



General Assembly

Amendment

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LCO No. 4977



Offered by:

REP. CURREY, 11th Dist.

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To: House Bill No. 5437

File No. 592

Cal. No. 413

"AN ACT CONCERNING MANDATE RELIEF."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) There is established the
4 Education Mandate Review Advisory Council. The council shall advise
5 and provide annual reports to the joint standing committee of the
6 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
7 on the cost and implementation of existing education mandates on local
8 and regional boards of education, as well as the impact of any proposals
9 relating to additions or revisions to such education mandates. Such
10 annual reports may include, but need not be limited to, (1) a review of
11 education mandates on local and regional boards of education in the
12 general statutes and the regulations of Connecticut state agencies for the
13 purpose of identifying those mandates that may be burdensome or have
14 the effect of limiting or restricting the provision of instruction or services
15 to students, including a detailed analysis of each such mandate so

16 identified, the specific statutory or regulation citation for such mandate
17 and how such mandate is imposed on a board of education, and (2) any
18 recommendations regarding the repeal of or amendment to any such
19 sections of the general statutes or regulations of Connecticut state
20 agencies.

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

22 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
23 who shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association of Boards
24 of Education;

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

28 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
29 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut
30 Association of Schools;

31 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
32 a representative of the Connecticut Association of School Business
33 Officials;

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

37 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
38 a representative of the Connecticut Federation of School
39 Administrators;

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

44 (8) One appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing

45 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
46 relating to education, who shall be a teacher in a public school in this
47 state;

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

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

56 (c) All initial appointments to the council shall be made not later than
57 August 1, 2024. The initial terms for the members appointed shall
58 terminate on January 31, 2029. Terms following the initial terms shall be
59 for five years. Any member of the council may serve more than one
60 term. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

61 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
62 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the council
63 from among the members of the council. Such chairpersons shall
64 schedule the first meeting of the council, which shall be held not later
65 than October 1, 2024.

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

69 (f) Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the council
70 shall develop and submit an annual report on its review of the
71 implementation and cost of statutory and regulatory education
72 mandates on local and regional boards of education. Such annual report
73 shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) a review of all existing
74 education mandates required by state law, (2) the costs incurred by local
75 and regional boards of education resulting from the implementation of

76 such education mandates, and (3) how such education mandates are
77 being implemented by local and regional boards of education,
78 including, but not limited to, the manner in which and how often such
79 education mandate is being implemented. The council shall submit such
80 report, and any recommendations for legislation, to the joint standing
81 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
82 relating to education and the Commissioner of Education, in accordance
83 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

84 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the 2024 supplement to the
85 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
86 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

87 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-
88 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil
89 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or
90 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such
91 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)
92 the nature and the relationship of alcohol and drugs, as defined in
93 section 21a-240, to health and personality development, and procedures
94 for discouraging their abuse, (2) health and mental health risk reduction
95 education that includes, but need not be limited to, the prevention of
96 risk-taking behavior by children and the relationship of such behavior
97 to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, including
98 HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in section 19a-581, violence, teen
99 dating violence, domestic violence and child abuse, (3) school violence
100 prevention, conflict resolution [.] and the prevention of and response to
101 youth suicide, [and the identification and prevention of and response to
102 bullying, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10-222d, except that (A)
103 those boards of education that implement any evidence-based model
104 approach that is approved by the Department of Education and is
105 consistent with subsection (c) of section 10-145a, sections 10-222d, 10-
106 222g and 10-222h, subsection (g) of section 10-233c and sections 1 and 3
107 of public act 08-160, shall not be required to provide in-service training
108 on the identification and prevention of and response to bullying, and
109 (B)] provided such school violence prevention training shall be in a

110 manner prescribed in a school security and safety plan, in accordance
111 with the provisions of section 10-222n, (4) cardiopulmonary
112 resuscitation and other emergency life saving procedures, (5) the
113 requirements and obligations of a mandated reporter, (6) the detection
114 and recognition of, and evidence-based structured literacy interventions
115 for, students with dyslexia, as defined in section 10-3d, [(7) culturally
116 responsive pedagogy and practice, including, but not limited to, the
117 video training module relating to implicit bias and anti-bias in the hiring
118 process in accordance with the provisions of section 10-156hh, (8) the
119 principles and practices of social-emotional learning and restorative
120 practices, (9)] (7) the laws governing the implementation of planning
121 and placement team meetings and concerning plans pursuant to Section
122 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to time,
123 [(10)] (8) an annual update of the new state and federal policies
124 concerning special education, recommendations and best practices, and
125 [(11)] (9) emergency response to students who experience a seizure in a
126 school, including, but not limited to, the recognition of the signs and
127 symptoms of seizures, the appropriate steps for seizure first aid,
128 information about seizure action plans for students and, for those
129 authorized to administer medication under section 10-212a, the
130 administration of seizure rescue medication or prescribed electrical
131 stimulation using a Vagus Nerve Stimulator magnet. The manner and
132 frequency of the provision of the information described in subdivisions
133 (1) to (9), inclusive, of this subsection shall be determined by the
134 professional development and evaluation committee, established
135 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, provided such information is
136 provided at least once every five years. Each local or regional board of
137 education shall allow any [school] paraeducator or noncertified
138 employee to participate, on a voluntary basis, in any in-service training
139 program provided pursuant to this section.

140 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the 2024 supplement to the
141 general statutes, as amended by section 60 of public act 23-167, is
142 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
143 *2025*):

144 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-
145 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil
146 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or
147 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such
148 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)
149 the nature and the relationship of alcohol and drugs, as defined in
150 [subdivision (17) of] section 21a-240, to health and personality
151 development, and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health
152 and mental health risk reduction education that includes, but need not
153 be limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the
154 relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually
155 transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in
156 section 19a-581, violence, teen dating violence, domestic violence and
157 child abuse, (3) school violence prevention, conflict resolution [,] and the
158 prevention of and response to youth suicide, [and the identification and
159 prevention of and response to bullying, as defined in section 10-222aa,
160 except that those boards of education that implement any evidence-
161 based model approach that is approved by the Department of Education
162 and is consistent with subsection (c) of section 10-145a, subsection (g) of
163 section 10-233c and sections 1 and 3 of public act 08-160, shall not be
164 required to provide in-service training on the identification and
165 prevention of and response to bullying] provided such school violence
166 prevention training shall be in a manner prescribed in a school security
167 and safety plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-222n, (4)
168 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other emergency life saving
169 procedures, (5) the requirements and obligations of a mandated
170 reporter, (6) the detection and recognition of, and evidence-based
171 structured literacy interventions for, students with dyslexia, as defined
172 in section 10-3d, (7) [culturally responsive pedagogy and practice,
173 including, but not limited to, the video training module relating to
174 implicit bias and anti-bias in the hiring process in accordance with the
175 provisions of section 10-156hh, and (8) the principles and practices of
176 social-emotional learning and restorative practices] the laws governing
177 the implementation of planning and placement team meetings and
178 concerning plans pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of

