide all
284 school employees with a written or electronic copy of the school
285 district's safe school climate plan, and (18) require that all school
286 employees annually complete the training described in [section 10-220a
287 or] section 10-222j. The notification required pursuant to subdivision (8)
288 of this subsection and the invitation required pursuant to subdivision
289 (9) of this subsection shall include a description of the response of school
290 employees to such acts and any consequences that may result from the
291 commission of further acts of bullying.

292 Sec. 7. Section 10-233m of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
293 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
294 *1, 2024*):

295 Each local or regional board of education that assigns a school
296 resource officer to any school under the jurisdiction of such board shall
297 enter into a memorandum of understanding with a local law
298 enforcement agency regarding the role and responsibility of such school
299 resource officer. Such memorandum of understanding shall (1) be
300 maintained in a central location in the school district and posted on the
301 Internet web site of the school district and each school in which such
302 school resource officer is assigned, (2) include provisions addressing
303 daily interactions between students and school personnel with school
304 resource officers, and (3) include a graduated response model for
305 student discipline. Any such memorandum of understanding entered
306 into, extended, updated or amended (A) on or after July 1, 2021, shall
307 include a provision that requires all school resource officers to complete,
308 while in the performance of their duties as school resource officers and
309 during periods when such school resource officers are assigned to be at
310 the school, any separate training specifically related to social-emotional
311 learning and restorative practices provided to certified employees of the
312 school pursuant to [sections] section 10-148a_z [and 10-220a,_z] and (B) on

313 or after July 1, 2023, shall include provisions specifying a school
314 resource officer's duties concerning, and procedures for, the restraint of
315 students, use of firearms, school-based arrests and reporting of any
316 investigations and behavioral interventions of challenging behavior or
317 conflict that escalates to violence or constitutes a crime, pursuant to the
318 provisions of section 10-233p, provided such provisions are in
319 accordance with any laws or policies concerning the duties of police
320 officers. For the purposes of this section, "school resource officer" means
321 a sworn police officer of a local law enforcement agency who has been
322 assigned to a school pursuant to an agreement between the local or
323 regional board of education and the chief of police of a local law
324 enforcement agency.

325 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 22a-226e of the 2024 supplement to
326 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
327 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

328 (a) (1) On and after January 1, 2014, each commercial food wholesaler
329 or distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor, supermarket,
330 resort or conference center that is located not more than twenty miles
331 from an authorized source-separated organic material composting
332 facility and that generates an average projected volume of not less than
333 one hundred four tons per year of source-separated organic materials
334 shall: (A) Separate such source-separated organic materials from other
335 solid waste; and (B) ensure that such source-separated organic materials
336 are recycled at any authorized source-separated organic material
337 composting facility that has available capacity and that will accept such
338 source-separated organic material.

339 (2) On and after January 1, 2020, each commercial food wholesaler or
340 distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor, supermarket,
341 resort or conference center that is located not more than twenty miles
342 from an authorized source-separated organic material composting
343 facility and that generates an average projected volume of not less than
344 fifty-two tons per year of source-separated organic materials shall: (A)
345 Separate such source-separated organic materials from other solid

346 waste; and (B) ensure that such source-separated organic materials are
347 recycled at any authorized source-separated organic material
348 composting facility that has available capacity and that will accept such
349 source-separated organic material.

350 (3) On and after January 1, 2022, each commercial food wholesaler or
351 distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor, supermarket,
352 resort or conference center that is located not more than twenty miles
353 from either an authorized source-separated organic material
354 composting facility an authorized transfer station or any collection
355 location authorized to receive source-separated organic materials, and
356 that generates an average projected volume of not less than twenty-six
357 tons per year of source-separated organic materials shall: (A) Separate
358 such source-separated organic materials from other solid waste; and (B)
359 ensure that such source-separated organic materials are recycled at any
360 authorized source-separated organic material composting facility that
361 has available capacity and that will accept such source-separated
362 organic material.

