



# House of Representatives

**File No. 667**

General Assembly

February Session, 2024

**(Reprint of File No. 369)**

Substitute House Bill No. 5436  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 3, 2024

**AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION, TEACHERS,  
PARAEDUCATORS AND MANDATED REPORTER REQUIREMENTS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-145b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

3 (a) The State Board of Education, upon receipt of a proper  
4 application, shall issue an initial educator certificate to any person who  
5 (1) holds a bachelor's degree or an advanced degree from an institution  
6 of higher education that is regionally accredited or has received an  
7 equivalent accreditation, and (2) has [completed (A) an educator  
8 preparation program approved by the State Board of Education or the  
9 appropriate governing body in the state in which the institution of  
10 higher education is located, or (B) an alternate route to certification  
11 program approved by the State Board of Education or the appropriate  
12 governing body in the state in which such alternate route to certification  
13 program is located, and satisfies the requirements for a temporary

14 ninety-day certificate, pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, or a  
15 resident teacher certificate, pursuant to section 10-145m] successfully  
16 completed one of the pathways described in section 6 of this act. In  
17 addition, on and after July 1, 2018, each applicant shall have completed  
18 a subject area major as defined by the State Board of Education, except  
19 [(i)] (A) as provided in section 10-145l, or [(ii)] (B) where an applicant  
20 achieves a satisfactory evaluation on an appropriate State Board of  
21 Education approved subject area assessment or has completed  
22 advanced coursework in a relevant subject area. [Each] Any such initial  
23 educator certificate issued prior to July 1, 2025, that has not expired on  
24 or before July 1, 2025, shall be extended to be valid for a period of ten  
25 years from the date of issuance, and any such initial educator certificate  
26 issued on and after July 1, 2025, shall be valid for [three] ten years [,  
27 except as provided in subsection (c) of this section,] and may be  
28 extended by the Commissioner of Education for an additional year for  
29 good cause upon the request of the superintendent in whose school  
30 district such person is employed or upon the request of the assessment  
31 team reviewing such person's performance, provided the commissioner  
32 may not grant such extension more than three times to any person. The  
33 commissioner may, upon application, reissue an initial educator  
34 certificate to any person who holds, but has not served under, an initial  
35 educator certificate, if such person can demonstrate that he or she  
36 satisfies the preparation and eligibility requirements that were in place  
37 at the time such initial educator certificate was originally issued to such  
38 person.

39 (b) During the period of employment in a public school, a person  
40 holding an initial educator certificate shall (1) be under the supervision  
41 of the superintendent of schools or of a principal, administrator or  
42 supervisor designated by such superintendent who shall regularly  
43 observe, guide and evaluate the performance of assigned duties by such  
44 holder of an initial certificate, and (2) participate in a beginning educator  
45 program if there is such a program for such person's certification  
46 endorsement area.

47 (c) (1) The State Board of Education, upon request of a local or

48 regional board of education, shall issue a temporary ninety-day  
49 certificate to any applicant in the certification endorsement areas of  
50 elementary education, middle grades education, secondary academic  
51 subjects, special subjects or fields, special education, early childhood  
52 education and administration and supervision, or in the certification  
53 endorsement areas corresponding to teacher shortage areas, as  
54 determined by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 10-  
55 8b, when the following conditions are met:

56 (A) The employing agent of a board of education makes a written  
57 request for the issuance of such certificate and attests to the existence of  
58 a special plan for supervision of temporary ninety-day certificate  
59 holders;

60 (B) The applicant meets the following requirements, except as  
61 otherwise provided in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision:

62 (i) Holds a bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education  
63 accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of  
64 Higher Education or regionally accredited with a major either in or  
65 closely related to the certification endorsement area in which the  
66 requesting board of education is placing the applicant or, in the case of  
67 secondary or special subject or field endorsement area, possesses at least  
68 the minimum total number of semester hours of credit required for the  
69 content area, except as provided in section 10-145/;

70 (ii) Has met the requirements pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-  
71 145f, as amended by this act;

72 (iii) Presents a written application on such forms as the  
73 Commissioner of Education shall prescribe;

74 (iv) Has successfully completed an alternate route to certification  
75 program provided by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or the  
76 Office of Higher Education or public or independent institutions of  
77 higher education, regional educational service centers or private teacher  
78 or administrator training organizations and approved by the State

79 Board of Education;

80 (v) Possesses an undergraduate college overall grade point average  
81 of at least "B" or, if the applicant has completed at least twenty-four  
82 hours of graduate credit, possesses a graduate grade point average of at  
83 least "B"; and

84 (vi) Presents supporting evidence of appropriate experience working  
85 with children; and

86 (C) The Commissioner of Education may waive the requirements of  
87 subparagraphs (B)(v) or (B)(vi), or both, of this subdivision upon a  
88 showing of good cause.