179 1973, as amended from time to time, (8) an annual update of the new
180 state and federal policies concerning special education,
181 recommendations and best practices, and (9) emergency response to
182 students who experience a seizure in a school, including, but not limited
183 to, the recognition of the signs and symptoms of seizures, the
184 appropriate steps for seizure first aid, information about seizure action
185 plans for students and, for those authorized to administer medication
186 under section 10-212a, the administration of seizure rescue medication
187 or prescribed electrical stimulation using a Vagus Nerve Stimulator
188 magnet. The manner and frequency of the provision of the information
189 described in subdivisions (1) to (9), inclusive, of this subsection shall be
190 determined by the professional development and evaluation committee,
191 established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, provided such
192 information is provided at least once every five years. Each local or
193 regional board of education may allow any [paraprofessional]
194 paraeducator or noncertified employee to participate, on a voluntary
195 basis, in any in-service training program provided pursuant to this
196 section.

197 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 10-222d of the general statutes is
198 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
199 *2024*):

200 (b) Each local and regional board of education shall develop and
201 implement a safe school climate plan to address the existence of bullying
202 and teen dating violence in its schools. Such plan shall: (1) Enable
203 students to anonymously report acts of bullying to school employees
204 and require students and the parents or guardians of students to be
205 notified at the beginning of each school year of the process by which
206 students may make such reports, (2) enable the parents or guardians of
207 students to file written reports of suspected bullying, (3) require school
208 employees who witness acts of bullying or receive reports of bullying to
209 orally notify the safe school climate specialist, described in section 10-
210 222k, or another school administrator if the safe school climate specialist
211 is unavailable, not later than one school day after such school employee
212 witnesses or receives a report of bullying, and to file a written report not

213 later than two school days after making such oral report, (4) require the
214 safe school climate specialist to investigate or supervise the
215 investigation of all reports of bullying and ensure that such
216 investigation is completed promptly after receipt of any written reports
217 made under this section and that the parents or guardians of the student
218 alleged to have committed an act or acts of bullying and the parents or
219 guardians of the student against whom such alleged act or acts were
220 directed receive prompt notice that such investigation has commenced,
221 (5) require the safe school climate specialist to review any anonymous
222 reports, except that no disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the
223 basis of an anonymous report, (6) include a prevention and intervention
224 strategy, as defined by section 10-222g, for school employees to deal
225 with bullying and teen dating violence, (7) provide for the inclusion of
226 language in student codes of conduct concerning bullying, (8) require
227 each school to notify the parents or guardians of students who commit
228 any verified acts of bullying and the parents or guardians of students
229 against whom such acts were directed not later than forty-eight hours
230 after the completion of the investigation described in subdivision (4) of
231 this subsection (A) of the results of such investigation, and (B) verbally
232 and by electronic mail, if such parents' or guardians' electronic mail
233 addresses are known, that such parents or guardians may refer to the
234 plain language explanation of the rights and remedies available under
235 sections 10-4a and 10-4b published on the Internet web site of the local
236 or regional board of education pursuant to section 10-222r, (9) require
237 each school to invite the parents or guardians of a student against whom
238 such act was directed to a meeting to communicate to such parents or
239 guardians the measures being taken by the school to ensure the safety
240 of the student against whom such act was directed and policies and
241 procedures in place to prevent further acts of bullying, (10) require each
242 school to invite the parents or guardians of a student who commits any
243 verified act of bullying to a meeting, separate and distinct from the
244 meeting required in subdivision (9) of this subsection, to discuss specific
245 interventions undertaken by the school to prevent further acts of
246 bullying, (11) establish a procedure for each school to document and
247 maintain records relating to reports and investigations of bullying in

248 such school and to maintain a list of the number of verified acts of
249 bullying in such school and make such list available for public
250 inspection, and annually report such number to the Department of
251 Education, and in such manner as prescribed by the Commissioner of
252 Education, (12) direct the development of case-by-case interventions for
253 addressing repeated incidents of bullying against a single individual or
254 recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the same individual that
255 may include both counseling and discipline, (13) prohibit
256 discrimination and retaliation against an individual who reports or
257 assists in the investigation of an act of bullying, (14) direct the
258 development of student safety support plans for students against whom
259 an act of bullying was directed that address safety measures the school
260 will take to protect such students against further acts of bullying, (15)
261 require the principal of a school, or the principal's designee, to notify the
262 appropriate local law enforcement agency when such principal, or the
263 principal's designee, believes that any acts of bullying constitute
264 criminal conduct, (16) prohibit bullying (A) on school grounds, at a
265 school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program
266 whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus
267 or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of
268 education, or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic
269 mobile device owned, leased or used by the local or regional board of
270 education, and (B) outside of the school setting if such bullying (i)
271 creates a hostile environment at school for the student against whom
272 such bullying was directed, or (ii) infringes on the rights of the student
273 against whom such bullying was directed at school, or (iii) substantially
274 disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school, (17)
275 require, at the beginning of each school year, each school to provide all
276 school employees with a written or electronic copy of the school
277 district's safe school climate plan, and (18) require that all school
278 employees annually complete the training described in [section 10-220a
279 or] section 10-222j. The notification required pursuant to subdivision (8)
280 of this subsection and the invitation required pursuant to subdivision
281 (9) of this subsection shall include a description of the response of school
282 employees to such acts and any consequences that may result from the

283 commission of further acts of bullying.

284 Sec. 5. Section 10-233m of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
285 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
286 *1, 2024*):

287 Each local or regional board of education that assigns a school
288 resource officer to any school under the jurisdiction of such board shall
289 enter into a memorandum of understanding with a local law
290 enforcement agency regarding the role and responsibility of such school
291 resource officer. Such memorandum of understanding shall (1) be
292 maintained in a central location in the school district and posted on the
293 Internet web site of the school district and each school in which such
294 school resource officer is assigned, (2) include provisions addressing
295 daily interactions between students and school personnel with school
296 resource officers, and (3) include a graduated response model for
297 student discipline. Any such memorandum of understanding entered
298 into, extended, updated or amended (A) on or after July 1, 2021, shall
299 include a provision that requires all school resource officers to complete,
300 while in the performance of their duties as school resource officers and
301 during periods when such school resource officers are assigned to be at
302 the school, any separate training specifically related to social-emotional
303 learning and restorative practices provided to certified employees of the
304 school pursuant to [sections] section 10-148a, [and 10-220a,] and (B) on
305 or after July 1, 2023, shall include provisions specifying a school
306 resource officer's duties concerning, and procedures for, the restraint of
307 students, use of firearms, school-based arrests and reporting of any
308 investigations and behavioral interventions of challenging behavior or
309 conflict that escalates to violence or constitutes a crime, pursuant to the
310 provisions of section 10-233p, as amended by this act, provided such
311 provisions are in accordance with any laws or policies concerning the
312 duties of police officers. For the purposes of this section, "school
313 resource officer" means a sworn police officer of a local law enforcement
314 agency who has been assigned to a school pursuant to an agreement
315 between the local or regional board of education and the chief of police
316 of a local law enforcement agency.

