



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Governor's Bill No. 14

LCO No. 507



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:

Request of the Governor Pursuant
to Joint Rule 9

***AN ACT ASSISTING SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN IMPROVING
EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 10-14z of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2024*):

4 (a) There is established an Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities
5 within the Department of Education which shall be under the
6 management of a chief. The chief shall be qualified by training and
7 experience to perform the duties of the office, including, but not limited
8 to, expertise in higher education, dyslexia and structured literacy. The
9 Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities shall (1) verify the
10 compliance of (A) educator preparation programs, as defined in section
11 10-146c, including intermediate administrator and supervisor
12 programs, and (B) applicants for an initial, provisional or professional
13 educator certificate pursuant to the provisions of chapter 166 relating to
14 scientifically-based reading research and instruction, as defined in

15 section 10-14u, structured literacy instruction and training, dyslexia
16 instruction and training, including, but not limited to, the compliance
17 verifications required pursuant to sections 10-14aa to 10-14cc, inclusive;
18 (2) review and recommend changes, as necessary, to the State Board of
19 Education's process for approval of educator preparation programs
20 related to such compliance verifications; and (3) provide guidance to
21 and consult with the department's Talent Office related to such
22 compliance verifications.

23 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-14gg of the 2024 supplement to the
24 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
25 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

26 (a) The Department of Education shall establish a Center for Literacy
27 Research and Reading Success within the department. The center shall
28 be responsible for (1) the implementation of the coordinated state-wide
29 reading plan for students in kindergarten to grade three, inclusive,
30 established pursuant to section 10-14v; (2) researching and developing,
31 in collaboration with the Office of Early Childhood, a birth to grade
32 twelve reading success strategy to be included in the alignment of
33 reading instruction with the two-generational initiative, established
34 pursuant to section 17b-112l; (3) (A) providing direct support to schools
35 and boards of education to improve reading outcomes for students in
36 kindergarten to grade three, inclusive, and other reading initiatives, and
37 (B) supporting teachers, schools and boards of education engaged in
38 improving through coaching, leadership training, professional
39 development, parental engagement and technical assistance that is
40 consistent with the intensive reading instruction program, as described
41 in section 10-14u and aligned with evidence-based practices; (4)
42 providing independent, random reviews of how a local or regional
43 board of education is implementing (A) a comprehensive reading
44 curriculum model or program for grades kindergarten to grade three,
45 inclusive, pursuant to section 10-14hh, and (B) an approved reading
46 assessment, pursuant to section 10-14t; (5) receiving and publicly
47 reporting, not later than September 1, 2025, and biennially thereafter,
48 the comprehensive reading curriculum model or program being

49 implemented by each local and regional board of education pursuant to
50 section 10-14hh; (6) developing and maintaining an Internet web site for
51 the purpose of disseminating tools and information associated with the
52 intensive reading instruction program for student reading; and (7)
53 serving as a collaborative center for institutions of higher education and
54 making available to the faculty of teacher preparation programs [(A) the
55 science of teaching reading, (B) the intensive reading instruction
56 program, and (C) samples of available comprehensive reading
57 curriculum models or programs reviewed and approved pursuant to
58 section 10-14ii; and (8) reviewing and publicly reporting on progress
59 made by teacher preparation programs to include comprehensive
60 reading curriculum models or programs reviewed and approved
61 pursuant to section 10-14ii] (A) resources and research supporting
62 scientifically-based reading instruction, and (B) Connecticut's K-3
63 Literacy Strategy, developed by the center.

64 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Not later than July 1, 2025, the
65 Department of Education shall develop compliance measures and audit
66 procedures to determine the compliance of educator preparation
67 programs, including intermediate administrator and supervisor
68 programs, in the provision of instruction on scientifically-based reading
69 research and instruction, as defined in section 10-14u of the general
70 statutes.

71 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than September 1, 2024,
72 and every five years thereafter, the State Board of Education shall
73 develop, and revise as necessary, a model policy on the use of cellular
74 mobile telephones and other mobile electronic devices, as defined in
75 section 10-222d of the general statutes, in schools. Such policy shall
76 consider the various needs of students, such as age and grade level, and
77 include appropriate enforcement provisions. The department shall
78 make such model policy available on its Internet web site.

79 Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section, "advanced
80 course or program" means an honors class, advanced placement class,
81 International Baccalaureate program, Cambridge International

82 program, dual enrollment program, dual credit course or program,
83 early college program or any other advanced or accelerated course or
84 program that is offered, and for which credit is awarded, by a local or
85 regional board of education in grades nine to twelve, inclusive.

86 (b) The Department of Education shall conduct a study regarding the
87 feasibility of establishing and administering a state-wide program that
88 supports public high school students in participating in an advanced
89 course or program, and which gives priority to students from low-
90 income families. In conducting such study, the department shall consult
91 with local and regional boards of education and public and independent
92 institutions of higher education. Such study shall review current in-state
93 programs to provide advanced courses or programs, identify and
94 analyze similar programs in other states, and provide recommendations
95 on the framework and criteria for implementing a state-wide program
96 in the state.

97 (c) Not later than January 1, 2026, the department shall submit such
98 report, and any recommendations on the establishment and
99 implementation of such state-wide program, to the joint standing
100 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
101 relating to education in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
102 of the general statutes.

103 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Not later than January 1, 2025,
104 and every five years thereafter, the Department of Education shall
105 develop and make available to local and regional boards of education, a
106 guide of recommended resource allocation strategies designed to target
107 the allocation and expenditure of local, state and federal funds to
108 improve student academic outcomes. Such guide shall include, but need
109 not be limited to, recommendations relating to the percentage of funds
110 boards of education should expend on administrative overhead and
111 ongoing costs related to the provision of public education, such as
112 teacher salaries, other specialized education interventions and any other
113 categories the department determines is relevant and is based on best
114 practices. The department shall make such guide available in its Internet

115 web site.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-14z(a)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-14gg(a)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]