89 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section on  
90 and after July 1, 1989, the State Board of Education, upon receipt of a  
91 proper application, shall issue an initial educator certificate [, which  
92 shall be valid for three years,] to any person who has taught successfully  
93 while holding a temporary ninety-day certificate and meets the  
94 requirements established in regulations adopted pursuant to section 10-  
95 145d, as amended by this act.

96 (d) (1) On and after July 1, 2019, in order to be eligible to obtain an  
97 initial educator certificate, each person shall be required to complete (A)  
98 a course of study in special education comprised of not fewer than  
99 thirty-six hours, which shall include (i) instruction on the growth and  
100 development of exceptional children, including children with a  
101 disability, gifted and talented children and children who may require  
102 special education, and (ii) methods for identifying, planning for and  
103 working effectively with special needs children in a regular classroom,  
104 and (B) a course or courses of study in special education relating to  
105 instruction on classroom techniques in reading, differentiated  
106 instruction, social-emotional learning, culturally responsive pedagogy  
107 and practice and assistive technology. The provisions of this subdivision  
108 shall not apply to any person who has been issued an initial educator  
109 certificate prior to July 1, 2019.

110 (2) On and after July 1, 2016, in order to be eligible to obtain a  
111 provisional educator certificate, each person shall be required to  
112 complete a course of study in special education comprised of not fewer  
113 than thirty-six hours, which shall include an understanding of the  
114 growth and development of exceptional children, including children  
115 with a disability, gifted and talented children and children who may  
116 require special education, and methods for identifying, planning for and  
117 working effectively with special needs children in a regular classroom.

118 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection to the contrary,  
119 each applicant for such certificates who has met all requirements for  
120 certification except the completion of the course in special education  
121 shall be entitled to a certificate (A) for a period not to exceed one year,  
122 provided the applicant completed a teacher preparation program either  
123 in the state prior to July 1, 1987, or outside the state, or completed the  
124 necessary combination of professional experience or coursework as  
125 required by the State Board of Education, or (B) for a period not to  
126 exceed two years if the applicant applies for certification in an area for  
127 which a bachelor's degree is not required.

128 (e) (1) On and after July 1, 1989, and until June 30, 2025, the State  
129 Board of Education, upon receipt of a proper application, shall issue a  
130 provisional educator certificate to any person who [(1)] (A) has  
131 successfully completed a beginning educator program and one school  
132 year of successful teaching as attested to by the superintendent, or the  
133 superintendent's designee, in whose local or regional school district  
134 such person was employed, [(2)] (B) has completed at least three years  
135 of successful teaching in a public school in another state or a nonpublic  
136 school approved by the State Board of Education or appropriate  
137 governing body in another state within ten years prior to application for  
138 such provisional educator certificate, as attested to by the  
139 superintendent, or the superintendent's designee, in whose school  
140 district such person was employed, or by the supervising agent of the  
141 nonpublic school in which such person was employed, and has met  
142 preparation and eligibility requirements for an initial educator  
143 certificate, or [(3)] (C) has successfully taught with a provisional

144 teaching certificate for the year immediately preceding an application  
145 for a provisional educator certificate as an employee of a local or  
146 regional board of education or facility approved for special education  
147 by the State Board of Education. The commissioner may, upon  
148 application, reissue a provisional educator certificate to any person who  
149 holds a provisional educator certificate, if such person can demonstrate  
150 that he or she satisfies the preparation and eligibility requirements that  
151 were in place at the time such provisional educator certificate was  
152 originally issued to such person.

153 (2) The commissioner may not issue or reissue any provisional  
154 educator certificates on or after July 1, 2025. Any person who holds a  
155 provisional educator certificate and is not eligible to advance to the  
156 professional educator certificate shall be eligible to be issued an initial  
157 educator certificate.

158 (f) Any person holding a standard or permanent certificate on July 1,  
159 1989, shall be eligible to receive upon application a professional  
160 educator certificate to replace said standard or permanent certificate. On  
161 and after July 1, 1989, standard and permanent certificates shall no  
162 longer be valid.