317 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 22a-226e of the 2024 supplement to
318 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
319 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

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

331 (2) On and after January 1, 2020, each commercial food wholesaler or
332 distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor, supermarket,
333 resort or conference center that is located not more than twenty miles
334 from an authorized source-separated organic material composting
335 facility and that generates an average projected volume of not less than
336 fifty-two tons per year of source-separated organic materials shall: (A)
337 Separate such source-separated organic materials from other solid
338 waste; and (B) ensure that such source-separated organic materials are
339 recycled at any authorized source-separated organic material
340 composting facility that has available capacity and that will accept such
341 source-separated organic material.

342 (3) On and after January 1, 2022, each commercial food wholesaler or
343 distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor, supermarket,
344 resort or conference center that is located not more than twenty miles
345 from either an authorized source-separated organic material
346 composting facility an authorized transfer station or any collection
347 location authorized to receive source-separated organic materials, and
348 that generates an average projected volume of not less than twenty-six
349 tons per year of source-separated organic materials shall: (A) Separate

350 such source-separated organic materials from other solid waste; and (B)
351 ensure that such source-separated organic materials are recycled at any
352 authorized source-separated organic material composting facility that
353 has available capacity and that will accept such source-separated
354 organic material.

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

369 (5) On and after July 1, 2026, each public or nonpublic school building
370 or educational facility in which students in grades kindergarten to
371 twelve, inclusive, or any combination thereof, are enrolled, that is
372 located not more than twenty miles from either an authorized source-
373 separated organic material composting facility and that generates an
374 average projected volume of not less than twenty-six tons per year of
375 source-separated organic materials shall: (A) Separate such source-
376 separated organic materials from other solid waste; and (B) ensure that
377 such source-separated organic materials are recycled at any authorized
378 source-separated organic material composting facility that has available
379 capacity and that will accept such source-separated organic material.

380 Sec. 7. Section 10-248a of the general statutes is repealed and the
381 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

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

396 Sec. 8. Subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 10-51 of the general
397 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
398 (*Effective from passage*):

399 (2) [On and after June 7, 2006] For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024,
400 and each fiscal year thereafter, a regional board of education, by a
401 majority vote of its members, may create a reserve fund for [capital and
402 nonrecurring] educational expenditures. Such fund shall thereafter be
403 termed ["reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures"]
404 "reserve fund for educational expenditures". The aggregate amount of
405 annual and supplemental appropriations by a district to such fund shall
406 not exceed two per cent of the annual district budget for such fiscal year.
407 Annual appropriations to such fund shall be included in the share of net
408 expenses to be paid by each member town. Supplemental
409 appropriations to such fund may be made from estimated fiscal year
410 end surplus in operating funds. Interest and investment earnings
411 received with respect to amounts held in the fund shall be credited to
412 such fund. The board shall annually submit a complete and detailed
413 report of the condition of such fund to the member towns. Upon the
414 recommendation and approval by the regional board of education, any
415 part or the whole of such fund may be used for [capital and

416 nonrecurring] educational expenditures. [, but such use shall be
417 restricted to the funding of all or part of the planning, construction,
418 reconstruction or acquisition of any specific capital improvement or the
419 acquisition of any specific item of equipment.] Upon the approval of any
420 such expenditure an appropriation shall be set up, plainly designated
421 for the [project or acquisition] educational expenditure for which it has
422 been authorized. [, and such unexpended appropriation may be
423 continued until such project or acquisition is completed.] Any
424 unexpended portion of such appropriation remaining [after such
425 completion] shall revert to said fund. If any authorized appropriation is
426 set up pursuant to the provisions of this subsection and through
427 unforeseen circumstances [the completion of the project or acquisition
428 for which such appropriation has been designated is impossible to
429 attain] the board is unable to expend the total amount of such
430 appropriation, the board, by a majority vote of its members, may
431 terminate such appropriation which then shall no longer be in effect.
432 Such fund may be discontinued, after the recommendation and
433 approval by the regional board of education, and any amounts held in
434 the fund shall be transferred to the general fund of the district.

435 Sec. 9. Section 10-221a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
436 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
437 *1, 2024*):

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

446 (b) For classes graduating from 2004 to 2022, inclusive, no local or
447 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
448 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily

449 completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than four of which
450 shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics, not fewer than
451 three in social studies, including at least a one-half credit course on
452 civics and American government, not fewer than two in science, not
453 fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and not fewer than
454 one in physical education.

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

468 [(d) Commencing with classes graduating in 2025, and for each
469 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education shall
470 permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to
471 any student who has not satisfied the requirements of section 10-221z
472 and not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty-five credits,
473 including not fewer than: (1) Nine credits in the humanities, including
474 civics and the arts; (2) nine credits in science, technology, engineering
475 and mathematics; (3) one credit in physical education and wellness; (4)
476 one credit in health and safety education, as described in section 10-16b;
477 and (5) one credit in world languages, subject to the provisions of
478 subsection (h) of this section. A local or regional board of education may
479 require a student to complete a one credit mastery-based diploma
480 assessment in order to graduate from high school or be granted a
481 diploma.]

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

499 [(f)] (e) Commencing with classes graduating in 2023, and for each
500 graduating class thereafter, local and regional boards of education shall
501 provide adequate student support and remedial services for students
502 beginning in grade seven. Such student support and remedial services
503 shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of the high
504 school graduation requirements described in subsections (c) [to (e) ,
505 inclusive,] and (d) of this section, if such student is unable to
506 satisfactorily complete any of the required courses or exams. Such
507 student support and remedial services shall include, but not be limited
508 to, (1) allowing students to retake courses in summer school or through
509 an on-line course; (2) allowing students to enroll in a class offered at a
510 constituent unit of the state system of higher education, as defined in
511 section 10a-1, pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection [(i)] (h) of this
512 section; (3) allowing students who received a failing score, as
513 determined by the Commissioner of Education, on an end of the school
514 year exam to take an alternate form of the exam; and (4) allowing those
515 students whose individualized education programs state that such

516 students are eligible for an alternate assessment to demonstrate
517 competency on any of the five core courses through success on such
518 alternate assessment.