363 (4) On and after January 1, 2025, each commercial food wholesaler or
364 distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor, supermarket,
365 resort, conference center or institution that generates an average
366 projected volume of not less than twenty-six tons per year of source-
367 separated organic materials shall: (A) Separate such source-separated
368 organic materials from other solid waste; and (B) ensure that such
369 source-separated organic materials are recycled at any authorized
370 source-separated organic material composting facility that has available
371 capacity and that will accept such source-separated organic material.
372 For the purposes of this section "institution" means any establishment
373 engaged in providing hospitality, entertainment or rehabilitation and
374 health care services, and any hospital [, public or private educational
375 facility] or correctional facility.

376 (5) On and after July 1, 2025, each public or private educational
377 facility that is located not more than twenty miles from either an
378 authorized source-separated organic material composting facility and

379 that generates an average projected volume of not less than twenty-six
380 tons per year of source-separated organic materials shall: (A) Separate
381 such source-separated organic materials from other solid waste; and (B)
382 ensure that such source-separated organic materials are recycled at any
383 authorized source-separated organic material composting facility that
384 has available capacity and that will accept such source-separated
385 organic material.

386 Sec. 9. Section 10-248a of the general statutes is repealed and the
387 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

388 For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2020] 2024, and each fiscal year
389 thereafter, notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any
390 special act, municipal charter, home rule ordinance or other ordinance,
391 [the board of finance in each town having a board of finance, the board
392 of selectmen in each town having no board of finance or the authority
393 making appropriations for the school district for each town] a local
394 board of education may deposit into a nonlapsing account any
395 unexpended funds from the prior fiscal year from the budgeted
396 appropriation for education, [for the town,] provided (1) such deposited
397 amount does not exceed two per cent of the total budgeted
398 appropriation for education for such prior fiscal year, (2) each
399 expenditure from such account shall be made only for educational
400 purposes, and (3) each such expenditure shall be authorized by the local
401 board of education for such town.

402 Sec. 10. Subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 10-51 of the
403 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
404 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

405 (2) [On and after June 7, 2006] For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024,
406 and each fiscal year thereafter, a regional board of education, by a
407 majority vote of its members, may create a reserve fund for [capital and
408 nonrecurring] educational expenditures. Such fund shall thereafter be
409 termed ["reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures"]
410 "reserve fund for educational expenditures". The aggregate amount of

411 annual and supplemental appropriations by a district to such fund shall
412 not exceed two per cent of the annual district budget for such fiscal year.
413 Annual appropriations to such fund shall be included in the share of net
414 expenses to be paid by each member town. Supplemental
415 appropriations to such fund may be made from estimated fiscal year
416 end surplus in operating funds. Interest and investment earnings
417 received with respect to amounts held in the fund shall be credited to
418 such fund. The board shall annually submit a complete and detailed
419 report of the condition of such fund to the member towns. Upon the
420 recommendation and approval by the regional board of education, any
421 part or the whole of such fund may be used for [capital and
422 nonrecurring] educational expenditures. [, but such use shall be
423 restricted to the funding of all or part of the planning, construction,
424 reconstruction or acquisition of any specific capital improvement or the
425 acquisition of any specific item of equipment.] Upon the approval of any
426 such expenditure an appropriation shall be set up, plainly designated
427 for the [project or acquisition] educational expenditure for which it has
428 been authorized. [, and such unexpended appropriation may be
429 continued until such project or acquisition is completed.] Any
430 unexpended portion of such appropriation remaining [after such
431 completion] shall revert to said fund. If any authorized appropriation is
432 set up pursuant to the provisions of this subsection and through
433 unforeseen circumstances [the completion of the project or acquisition
434 for which such appropriation has been designated is impossible to
435 attain] the board is unable to expend the total amount of such
436 appropriation, the board, by a majority vote of its members, may
437 terminate such appropriation which then shall no longer be in effect.
438 Such fund may be discontinued, after the recommendation and
439 approval by the regional board of education, and any amounts held in
440 the fund shall be transferred to the general fund of the district.