163 (g) (1) On or after July 1, 1989, and prior to July 1, 2018, to qualify for  
164 a professional educator certificate, a person who holds or has held a  
165 provisional educator certificate under subsection (e) of this section shall  
166 have completed thirty credit hours of course work beyond the  
167 baccalaureate degree. It is not necessary that such course work be taken  
168 for a master's degree and such work may include graduate or  
169 undergraduate courses.

170 (2) On and after July 1, 2018, and prior to July 1, 2025, to qualify for a  
171 professional educator certificate, a person who holds or has held a  
172 provisional educator certificate under subsection (d) of this section shall  
173 hold a master's degree in an appropriate subject matter area, as  
174 determined by the State Board of Education, related to such teacher's  
175 certification endorsement area.

176       (3) On and after July 1, 2025, to qualify for a professional educator  
177 certificate, a person who holds an initial educator certificate or a  
178 provisional educator certificate shall (A) have completed at least fifty  
179 school months of successful teaching for one or more boards of  
180 education or approved nonpublic schools in this state while holding  
181 such initial educator certificate or provisional educator certificate, (B)  
182 have satisfactorily completed the teacher education and mentoring  
183 program, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-145o, and (C)  
184 either (i) hold a master's degree or higher in an appropriate subject  
185 matter area, or (ii) complete an alternate pathway to professional  
186 licensure jointly approved by the State Board of Education and the  
187 Educator Preparation and Certification Board. On and after July 1, 2025,  
188 the state board, upon receipt of a proper application, shall issue a  
189 professional educator certificate to any person who satisfies the  
190 qualifications described in this subdivision, except the state board may  
191 waive the requirement described in subparagraph (C) of this  
192 subdivision upon a showing of good cause.

193       [(h) (1) Unless otherwise provided in regulations adopted under  
194 section 10-145d, in not less than three years or more than eight years  
195 after the issuance of a provisional educator certificate pursuant to  
196 subsection (e) of this section and upon the statement of the  
197 superintendent, or the superintendent's designee, in whose school  
198 district such certificate holder was employed, or the supervisory agent  
199 of a nonpublic school approved by the State Board of Education, in  
200 whose school such certificate holder was employed, that the provisional  
201 educator certificate holder and such superintendent, or such  
202 superintendent's designee, or supervisory agent have mutually  
203 determined or approved an individual program pursuant to  
204 subdivision (2) of subsection (g) of this section and upon the statement  
205 of such superintendent, or such superintendent's designee, or  
206 supervisory agent that such certificate holder has a record of  
207 competency in the discharge of such certificate holder's duties during  
208 such provisional period, the state board upon receipt of a proper  
209 application shall issue such certificate holder a professional educator

210 certificate. A signed recommendation from the superintendent of  
211 schools, or the superintendent's designee, for the local or regional board  
212 of education or from the supervisory agent of a nonpublic school  
213 approved by the State Board of Education shall be evidence of  
214 competency. Such recommendation shall state that the person who  
215 holds or has held a provisional educator certificate has successfully  
216 completed at least three school years of satisfactory teaching for one or  
217 more local or regional boards of education or such nonpublic schools.  
218 Each applicant for a certificate pursuant to this subsection shall provide  
219 to the Department of Education, in such manner and form as prescribed  
220 by the commissioner, evidence that the applicant has successfully  
221 completed coursework pursuant to subsection (g) of this section, as  
222 appropriate.]

223 [(2)] (h) Each professional educator certificate shall be valid for ten  
224 years and continued every ten years thereafter.

225 [(3) Except as otherwise provided in section 10-146c, upon receipt of  
226 a proper application, the State Board of Education shall issue to a teacher  
227 from another state, territory or possession of the United States or the  
228 District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico who (A) has  
229 taught in another state, territory or possession of the United States or  
230 the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for a  
231 minimum of two years in the preceding ten years, (B) has received at  
232 least two satisfactory performance evaluations while teaching in such  
233 other state, territory or possession of the United States or the District of  
234 Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and (C) has fulfilled  
235 post-preparation assessments as approved by the commissioner, a  
236 provisional educator certificate with the appropriate endorsement,  
237 subject to the provisions of subsection (i) of this section relating to denial  
238 of applications for certification. An applicant who has taught under an  
239 appropriate certificate issued by another state, territory or possession of  
240 the United States or the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of  
241 Puerto Rico for two or more years shall be exempt from completing the  
242 beginning educator program based upon such teaching experience  
243 upon a showing of effectiveness as a teacher, as determined by the State