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

526 ~~[(h)]~~ (g) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of
527 the local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of
528 the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject
529 matter of the specified course requirements. The local or regional board
530 of education may permit a student to graduate during a period of
531 expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the
532 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to
533 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student
534 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when the
535 planning and placement team for such student determines the
536 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, a credit
537 shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute class period
538 for each school day of a school year except for a credit or part of a credit
539 toward high school graduation earned (1) at an institution accredited by
540 the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher
541 Education or regionally accredited, (2) through on-line coursework that
542 is in accordance with a policy adopted pursuant to subsection ~~[(i)]~~ (h) of
543 this section, or (3) through a demonstration of mastery based on
544 competency and performance standards, in accordance with guidelines
545 adopted by the State Board of Education.

546 ~~[(i)]~~ (h) Only courses taken in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, and
547 that are in accordance with the state-wide subject matter content
548 standards, adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to section

549 10-4, shall satisfy the graduation requirements set forth in this section,
550 except that a local or regional board of education may grant a student
551 credit (1) toward meeting the high school graduation requirements
552 upon the successful demonstration of mastery of the subject matter
553 content described in this section achieved through educational
554 experiences and opportunities that provide flexible and multiple
555 pathways to learning, including cross-curricular graduation
556 requirements, career and technical education, virtual learning, work-
557 based learning, service learning, dual enrollment and early college,
558 courses taken in middle school, internships and student-designed
559 independent studies, provided such demonstration of mastery is in
560 accordance with such state-wide subject matter content standards; (2)
561 toward meeting a specified course requirement upon the successful
562 completion in grade seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of
563 which corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course
564 requirement in grades nine to twelve, inclusive; (3) toward meeting the
565 high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of
566 a world language course (A) in grade six, seven or eight, (B) through on-
567 line coursework, or (C) offered privately through a nonprofit provider,
568 provided such student achieves a passing grade on an examination
569 prescribed, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of
570 Education and such credits do not exceed four; (4) toward meeting the
571 high school graduation requirement upon achievement of a passing
572 grade on a subject area proficiency examination identified and
573 approved, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of
574 Education, regardless of the number of hours the student spent in a
575 public school classroom learning such subject matter; (5) toward
576 meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful
577 completion of coursework during the school year or summer months at
578 an institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education
579 or Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited. One three-credit
580 semester course, or its equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-
581 half credit for purposes of this section; (6) toward meeting the high
582 school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of on-
583 line coursework, provided the local or regional board of education has

584 adopted a policy in accordance with this subdivision for the granting of
585 credit for on-line coursework. Such a policy shall ensure, at a minimum,
586 that (A) the workload required by the on-line course is equivalent to that
587 of a similar course taught in a traditional classroom setting, (B) the
588 content is rigorous and aligned with curriculum guidelines approved
589 by the State Board of Education, where appropriate, (C) the course
590 engages students and has interactive components, which may include,
591 but are not limited to, required interactions between students and their
592 teachers, participation in on-line demonstrations, discussion boards or
593 virtual labs, (D) the program of instruction for such on-line coursework
594 is planned, ongoing and systematic, and (E) the courses are (i) taught by
595 teachers who are certified in the state or another state and have received
596 training on teaching in an on-line environment, or (ii) offered by
597 institutions of higher education that are accredited by the Board of
598 Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or
599 regionally accredited; or (7) toward meeting the high school graduation
600 requirement upon the successful completion of a credit recovery
601 program approved by the Commissioner of Education.

602 [(j)] (i) A local or regional board of education may offer one-half credit
603 in community service which, if satisfactorily completed, shall qualify for
604 high school graduation credit pursuant to this section, provided such
605 community service is supervised by a certified school administrator or
606 teacher and consists of not less than fifty hours of actual service that may
607 be performed at times when school is not regularly in session and not
608 less than ten hours of related classroom instruction. [For purposes of
609 this section, community service does not include partisan political
610 activities.] The State Board of Education shall assist local and regional
611 boards of education in meeting the requirements of this section. [The
612 State Board of Education shall award a community service recognition
613 award to any student who satisfactorily completes fifty hours or more
614 of community service in accordance with the provisions of this
615 subsection.]

616 [(k)] (j) (1) A local or regional board of education may award a
617 diploma to a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103,

618 which veteran or person served during World War II or the Korean
619 hostilities, as described in section 51-49h, or during the Vietnam Era, as
620 defined in section 27-103, withdrew from high school prior to
621 graduation in order to serve in the armed forces of the United States and
622 did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such service.

623 (2) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma to
624 any person who (A) withdrew from high school prior to graduation to
625 work in a job that assisted the war effort during World War II, December
626 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, inclusive, (B) did not receive a diploma as
627 a consequence of such work, and (C) has been a resident of the state for
628 at least fifty consecutive years.

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

637 (B) If no such local or regional board of education can be identified,
638 the Department of Children and Families shall determine whether a
639 student educated under the oversight of the education unit of the
640 department who is seventeen years of age or older has satisfactorily
641 completed the minimum credits required pursuant to this section for
642 students graduating in the year in which a diploma is sought by such
643 student and the department shall award a diploma to any such student
644 who has met such requirement.

645 [(l)] (k) For the school year commencing July 1, 2012, and each school
646 year thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall create a
647 student success plan for each student enrolled in a public school,
648 beginning in grade six. Such student success plan shall include a
649 student's career and academic choices in grades six to twelve, inclusive.

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

668 [(m)] (l) Commencing with classes graduating in 2018, and for each
669 graduating class thereafter, a local or regional board of education may
670 affix the Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy, as described in subsection
671 (f) of section 10-5, to a diploma awarded to a student who has achieved
672 a high level of proficiency in English and one or more foreign languages,
673 as defined in said subsection (f). The local or regional board of education
674 shall include on such student's transcript a designation that the student
675 received the Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy.

676 Sec. 10. Section 10-221z of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
677 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
678 *1, 2024*):

679 (a) No local or regional board of education shall permit any student
680 to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to any student
681 pursuant to section 10-221a, as amended by this act, unless such student
682 has (1) completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, (2)

683 completed and submitted to a public institution of higher education an
684 application for institutional financial aid for students without legal
685 immigration status established pursuant to section 10a-161d, or (3)
686 completed a waiver, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b)
687 of this section and on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of
688 Education, signed by such minor student's parent or legal guardian or
689 by such student if such student is a legally emancipated minor or
690 eighteen years of age or older.