441 Sec. 11. Section 10-221a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
442 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
443 *1, 2024*):

444 (a) For classes graduating from 1988 to 2003, inclusive, no local or
445 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
446 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily
447 completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than four of which
448 shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics, not fewer than
449 three in social studies, not fewer than two in science, not fewer than one
450 in the arts or vocational education and not fewer than one in physical
451 education.

452 (b) For classes graduating from 2004 to 2022, inclusive, no local or
453 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
454 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily
455 completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than four of which
456 shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics, not fewer than
457 three in social studies, including at least a one-half credit course on
458 civics and American government, not fewer than two in science, not
459 fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and not fewer than
460 one in physical education.

461 (c) [Commencing with] For classes graduating [in] from 2023 [, and
462 for each graduating class thereafter] to 2026, inclusive, no local or
463 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
464 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily
465 completed a minimum of twenty-five credits, including not fewer than:
466 (1) Nine credits in the humanities, including civics and the arts; (2) nine
467 credits in science, technology, engineering and mathematics; (3) one
468 credit in physical education and wellness; (4) one credit in health and
469 safety education, as described in section 10-16b; and (5) one credit in
470 world languages, subject to the provisions of subsection [(h)] (g) of this
471 section. A local or regional board of education may require a student to
472 complete a one credit mastery-based diploma assessment in order to
473 graduate from high school or be granted a diploma.

474 [(d) Commencing with classes graduating in 2025, and for each
475 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education shall
476 permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to

477 any student who has not satisfied the requirements of section 10-221z
478 and not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty-five credits,
479 including not fewer than: (1) Nine credits in the humanities, including
480 civics and the arts; (2) nine credits in science, technology, engineering
481 and mathematics; (3) one credit in physical education and wellness; (4)
482 one credit in health and safety education, as described in section 10-16b;
483 and (5) one credit in world languages, subject to the provisions of
484 subsection (h) of this section. A local or regional board of education may
485 require a student to complete a one credit mastery-based diploma
486 assessment in order to graduate from high school or be granted a
487 diploma.]

488 [(e)] (d) Commencing with classes graduating in 2027, and for each
489 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education shall
490 permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to
491 any student who has not satisfied the requirements of section 10-221z,
492 as amended by this act, and not satisfactorily completed a minimum of
493 twenty-five credits, including not fewer than: (1) Nine credits in the
494 humanities, including civics and the arts; (2) nine credits in science,
495 technology, engineering and mathematics; (3) one credit in physical
496 education and wellness; (4) one credit in health and safety education, as
497 described in section 10-16b; (5) one credit in world languages, subject to
498 the provisions of subsection [(h)] (g) of this section; and (6) one-half
499 credit in personal financial management and financial literacy, which
500 may count towards the requirement described in subdivision (1) or (2)
501 of this subsection or as an elective credit. [A local or regional board of
502 education may require a student to complete a one credit mastery-based
503 diploma assessment in order to graduate from high school or be granted
504 a diploma.]

505 [(f)] (e) Commencing with classes graduating in 2023, and for each
506 graduating class thereafter, local and regional boards of education shall
507 provide adequate student support and remedial services for students
508 beginning in grade seven. Such student support and remedial services
509 shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of the high

510 school graduation requirements described in subsections (c) [to (e)] and
511 (d), inclusive, of this section, if such student is unable to satisfactorily
512 complete any of the required courses or exams. Such student support
513 and remedial services shall include, but not be limited to, (1) allowing
514 students to retake courses in summer school or through an on-line
515 course; (2) allowing students to enroll in a class offered at a constituent
516 unit of the state system of higher education, as defined in section 10a-1,
517 pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection [(i)] (h) of this section; (3)
518 allowing students who received a failing score, as determined by the
519 Commissioner of Education, on an end of the school year exam to take
520 an alternate form of the exam; and (4) allowing those students whose
521 individualized education programs state that such students are eligible
522 for an alternate assessment to demonstrate competency on any of the
523 five core courses through success on such alternate assessment.