244 Board of Education, which may include, but need not be limited to, a  
245 demonstrated record of improving student achievement. An applicant  
246 who has successfully completed a teacher preparation program or an  
247 alternate route to certification program in another state, territory or  
248 possession of the United States or the District of Columbia or the  
249 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and holds an appropriate certificate  
250 issued by another state, territory or possession of the United States or  
251 the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall not  
252 be required to complete a course of study in special education, pursuant  
253 to subsection (d) of this section. An applicant with two or more years of  
254 teaching experience in this state at a nonpublic school, approved by the  
255 State Board of Education, in the past ten years shall be exempt from  
256 completing the beginning educator program based upon such teaching  
257 experience upon a showing of effectiveness as a teacher, as determined  
258 by the State Board of Education, which may include, but need not be  
259 limited to, a demonstrated record of improving student achievement.]

260 (i) (1) The State Board of Education may take one or more of the  
261 following actions, in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2)  
262 of this subsection, against a person holding a certificate, permit or  
263 authorization based on conduct that occurred prior or subsequent to the  
264 issuance of such certificate, permit or authorization: (A) Revoke the  
265 holder's certificate, permit or authorization; (B) suspend the holder's  
266 certificate, permit or authorization; or (C) place the holder's certificate  
267 on probation, subject to conditions determined by the Commissioner of  
268 Education.

269 (2) The State Board of Education may take any of the actions  
270 described in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of  
271 this subsection with respect to a holder's certificate, permit or  
272 authorization issued pursuant to sections 10-144o to 10-149, inclusive,  
273 for any of the following reasons: (A) The holder of the certificate, permit  
274 or authorization obtained such certificate, permit or authorization  
275 through fraud or misrepresentation of a material fact; (B) the holder has  
276 persistently neglected to perform the duties for which the certificate,  
277 permit or authorization was granted; (C) the holder is professionally

278 unfit to perform the duties for which the certificate, permit or  
279 authorization was granted; (D) the holder is convicted in a court of law  
280 of a crime involving moral turpitude or of any other crime of such  
281 nature that in the opinion of the board continued holding of a certificate,  
282 permit or authorization by the person would impair the standing of  
283 certificates, permits or authorizations issued by the board; or (E) other  
284 due and sufficient cause. The State Board of Education may revoke any  
285 certificate, permit or authorization issued pursuant to said sections if the  
286 holder is found to have intentionally disclosed specific questions or  
287 answers to students or otherwise improperly breached the security of  
288 any administration of a mastery examination, pursuant to section 10-  
289 14n. In any revocation proceeding pursuant to this section, the State  
290 Board of Education shall have the burden of establishing the reason for  
291 such revocation by a preponderance of the evidence. Revocation shall  
292 be in accordance with procedures established by the State Board of  
293 Education pursuant to chapter 54.

294 (3) When the Commissioner of Education is notified, pursuant to  
295 section 10-149a, as amended by this act, or 17a-101i, as amended by this  
296 act, that a person holding a certificate, permit or authorization issued by  
297 the State Board of Education under the provisions of sections 10-144o to  
298 10-149, inclusive, has been convicted of (A) a capital felony, under the  
299 provisions of section 53a-54b in effect prior to April 25, 2012, (B) arson  
300 murder, pursuant to section 53a-54d, (C) a class A felony, (D) a class B  
301 felony, except a violation of section 53a-122, 53a-252 or 53a-291, (E) a  
302 crime involving an act of child abuse or neglect as described in section  
303 46b-120, or (F) a violation of section [17a-101a] 17a-101o, as amended by  
304 this act, 53-21, 53-37a, 53a-60b, 53a-60c, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b, 53a-  
305 73a, 53a-88, 53a-90a, 53a-99, 53a-103a, 53a-181c, 53a-191, 53a-196, 53a-  
306 196c, 53a-216, 53a-217b or 21a-278 or subsection (a) of section 21a-277,  
307 any certificate, permit or authorization issued by the State Board of  
308 Education and held by such person shall be deemed revoked and the  
309 commissioner shall notify such person of such revocation, provided  
310 such person may request reconsideration pursuant to regulations  
311 adopted by the State Board of Education, in accordance with the

312 provisions of chapter 54. As part of such reconsideration process, the  
313 board shall make the initial determination as to whether to uphold or  
314 overturn the revocation. The commissioner shall make the final  
315 determination as to whether to uphold or overturn the revocation.