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

707 (c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any student
708 enrolled in an incorporated or endowed high school or academy
709 approved pursuant to section 10-34 and who holds an F-1 visa.

710 Sec. 11. Subsection (b) of section 10-761l of the 2024 supplement to the
711 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
712 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

713 (b) On or before July 1, 2015, the State Board of Education shall draft
714 a written bill of rights for parents of children receiving special education

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

733 Sec. 12. Subsection (b) of section 10-221x of the 2024 supplement to
734 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
735 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

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

749 a student, may decline to implement the provisions of an academic plan
750 created for such student.

751 Sec. 13. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 10-233a of the general
752 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
753 (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

754 (c) "In-school suspension" means an exclusion from regular
755 classroom activity for no more than [ten] five consecutive school days,
756 but not exclusion from school, provided such exclusion shall not extend
757 beyond the end of the school year in which such in-school suspension
758 was imposed.

759 (d) "Suspension" means an exclusion from school privileges or from
760 transportation services only, [for no more than ten consecutive school
761 days,] provided such exclusion shall not extend beyond the end of the
762 school year in which such suspension was imposed.

763 Sec. 14. Subsection (g) of section 10-233c of the general statutes is
764 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
765 *2024*):

766 (g) On and after July 1, 2015, all suspensions pursuant to this section
767 shall be in-school suspensions, except a local or regional board of
768 education may authorize the administration of schools under its
769 direction to impose an out-of-school suspension on any pupil in (1)
770 grades three to twelve, inclusive, if, during the hearing held pursuant to
771 subsection (a) of this section, (A) the administration determines that the
772 pupil being suspended poses such a danger to persons or property or
773 such a disruption of the educational process that the pupil shall be
774 excluded from school during the period of suspension, or (B) the
775 administration determines that an out-of-school suspension is
776 appropriate for such pupil based on evidence of (i) previous disciplinary
777 problems that have led to suspensions or expulsion of such pupil, and
778 (ii) efforts by the administration to address such disciplinary problems
779 through means other than out-of-school suspension or expulsion,
780 including positive behavioral support strategies, or (2) grades preschool

781 to two, inclusive, if during the hearing held pursuant to subsection (a)
782 of this section, the administration (A) determines that an out-of-school
783 suspension is appropriate for such pupil based on evidence that such
784 pupil's conduct on school grounds is [of a violent or sexual nature that
785 endangers persons] behavior that causes physical harm, (B) requires
786 that such pupil receives services that are trauma-informed and
787 developmentally appropriate and align with any behavioral
788 intervention plan, individualized education program or plan pursuant
789 to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time
790 to time, for such pupil upon such pupil's return to school immediately
791 following the out-of-school suspension, and (C) considers whether to
792 convene a planning and placement team meeting for the purposes of
793 conducting an evaluation to determine whether such pupil may require
794 special education or related services. An out-of-school suspension
795 imposed under subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not exceed ten
796 school days, and an out-of-school suspension imposed under
797 subdivision (2) of this subsection shall not exceed five school days. An
798 in-school suspension may be served in the school that the pupil attends,
799 or in any school building under the jurisdiction of the local or regional
800 board of education, as determined by such board. Nothing in this
801 section shall limit a person's duty as a mandated reporter pursuant to
802 section 17-101a to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

803 Sec. 15. Section 10-233p of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
804 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
805 *1, 2024*):

806 Each school resource officer, as defined in section 10-233m, as
807 amended by this act, shall submit to the chief of police of such school
808 resource officer's local law enforcement agency a report for each
809 investigation or behavioral intervention of challenging behavior or
810 conflict that escalates to violence or constitutes a crime conducted by
811 such school resource officer not later than five school days after
812 conducting such investigation or behavioral intervention. The chief of
813 police shall submit such report to the superintendent of schools for the
814 school district in which such investigation or behavioral intervention

815 occurred in accordance with the provisions of the memorandum of
816 understanding entered into pursuant to section 10-233m, as amended
817 by this act, but shall be not less frequently than monthly. If the chief of
818 police of the school resource officer's local law enforcement agency is
819 not certified by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council
820 pursuant to section 7-294d, such school resource officer shall submit
821 such report directly to the superintendent of schools for the school
822 district in which such investigation or behavioral intervention occurred
823 in the same manner specified in this section for the chief of police to
824 submit such report. Such superintendent shall submit such report to the
825 local or regional board of education of the school district. Such report
826 shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) the date, time and location
827 of such investigation or behavioral intervention, (2) the name and badge
828 number of such school resource officer, (3) the race, ethnicity, gender,
829 age and disability status for each student involved in such investigation
830 or behavioral intervention, (4) the reason for and nature of such
831 investigation or behavioral intervention, (5) the disposition of such
832 investigation or behavioral intervention, and (6) whether any student
833 involved in such investigation or behavioral intervention was (A)
834 searched, (B) apprised of such student's constitutional rights, (C) issued
835 a citation or a summons, (D) arrested, or (E) detained, including the
836 amount of time such student was detained. For purposes of this section,
837 "investigation or behavioral intervention" means a circumstance in
838 which a school resource officer is conducting (i) a fact-finding inquiry
839 concerning student behavior or school safety, including, but not limited
840 to, emergency circumstances, or (ii) an intervention to resolve violent or
841 nonviolent student behavior or conflicts.

842 Sec. 16. Subsection (a) of section 10-222q of the 2024 supplement to
843 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
844 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

845 (a) There is established a social and emotional learning and school
846 climate advisory collaborative. The collaborative shall (1) collect
847 information concerning the school climate improvement efforts of local
848 and regional boards of education, (2) document any needs articulated

849 by local and regional boards of education for technical assistance and
850 training relating to fostering positive school climates, (3) identify best
851 practices for promoting positive school climates, (4) direct resources to
852 support state-wide and local initiatives on issues relating to fostering
853 and improving positive school climates and improving access to social
854 and emotional learning in schools, (5) develop an assessment for
855 screening students in grades three to twelve, inclusive, to determine
856 whether such students are at risk for suicide, (6) develop a biennial state-
857 wide school climate survey, as described in subsection (c) of section 2 of
858 public act 19-166, (7) develop a model positive school climate policy, as
859 described in subsection (a) of section 2 of public act 19-166, (8) develop
860 a plain language explanation of the rights and remedies available under
861 sections 10-4a and 10-4b for distribution to parents and guardians
862 pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of section 10-222d, and
863 provide such explanation to each local and regional board of education
864 not later than January 1, 2021, (9) develop school climate survey
865 standards, including, but not limited to, standards for the collection of
866 data on diversity, equity and inclusion and for the reduction in
867 disparities in data collection between school districts, (10) develop a
868 model school climate improvement plan, and [(9)] (11) perform other
869 functions concerning social and emotional learning and fostering
870 positive school climates.