524 [(g)] (f) Any student who presents a certificate from a physician or
525 advanced practice registered nurse stating that, in the opinion of the
526 physician or advanced practice registered nurse, participation in
527 physical education is medically contraindicated because of the physical
528 condition of such student, shall be excused from the physical education
529 requirement, provided the credit for physical education may be fulfilled
530 by an elective.

531 [(h)] (g) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of
532 the local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of
533 the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject
534 matter of the specified course requirements. The local or regional board
535 of education may permit a student to graduate during a period of
536 expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the
537 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to
538 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student
539 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when the
540 planning and placement team for such student determines the
541 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, a credit
542 shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute class period

543 for each school day of a school year except for a credit or part of a credit
544 toward high school graduation earned (1) at an institution accredited by
545 the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher
546 Education or regionally accredited, (2) through on-line coursework that
547 is in accordance with a policy adopted pursuant to subsection [(i)] (h) of
548 this section, or (3) through a demonstration of mastery based on
549 competency and performance standards, in accordance with guidelines
550 adopted by the State Board of Education.

551 [(i)] (h) Only courses taken in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, and
552 that are in accordance with the state-wide subject matter content
553 standards, adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to section
554 10-4, shall satisfy the graduation requirements set forth in this section,
555 except that a local or regional board of education may grant a student
556 credit (1) toward meeting the high school graduation requirements
557 upon the successful demonstration of mastery of the subject matter
558 content described in this section achieved through educational
559 experiences and opportunities that provide flexible and multiple
560 pathways to learning, including cross-curricular graduation
561 requirements, career and technical education, virtual learning, work-
562 based learning, service learning, dual enrollment and early college,
563 courses taken in middle school, internships and student-designed
564 independent studies, provided such demonstration of mastery is in
565 accordance with such state-wide subject matter content standards; (2)
566 toward meeting a specified course requirement upon the successful
567 completion in grade seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of
568 which corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course
569 requirement in grades nine to twelve, inclusive; (3) toward meeting the
570 high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of
571 a world language course (A) in grade six, seven or eight, (B) through on-
572 line coursework, or (C) offered privately through a nonprofit provider,
573 provided such student achieves a passing grade on an examination
574 prescribed, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of
575 Education and such credits do not exceed four; (4) toward meeting the
576 high school graduation requirement upon achievement of a passing

577 grade on a subject area proficiency examination identified and
578 approved, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of
579 Education, regardless of the number of hours the student spent in a
580 public school classroom learning such subject matter; (5) toward
581 meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful
582 completion of coursework during the school year or summer months at
583 an institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education
584 or Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited. One three-credit
585 semester course, or its equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-
586 half credit for purposes of this section; (6) toward meeting the high
587 school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of on-
588 line coursework, provided the local or regional board of education has
589 adopted a policy in accordance with this subdivision for the granting of
590 credit for on-line coursework. Such a policy shall ensure, at a minimum,
591 that (A) the workload required by the on-line course is equivalent to that
592 of a similar course taught in a traditional classroom setting, (B) the
593 content is rigorous and aligned with curriculum guidelines approved
594 by the State Board of Education, where appropriate, (C) the course
595 engages students and has interactive components, which may include,
596 but are not limited to, required interactions between students and their
597 teachers, participation in on-line demonstrations, discussion boards or
598 virtual labs, (D) the program of instruction for such on-line coursework
599 is planned, ongoing and systematic, and (E) the courses are (i) taught by
600 teachers who are certified in the state or another state and have received
601 training on teaching in an on-line environment, or (ii) offered by
602 institutions of higher education that are accredited by the Board of
603 Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or
604 regionally accredited; or (7) toward meeting the high school graduation
605 requirement upon the successful completion of a credit recovery
606 program approved by the Commissioner of Education.