316 (4) The State Board of Education may deny an application for the  
317 initial issuance or renewal of a certificate, permit or authorization for  
318 any of the following reasons: (A) The applicant seeks to obtain a  
319 certificate, permit or authorization through fraud or misrepresentation  
320 of a material fact; (B) the applicant has been convicted in a court of law  
321 of a crime involving moral turpitude or of any other crime of such  
322 nature that in the opinion of the board issuance of a certificate, permit  
323 or authorization would impair the standing of certificates, permits or  
324 authorizations issued by the board; or (C) other due and sufficient cause.  
325 Any applicant denied a certificate, permit or authorization shall be  
326 notified in writing of the reasons for denial. Any applicant denied a  
327 certificate, permit or authorization may request a review of such denial  
328 by the State Board of Education.

329 (5) A person whose certificate, permit or authorization has been  
330 denied, revoked or suspended may not be employed in a public school  
331 during the period of denial, revocation or suspension. A person whose  
332 certificate, permit or authorization has been placed on probation may be  
333 employed in a public school during the period of probation in  
334 accordance with the terms of such probation.

335 (6) The State Board of Education may take any of the actions  
336 described in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of  
337 this subsection, with respect to an applicant's or holder's certificate,  
338 permit or authorization a result of the applicant or holder having been  
339 subject to disciplinary action for any of the reasons described in  
340 subdivision (2) of this subsection by a duly authorized professional  
341 disciplinary agency of any state, a federal governmental agency, the  
342 District of Columbia, a United States possession or territory or a foreign  
343 jurisdiction. The State Board of Education may rely upon the findings  
344 and conclusions made by a duly authorized professional disciplinary

345 agency of any state, a federal governmental agency, the District of  
346 Columbia, a United States possession or territory or foreign jurisdiction  
347 in taking such action.

348 (7) Any local or regional board of education or private special  
349 education facility approved by the commissioner shall report to the  
350 commissioner when an employee, who holds a certificate, permit or  
351 authorization, is dismissed pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (d)  
352 of section 10-151.

353 (8) The State Board of Education may, pursuant to chapter 54, adopt  
354 or revise regulations relating to the procedure by which the State Board  
355 of Education may take any of the actions described in subparagraphs  
356 (A) to (C), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

357 (j) Not later than thirty days after receipt of notification, any initial  
358 educator certificate holder who is not granted a provisional educator  
359 certificate, or any provisional educator certificate holder who is not  
360 granted a professional educator certificate, or any professional educator  
361 certificate holder who is not granted a continuation, under the  
362 provisions of sections 10-145a to 10-145d, inclusive, as amended by this  
363 act, and 10-146b, may appeal to the State Board of Education for  
364 reconsideration. Said board shall review the records of the appropriate  
365 certification period, and, if a hearing is requested in writing, hold such  
366 hearing not later than sixty days after such request and render a written  
367 decision not later than thirty days after the conclusion of such hearing.  
368 Any teacher aggrieved by the decision of said board may appeal from  
369 such decision in accordance with the provisions of section 4-183 and  
370 such appeal shall be privileged with respect to assignment of such  
371 appeal.

372 (k) For the purposes of this section "supervisory agent" means the  
373 superintendent of schools or the principal, administrator or supervisor  
374 designated by such superintendent to provide direct supervision to a  
375 provisional certificate holder.

376 (l) Upon application to the State Board of Education for the issuance

377 of any certificate in accordance with this section and section 10-145d, as  
378 amended by this act, there shall be paid to the board by or on behalf of  
379 the applicant a nonreturnable fee of two hundred dollars in the case of  
380 an applicant for an initial educator certificate, two hundred fifty dollars  
381 in the case of an applicant for a provisional educator certificate and three  
382 hundred seventy-five dollars in the case of an applicant for a  
383 professional educator certificate, except that applicants for certificates  
384 for teaching adult education programs mandated under subparagraph  
385 (A) of subsection (a) of section 10-69 shall pay a fee of one hundred  
386 dollars; persons eligible for a certificate or endorsement for which the  
387 fee is less than that applied for shall receive an appropriate refund;  
388 persons not eligible for any certificate shall receive a refund of the  
389 application fee minus fifty dollars; and persons holding standard or  
390 permanent certificates on July 1, 1989, who apply for professional  
391 certificates to replace the standard or permanent certificates, shall not be  
392 required to pay such a fee. Upon application to the State Board of  
393 Education for the issuance of a subject area endorsement there shall be  
394 paid to the board by or on behalf of such applicant a nonreturnable fee  
395 of one hundred dollars. With each request for a duplicate copy of any  
396 such certificate or endorsement there shall be paid to the board a  
397 nonreturnable fee of fifty dollars.