871 Sec. 17. Subsection (a) of section 10-222q of the 2024 supplement to
872 the general statutes, as amended by section 65 of public act 23-167, is
873 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
874 *2025*):

875 (a) There is established a social and emotional learning and school
876 climate advisory collaborative. The collaborative shall (1) collect
877 information concerning the school climate improvement efforts of local
878 and regional boards of education, (2) document any needs articulated
879 by local and regional boards of education for technical assistance and
880 training relating to fostering positive school climates, (3) identify best
881 practices for promoting positive school climates, (4) direct resources to
882 support state-wide and local initiatives on issues relating to fostering

883 and improving positive school climates and improving access to social
884 and emotional learning in schools, (5) develop an assessment for
885 screening students in grades three to twelve, inclusive, to determine
886 whether such students are at risk for suicide, (6) develop a biennial state-
887 wide school climate survey, as described in subsection (c) of section 2 of
888 public act 19-166, (7) adopt a Connecticut school climate policy, as
889 defined in section 10-222aa, as amended by this act, (8) develop a plain
890 language explanation of the rights and remedies available under
891 sections 10-4a and 10-4b for distribution to parents and guardians, and
892 provide such explanation to each local and regional board of education
893 not later than January 1, 2021, (9) develop standards for a school climate
894 survey, including, but not limited to, standards for the collection of data
895 on diversity, equity and inclusion and for the reduction in disparities in
896 data collection between school districts, (10) develop a model school
897 climate improvement plan, and [(9)] (11) perform other functions
898 concerning social and emotional learning and fostering positive school
899 climates.

900 Sec. 18. Subdivision (12) of section 10-222aa of the 2024 supplement
901 to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
902 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

903 (12) "School climate survey" means a research-based, validated and
904 developmentally appropriate survey administered to students, school
905 employees and families of students, in the predominant languages of
906 the members of the school community, that (A) measures and identifies
907 school climate needs and tracks progress through a school climate
908 improvement plan, and (B) (i) meets the school climate survey standards
909 developed by the social and emotional learning and school climate
910 advisory collaborative, established pursuant to section 10-222q, as
911 amended by this act, or (ii) is the state-wide school climate survey
912 developed by said collaborative.

913 Sec. 19. Subsection (a) of section 10-222hh of the 2024 supplement to
914 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
915 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

916 (a) For the school year commencing July 1, 2025, and each school year
917 thereafter, the school climate specialist, as described in section 10-222ee,
918 for each school, in collaboration with the school climate coordinator, as
919 described in section 10-222dd, shall develop, and update as necessary, a
920 school climate improvement plan. Such plan shall be based on the
921 results of the school climate survey, administered pursuant to section
922 10-222gg, any recommendations from the school climate committee, as
923 described in section 10-222ff, the protocols and supports, described in
924 subsection (b) of this section and any other data the school climate
925 specialist and school climate coordinator deemed relevant. Such plan
926 [shall be submitted] may incorporate the model school climate
927 improvement plan developed by the social and emotional learning and
928 school climate advisory collaborative, established pursuant to section
929 10-222q, as amended by this act. The school climate specialist shall
930 submit such plan to the school climate coordinator for review and
931 approval on or before December thirty-first of each school year. Upon
932 approval of such plan, a written or electronic copy of such plan shall be
933 made available to members of the school community and such plan shall
934 be used in the prevention of, identification of and response to
935 challenging behavior.

936 Sec. 20. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) The Department of Education
937 shall, within available appropriations, appoint a director of school
938 climate improvement to serve as the state-wide social and emotional
939 learning and school climate expert. The director of school climate
940 improvement shall (1) assist local and regional boards of education with
941 the implementation of (A) sections 10-222t to 10-222v, inclusive, and
942 sections 10-222aa to 10-222jj, inclusive, of the general statutes, as
943 amended by this act, and (B) the Connecticut school climate policy, as
944 defined in section 10-222aa of the general statutes, as amended by this
945 act, (2) assist the social and emotional learning and school climate
946 advisory collaborative, established pursuant to section 10-222q of the
947 general statutes, as amended by this act, in the development and
948 implementation of tools and best practices related to school climate and
949 culture, including, but not limited to, the development of a model school

950 climate survey and a model school climate improvement plan, (3)
951 provide information and assistance to local and regional boards of
952 education, students and parents and guardians of students on the
953 uniform bullying complaint form created pursuant to section 10-222bb
954 of the general statutes, (4) not later than January 1, 2026, and annually
955 thereafter, submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section
956 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the
957 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
958 on recommendations for best practices and improvement of school
959 climate improvement strategies in this state, (5) assist school climate
960 coordinators, appointed pursuant to section 10-222dd of the general
961 statutes, in the development of a continuum of strategies to prevent,
962 identify and respond to challenging behavior, (6) develop and provide
963 technical assistance and recommendations, in collaboration with the
964 social and emotional learning and school climate advisory collaborative,
965 to local and regional boards of education on trainings for school
966 employees for the purposes of school climate improvement, and (7) in
967 collaboration with the social and emotional learning and school climate
968 advisory collaborative, develop strategies to improve the delivery of
969 services concerning social and emotional learning, skills building and
970 mental health supports.

971 Sec. 21. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

972 (1) "At-risk student" means a student who is enrolled in high school
973 and is in danger of not graduating for reasons including, but not limited
974 to, (A) not earning sufficient credits to meet the high school graduation
975 requirements under section 10-221a of the general statutes, as amended
976 by this act, (B) being a chronically absent child, or (C) behavioral and
977 other disciplinary issues, such as suspensions and expulsions;

978 (2) "Chronically absent child" has the same meaning as provided in
979 section 10-198c of the general statutes; and

980 (3) "Disconnected youth" means an individual who is fourteen to
981 twenty-six years of age, inclusive, and who is (A) an at-risk student, or

982 (B) not enrolled in high school, and (i) has not obtained a high school
983 diploma or its equivalent, (ii) has obtained a high school diploma or its
984 equivalent but is unemployed and not enrolled in an adult education
985 program, institution of higher education or otherwise pursuing
986 postsecondary education, or a workforce training or certification
987 program, including an apprenticeship program, or (iii) is incarcerated.