607 [(j)] (i) A local or regional board of education may offer one-half credit
608 in community service which, if satisfactorily completed, shall qualify for
609 high school graduation credit pursuant to this section, provided such
610 community service is supervised by a certified school administrator or

611 teacher and consists of not less than fifty hours of actual service that may
612 be performed at times when school is not regularly in session and not
613 less than ten hours of related classroom instruction. [For purposes of
614 this section, community service does not include partisan political
615 activities.] The State Board of Education shall assist local and regional
616 boards of education in meeting the requirements of this section. [The
617 State Board of Education shall award a community service recognition
618 award to any student who satisfactorily completes fifty hours or more
619 of community service in accordance with the provisions of this
620 subsection.]

621 [(k)] (j) (1) A local or regional board of education may award a
622 diploma to a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103,
623 which veteran or person served during World War II or the Korean
624 hostilities, as described in section 51-49h, or during the Vietnam Era, as
625 defined in section 27-103, withdrew from high school prior to
626 graduation in order to serve in the armed forces of the United States and
627 did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such service.

628 (2) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma to
629 any person who (A) withdrew from high school prior to graduation to
630 work in a job that assisted the war effort during World War II, December
631 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, inclusive, (B) did not receive a diploma as
632 a consequence of such work, and (C) has been a resident of the state for
633 at least fifty consecutive years.

634 (3) (A) A local or regional board of education under whose
635 jurisdiction a student would otherwise be attending school if such
636 student were not educated under the oversight of the education unit of
637 the Department of Children and Families established pursuant to
638 section 17a-3b, shall award a diploma to any such student seventeen
639 years of age or older who satisfactorily completes the minimum credits
640 required pursuant to this section for students graduating in the year in
641 which such diploma is awarded.

642 (B) If no such local or regional board of education can be identified,

643 the Department of Children and Families shall determine whether a
644 student educated under the oversight of the education unit of the
645 department who is seventeen years of age or older has satisfactorily
646 completed the minimum credits required pursuant to this section for
647 students graduating in the year in which a diploma is sought by such
648 student and the department shall award a diploma to any such student
649 who has met such requirement.

650 [(l)] (k) For the school year commencing July 1, 2012, and each school
651 year thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall create a
652 student success plan for each student enrolled in a public school,
653 beginning in grade six. Such student success plan shall include a
654 student's career and academic choices in grades six to twelve, inclusive.
655 Beginning in grade six, such student success plan shall provide evidence
656 of career exploration in each grade including, but not limited to, careers
657 in manufacturing. The Department of Education shall revise and issue
658 to local and regional boards of education guidance regarding changes
659 to such student success plans. On and after July 1, 2020, in creating such
660 student success plans, consideration shall be given to career and
661 academic choices in computer science, science, technology, engineering
662 and mathematics. On and after July 1, 2021, such student success plans
663 shall be created, if possible, in collaboration with each student and the
664 parent or guardian of such student. On and after July 1, 2022, such
665 student success plans shall, to the extent it does not conflict with the
666 career choices of the student or such student's parent or guardian,
667 include an academic plan that is in compliance with the challenging
668 curriculum policy adopted by the local or regional board of education
669 pursuant to section 10-221x, as amended by this act. On and after July 1,
670 2024, in creating such student success plans, consideration shall be given
671 to enrollment opportunities in the Technical Education and Career
672 System.

673 [(m)] (l) Commencing with classes graduating in 2018, and for each
674 graduating class thereafter, a local or regional board of education may
675 affix the Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy, as described in subsection

676 (f) of section 10-5, to a diploma awarded to a student who has achieved
677 a high level of proficiency in English and one or more foreign languages,
678 as defined in said subsection (f). The local or regional board of education
679 shall include on such student's transcript a designation that the student
680 received the Connecticut State Seal of Bilingualism.