398 Sec. 2. Subsection (f) of section 10-145d of the 2024 supplement to the  
399 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
400 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

401 (f) (1) (A) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (B) of this  
402 subdivision, (i) an endorsement issued prior to July 1, 2013, to teach  
403 elementary education grades one to six, inclusive, shall be valid for  
404 grades kindergarten to six, inclusive, and (ii) for the period commencing  
405 July 1, 2013, until June 30, 2025, for such an endorsement issued [on or  
406 after] between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2025, the endorsement shall be  
407 valid for grades one to six, inclusive, except such an endorsement issued  
408 between July 1, 2013, and July 1, 2017, to any student who was admitted  
409 to and successfully completes a teacher preparation program, as defined  
410 in section 10-10a, in the certification endorsement area of elementary

411 education on or before June 30, 2017, shall be valid for grades  
412 kindergarten to six, inclusive.

413 (B) The Commissioner of Education may permit, upon the request of  
414 a superintendent, any person who holds such endorsement issued [on  
415 or after] between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2025, to teach kindergarten  
416 for one school year. The commissioner may, upon the request of such  
417 superintendent, permit such person who so taught kindergarten under  
418 such endorsement for one school year to teach kindergarten an  
419 additional school year.

420 (C) An endorsement to teach elementary education grades one to six,  
421 inclusive, or an endorsement to teach elementary education grades  
422 kindergarten to six, inclusive, issued prior to July 1, 2025, shall be valid  
423 for grades prekindergarten to six, inclusive.

424 (D) An endorsement to teach elementary education issued on and  
425 after July 1, 2025, shall be valid for grades prekindergarten to six,  
426 inclusive.

427 (2) An endorsement to teach comprehensive special education grades  
428 one to twelve, inclusive, shall be valid for grades prekindergarten to  
429 twelve, inclusive. On and after September 1, 2013, any (A) certified  
430 employee applying for a comprehensive special education  
431 endorsement, or (B) applicant for an initial, provisional or professional  
432 educator certificate and a comprehensive special education  
433 endorsement shall achieve a satisfactory score on the reading instruction  
434 examination approved by the State Board of Education on April 1, 2009,  
435 or a comparable reading instruction examination with minimum  
436 standards that are equivalent to the examination approved by the State  
437 Board of Education on April 1, 2009.

438 (3) On and after July 1, 2024, the following endorsements issued prior  
439 to or on or after July 1, 2024, and for grades seven to twelve, inclusive,  
440 shall be valid for grades four to twelve, inclusive: Biology, business,  
441 chemistry, earth science, English, French, German, general science,  
442 history and social studies, Italian, Latin and classical humanities,

443 Mandarin Chinese, mathematics, Portuguese, physics, Russian, Spanish  
444 and any other world language.

445 Sec. 3. Section 10-145a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes  
446 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
447 *1, 2024*):

448 (a) Any candidate in a program of teacher preparation leading to  
449 professional certification shall be encouraged to successfully complete  
450 an intergroup relations component of such a program which shall be  
451 developed with the participation of both sexes, and persons of various  
452 ethnic, cultural and economic backgrounds. Such intergroup relations  
453 program shall have the following objectives: (1) The imparting of an  
454 appreciation of the contributions to American civilization of the various  
455 ethnic, cultural and economic groups composing American society and  
456 an understanding of the life styles of such groups; (2) the counteracting  
457 of biases, discrimination and prejudices; and (3) the assurance of respect  
458 for human diversity and personal rights. The State Board of Education,  
459 the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the Commission on Human  
460 Rights and Opportunities and the Commission on Women, Children,  
461 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity shall establish a joint committee  
462 composed of members of the four agencies, which shall develop and  
463 implement such programs in intergroup relations.