988 (b) The Connecticut Preschool Through Twenty and Workforce
989 Information Network, established pursuant to section 10a-57g of the
990 general statutes, shall develop a plan to establish a state-wide data
991 intermediary that is responsible for (1) providing technical support, (2)
992 creating data sharing agreements, and (3) building and maintaining the
993 infrastructure necessary to share data between nonprofit organizations
994 serving disconnected youth. Not later than January 1, 2025, the
995 executive board of the Connecticut Preschool Through Twenty and
996 Workforce Information Network shall submit such plan to the joint
997 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
998 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
999 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

1000 Sec. 22. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2025, and
1001 annually thereafter, the executive board of the Connecticut Preschool
1002 Through Twenty and Workforce Information Network, established
1003 pursuant to section 10a-57g of the general statutes, shall submit an
1004 annual report on disconnected youth. In developing such report, the
1005 executive board shall use the data model established through the data
1006 sharing agreement 0043 regarding Research on Disengaged and
1007 Disconnected Youth in Connecticut. The executive board shall submit
1008 such report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
1009 having cognizance of matters relating to education, children, the
1010 judiciary, labor, human services, public health and appropriations, in
1011 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
1012 As used in this section, "disconnected youth" has the same meaning as
1013 provided in section 21 of this act.

1014 Sec. 23. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section:

1015 (1) "Education records" has the same meaning as provided in 34 CFR
1016 99.3, as amended from time to time; and

1017 (2) "Youth service bureau" means a youth service bureau established
1018 pursuant to section 10-19m of the general statutes, as amended by this
1019 act.

1020 (b) A local or regional board of education shall, upon request of the
1021 youth service bureau that provides services for such board, enter into a
1022 memorandum of understanding with such youth service bureau
1023 regarding the circumstances under which educational records of
1024 students may be shared between the board and the youth service bureau
1025 in the provision of services for which such youth service bureau is
1026 providing for such board.

1027 (c) Any memorandum of understanding entered into under this
1028 section shall require that the local or regional board of education shall
1029 provide, and such youth service bureau shall receive and maintain, any
1030 educational records of students in a manner that is in accordance with
1031 the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 USC 1232g,
1032 as amended from time to time, and 34 CFR 99.1 et seq., as amended from
1033 time to time.

1034 Sec. 24. Subsection (a) of section 10-19m of the general statutes is
1035 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1036 *2024*):

1037 (a) For the purposes of this section, "youth" means a person from birth
1038 to eighteen years of age. Any one or more municipalities or any one or
1039 more private youth-serving organizations, designated to act as agents
1040 of one or more municipalities or local or regional boards of education,
1041 may establish a multipurpose youth service bureau for the purposes of
1042 evaluation, planning, coordination and implementation of services,
1043 including prevention and intervention programs for delinquent,
1044 predelinquent, pregnant, parenting and troubled youths referred to
1045 such bureau by [schools] local or regional boards of education, police,
1046 juvenile courts, adult courts, local youth-serving agencies, parents and

1047 self-referrals. A youth service bureau shall be the coordinating unit of
1048 community-based services to provide comprehensive delivery of
1049 prevention, intervention, treatment and follow-up services.

1050 Sec. 25. Section 10-74j of the general statutes is repealed and the
1051 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1052 (a) As used in this section, "alternative education" means a school or
1053 program maintained and operated by a local or regional board of
1054 education that is offered to students in a nontraditional educational
1055 setting and addresses the social, emotional, behavioral and academic
1056 needs of such students.

1057 (b) A local or regional board of education may provide alternative
1058 education to students, in accordance with guidelines established by the
1059 State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-74k. A local or regional
1060 board of education may use space in an existing school or establish a
1061 new school for the purposes of providing alternative education to
1062 students. Alternative education shall be provided in accordance with
1063 the provisions of sections 10-15 and 10-16 and shall be subject to all
1064 federal and state laws governing public schools.

1065 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall make available
1066 on its Internet web site information relating to alternative education
1067 offered under this section, including, but not limited to, the purpose,
1068 location, contact information, staff directory and enrollment criteria for
1069 such alternative education.

1070 (d) For the school year commencing July 1, 2024, and each school year
1071 thereafter, any local or regional board of education that includes a credit
1072 recovery program as part of its alternative education provided under
1073 this section shall permit any student enrolled in a traditional school
1074 program offered by such board and who is at risk of not graduating to
1075 enroll in such credit recovery program while still enrolled in the
1076 traditional school program.

1077 Sec. 26. Section 4-124ll of the general statutes is repealed and the

1078 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1079 (a) On or before July 1, 2023, the Chief Workforce Officer, in
1080 consultation with the Commissioner of Education, the executive
1081 director of the Technical Education and Career System and the Labor
1082 Commissioner, shall develop a model student work release policy. Not
1083 later than July 1, 2023, the Chief Workforce Officer shall report, in
1084 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, regarding such model
1085 student work release policy to the joint standing committees of the
1086 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
1087 commerce and labor.

1088 (b) The Chief Workforce Officer, in consultation with the
1089 Commissioner of Education, may update the model student work
1090 release policy developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section as
1091 needed. The Chief Workforce Officer shall notify each local and regional
1092 board of education of such updated model student work release policy.

1093 (c) For the school year commencing July 1, 2024, and each school year
1094 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall adopt the
1095 model student work release policy developed pursuant to subsection (a)
1096 of this section or the most recent updated model student work release
1097 policy developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

1098 Sec. 27. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The executive director of the
1099 Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, or the executive
1100 director's designee, may convene a working group to conduct a review
1101 of and make recommendations regarding the high school graduation
1102 requirements, described in section 10-221a of the general statutes, as
1103 amended by this act, for the purpose of identifying those requirements
1104 that have the effect of limiting or restricting the provision of instruction
1105 or services to students.

1106 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

1107 (1) A representative from each of the following organizations,
1108 designated by each such organization:

- 1109 (A) The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education;
- 1110 (B) The Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents;
- 1111 (C) The Connecticut PTA;
- 1112 (D) The American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut;
- 1113 (E) The Connecticut Education Association;
- 1114 (F) The Connecticut Association of Schools;
- 1115 (G) The Connecticut Federation of School Administrators;
- 1116 (H) The Connecticut School Counselor Association;
- 1117 (I) The Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education,
1118 Recreation and Dance; and
- 1119 (J) The education and workforce affiliate of the Connecticut Business
1120 and Industry Association;
- 1121 (2) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
1122 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
1123 relating to education, or the chairpersons' and ranking members'
1124 designees;
- 1125 (3) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;
1126 and
- 1127 (4) Any additional member deemed appropriate by the chairperson
1128 of the working group.
- 1129 (c) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not
1130 later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy
1131 shall be filled by the appointing authority.
- 1132 (d) The executive director of the Connecticut Association of Boards
1133 of Education, or the executive director's designee, shall serve as the
1134 chairperson of the working group. The chairperson shall schedule the

1135 first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than
1136 sixty days after the effective date of this section.