681 Sec. 12. Section 10-221z of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
682 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
683 *1, 2024*):

684 (a) No local or regional board of education shall permit any student
685 to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to any student
686 pursuant to section 10-221a, as amended by this act, unless such student
687 has (1) completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, (2)
688 completed and submitted to a public institution of higher education an
689 application for institutional financial aid for students without legal
690 immigration status established pursuant to section 10a-161d, or (3)
691 completed a waiver, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b)
692 of this section and on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of
693 Education, signed by such minor student's parent or legal guardian or
694 by such student if such student is a legally emancipated minor or
695 eighteen years of age or older.

696 (b) Any waiver completed by a student pursuant to subdivision (3)
697 of subsection (a) of this section shall require the parent, legal guardian
698 or student to affirm that such parent, legal guardian or student
699 understands the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and shall not
700 require the parent, legal guardian or student to state any reasons for
701 choosing not to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or
702 the application for institutional financial aid for students without legal
703 immigration status. On and after March fifteenth of the school year, a
704 principal, school counselor, teacher or other certified educator may
705 complete such waiver on behalf of any student who has not satisfied any
706 of the requirements described in subsection (a) of this section, if such
707 principal, school counselor, teacher or other certified educator affirms
708 that they have made a good faith effort to contact the parent, legal

709 guardian or student about completion of the Free Application for
710 Federal Student Aid or an application for institutional financial aid for
711 students without legal immigration status.

712 (c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any student
713 enrolled in an incorporated or endowed high school or academy
714 approved pursuant to section 10-34 and who is not a resident of the
715 state.

716 Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 10-76ll of the 2024 supplement to the
717 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
718 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

719 (b) On or before July 1, 2015, the State Board of Education shall draft
720 a written bill of rights for parents of children receiving special education
721 services to guarantee that the rights of such parents and children are
722 adequately safeguarded and protected during the provision of special
723 education and related services until such children have graduated from
724 high school or at the end of the school year during which such children
725 reaches age twenty-two, whichever occurs first, under this chapter. Such
726 bill of rights shall inform parents of: (1) The right to request
727 consideration of the provision of transition services for a child receiving
728 special education services who is eighteen until such child has
729 graduated from high school or at the end of the school year during
730 which such child reaches age twenty-two, whichever occurs first, (2) the
731 right to receive transition resources and materials from the department
732 and the local or regional board of education responsible for such child,
733 (3) the requirement that the local or regional board of education
734 responsible for such child shall create a student success plan for each
735 student enrolled in a public school, beginning in grade six, pursuant to
736 subsection [(l)] (k) of section 10-221a, as amended by this act, and (4) the
737 right of such child to receive realistic and specific postgraduation goals
738 as part of such child's individualized education program.

739 Sec. 14. Subsection (b) of section 10-221x of the 2024 supplement to
740 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu

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

742 (b) Each local and regional board of education shall create an
 743 academic plan for each student identified under the criteria described in
 744 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section. In creating an academic
 745 plan for a student, such plan shall be designed to enroll such student in
 746 one or more advanced course or programs and allow such student to
 747 earn college credit or result in career readiness. Each academic plan shall
 748 be aligned with (1) the courses or programs offered by the local or
 749 regional board of education, (2) such student's student success plan
 750 created pursuant to subsection [(l)] (k) of section 10-221a, as amended
 751 by this act, (3) the high school graduation requirements under section
 752 10-221a, as amended by this act, and (4) any other policies or standards
 753 adopted by the board relating to the eligibility for student enrollment in
 754 advanced courses or programs. A student, or the parent or guardian of
 755 a student, may decline to implement the provisions of an academic plan
 756 created for such student.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-220a(a)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-220a(a)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-222d(b)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-233m
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	22a-226e(a)
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	10-248a
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	10-51(d)(2)
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-221a
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-221z
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-76ll(b)
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-221x(b)

ED

Joint Favorable C/R

APP

