



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 14**

February Session, 2024



**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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  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24 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  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. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section, "advanced  
72 course or program" means an honors class, advanced placement class,  
73 International Baccalaureate program, Cambridge International  
74 program, dual enrollment program, dual credit course or program,  
75 early college program or any other advanced or accelerated course or  
76 program that is offered, and for which credit is awarded, by a local or  
77 regional board of education in grades nine to twelve, inclusive.

78 (b) The Department of Education shall conduct a study regarding the  
79 feasibility of establishing and administering a state-wide program that  
80 supports public high school students in participating in an advanced  
81 course or program, and which gives priority to students from low-  
82 income families. In conducting such study, the department shall consult  
83 with local and regional boards of education and public and independent  
84 institutions of higher education. Such study shall review current in-state

85 programs to provide advanced courses or programs, identify and  
86 analyze similar programs in other states, and provide recommendations  
87 on the framework and criteria for implementing a state-wide program  
88 in the state.

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

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>July 1, 2024</i>	New section

**ED**                      *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*    APP