1137 (e) The working group may provide an opportunity for public
1138 comment or seek input from students, parents, educators, boards of
1139 education and other education stakeholders while conducting the
1140 review and developing its recommendations under this section.

1141 (f) Not later than January 1, 2026, the working group shall submit a
1142 report on its review of such graduation requirements and its
1143 recommendations for revisions to such graduation requirements to the
1144 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
1145 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
1146 section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate
1147 on the date that it submits such report or July 1, 2026, whichever is later.

1148 Sec. 28. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The president of the Connecticut
1149 Education Association, or the president's designee, and the president of
1150 the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut, or the president's
1151 designee, may jointly convene a working group to conduct a review of
1152 (1) high school grading policies in use by local and regional boards of
1153 education, (2) the accountability index, as defined in section 10-223e of
1154 the general statutes, and (3) the information and data selected by the
1155 Department of Education in the calculation of accountability index
1156 scores for school districts.

1157 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

1158 (1) A representative from each of the following organizations,
1159 designated by each such organization:

1160 (A) The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education;

1161 (B) The Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents;

1162 (C) The Connecticut PTA;

1163 (D) The American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut;

- 1164 (E) The Connecticut Education Association;
- 1165 (F) The Connecticut Association of Schools;
- 1166 (G) The Connecticut Federation of School Administrators;
- 1167 (H) The Connecticut School Counselor Association;
- 1168 (I) The Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education,
1169 Recreation and Dance; and
- 1170 (J) The education and workforce affiliate of the Connecticut Business
1171 and Industry Association;
- 1172 (2) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
1173 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
1174 relating to education, or the chairpersons' and ranking members'
1175 designees;
- 1176 (3) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;
1177 and
- 1178 (4) Any additional member deemed appropriate by the
1179 cochairpersons of the working group.
- 1180 (c) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not
1181 later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy
1182 shall be filled by the appointing authority.
- 1183 (d) The president of the Connecticut Education Association, or the
1184 president's designee, and the president of the American Federation of
1185 Teachers-Connecticut, or the president's designee, shall serve as the
1186 cochairpersons of the working group. The cochairpersons shall jointly
1187 schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not
1188 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.
- 1189 (e) The working group may provide an opportunity for public
1190 comment or seek input from students, parents, educators, boards of
1191 education and other education stakeholders while conducting the

1192 review and developing its recommendations under this section.

1193 (f) Not later than January 1, 2026, the working group shall submit a
1194 report on its review of high school grading policies, the accountability
1195 index and the calculation of the accountability index to the joint
1196 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
1197 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
1198 section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate
1199 on the date that it submits such report or July 1, 2026, whichever is later.

1200 Sec. 29. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
1201 develop recommendations for the creation and administration of a state-
1202 wide program for the delivery of bereavement and grief counseling
1203 services to children and families at no cost to participants. The task force
1204 shall make recommendations for (1) the appropriate agency or agencies
1205 to administer such program, (2) the scope of services offered by such
1206 program, including, but not limited to, the provision of culturally
1207 informed services and services to marginalized communities, (3) the
1208 role that existing bereavement and grief counseling services programs
1209 and school-based health centers should have in the delivery of services
1210 under such program, (4) the delivery of services by such program in
1211 areas of the state where such services do not currently exist or are not
1212 sufficient, and the resources that will be needed to deliver services to
1213 such areas, (5) long-term funding sources for such program, and (6) any
1214 additional considerations identified by the task force.

1215 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

1216 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
1217 who shall be a representative of a bereavement and grief counseling
1218 services program that serves children and families;

1219 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
1220 shall be a representative of a state-wide association of school-based
1221 health centers;

1222 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of

1223 Representatives, who shall be a representative of a state-wide
1224 association of school counselors;

1225 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
1226 a representative of the state chapter of a national nonprofit organization
1227 that works to improve the lives of children and families;

1228 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
1229 Representatives, who shall be a representative of a child study center
1230 affiliated with a medical school in the state;

1231 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
1232 a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 383 of the general statutes,
1233 who has expertise in treating bereaved children;

1234 (7) One appointed jointly by the House chairperson and the House
1235 ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General
1236 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, who has
1237 experience with grief and bereavement;

1238 (8) One appointed jointly by the Senate chairperson and the Senate
1239 ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General
1240 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, who is a
1241 representative of the Connecticut Association of School Psychologists;

1242 (9) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
1243 designee;

1244 (10) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
1245 commissioner's designee;

1246 (11) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or
1247 the commissioner's designee;

1248 (12) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;
1249 and

1250 (13) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,

1251 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee.

1252 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
1253 (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) or (8) of subsection (b) of this section may be a
1254 member of the General Assembly.

1255 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
1256 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
1257 be filled by the appointing authority.

1258 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
1259 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
1260 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
1261 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
1262 days after the effective date of this section.

1263 (f) The administrative staff of the Commission on Women, Children,
1264 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity shall serve as administrative staff of
1265 the task force.

1266 (g) Not later than July 1, 2025, the task force shall submit a report on
1267 its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees of
1268 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
1269 health and children, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
1270 of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
1271 submits such report or July 1, 2025, whichever is later.

1272 Sec. 30. Section 1 of public act 23-160 is repealed. (*Effective July 1,*
1273 *2024*)"

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>	10-220a(a)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-220a(a)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-222d(b)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-233m

Sec. 6	July 1, 2024	22a-226e(a)
Sec. 7	from passage	10-248a
Sec. 8	from passage	10-51(d)(2)
Sec. 9	July 1, 2024	10-221a
Sec. 10	July 1, 2024	10-221z
Sec. 11	July 1, 2024	10-76ll(b)
Sec. 12	July 1, 2024	10-221x(b)
Sec. 13	July 1, 2024	10-233a(c) and (d)
Sec. 14	July 1, 2024	10-233c(g)
Sec. 15	July 1, 2024	10-233p
Sec. 16	July 1, 2024	10-222q(a)
Sec. 17	July 1, 2025	10-222q(a)
Sec. 18	July 1, 2024	10-222aa(12)
Sec. 19	July 1, 2024	10-222hh(a)
Sec. 20	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 21	from passage	New section
Sec. 22	from passage	New section
Sec. 23	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 24	July 1, 2024	10-19m(a)
Sec. 25	July 1, 2024	10-74j
Sec. 26	July 1, 2024	4-124ll
Sec. 27	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 28	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 29	from passage	New section
Sec. 30	July 1, 2024	Repealer section