464 (b) Any candidate in a program of teacher preparation leading to  
465 professional certification shall be encouraged to complete a (1) health  
466 component of such a program, which includes, but need not be limited  
467 to, human growth and development, nutrition, first aid, disease  
468 prevention and community and consumer health, and (2) mental health  
469 component of such a program, which includes, but need not be limited  
470 to, youth suicide, child abuse and alcohol and drug abuse.

471 (c) Any candidate in a program of teacher preparation leading to  
472 professional certification shall complete a school violence, bullying, as  
473 defined in section 10-222d, as amended by this act, and suicide  
474 prevention and conflict resolution component of such a program.

475 (d) On and after July 1, 2020, any program of teacher preparation  
476 leading to professional certification shall include, as part of the  
477 curriculum, instruction in computer science, and instruction in  
478 information technology skills as applied to student learning and  
479 classroom instruction that are grade-level and subject area appropriate.

480 (e) On and after July 1, 2006, any program of teacher preparation  
481 leading to professional certification shall include, as part of the  
482 curriculum, instruction in literacy skills and processes that reflects  
483 current research and best practices in the field of literacy training. Such  
484 instruction shall (1) be incorporated into requirements of student major  
485 and concentration, and (2) on and after July 1, 2015, include not fewer  
486 than twelve clock hours of instruction in the detection and recognition  
487 of, and evidence-based structured literacy interventions for, students  
488 with dyslexia, as defined in section 10-3d.

489 (f) On and after July 1, 2006, any program of teacher preparation  
490 leading to professional certification shall include, as part of the  
491 curriculum, instruction in the concepts of second language learning and  
492 second language acquisition and processes that reflects current research  
493 and best practices in the field of second language learning and second  
494 language acquisition. Such instruction shall be incorporated into  
495 requirements of student major and concentration.

496 (g) On and after July 1, 2011, any program of teacher preparation  
497 leading to professional certification may permit teaching experience in  
498 a nonpublic school, approved by the State Board of Education, and  
499 offered through a public or private institution of higher education to  
500 count towards the preparation and eligibility requirements for an initial  
501 educator certificate, provided such teaching experience is completed as  
502 part of a cooperating teacher program, in accordance with the  
503 provisions of subsection (d) of section 10-220a.

504 (h) On and after July 1, 2019, any candidate entering a program of  
505 teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall be  
506 required to complete training in competency areas contained in the



507 professional teaching standards established by the State Board of  
508 Education, including, but not limited to, development and  
509 characteristics of learners, evidence-based and standards-based  
510 instruction, evidence-based classroom and behavior management,  
511 assessment and professional behaviors and responsibilities and the  
512 awareness and identification of the unique learning style of gifted and  
513 talented children, social and emotional development and learning of  
514 children, and culturally responsive pedagogy and practice. The training  
515 in social and emotional development and learning of children shall  
516 include instruction concerning a comprehensive, coordinated social and  
517 emotional assessment and early intervention for children displaying  
518 behaviors associated with social or emotional problems, the availability  
519 of treatment services for such children and referring such children for  
520 assessment, intervention or treatment services. The training in culturally  
521 responsive pedagogy and practice shall include instruction concerning  
522 the awareness of students' background and experience that lead to the  
523 development of skills, knowledge and behaviors that enable educators  
524 and students to build positive relationships and work effectively in  
525 cross-cultural situations.

526 (i) On and after July 1, 2023, any program of teacher preparation  
527 leading to professional certification shall require, as part of the  
528 curriculum, clinical experience, field experience or student teaching  
529 experience in a classroom during four semesters of such program of  
530 teacher preparation. Such clinical experience, field experience or student  
531 teaching experience may include a cooperating teacher serving as a  
532 mentor to student teachers.

533 (j) On and after July 1, 2012, any program of teacher preparation  
534 leading to professional certification shall include, as part of the  
535 curriculum, instruction in the implementation of student individualized  
536 education programs as it relates to the provision of special education  
537 and related services, including, but not limited to, the provision of  
538 services to gifted and talented children.

539 (k) On and after July 1, 2025, any program of teacher preparation

540 leading to professional certification in the endorsement area of  
541 elementary education shall also be aligned with any professional  
542 standards and competencies for early childhood educators developed  
543 by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

544 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) On and after July 1, 2024, any  
545 person who holds an initial educator certificate, a provisional educator  
546 certificate or a professional educator certificate, and whose endorsement  
547 has been revised pursuant to section 10-145d of the general statutes, as  
548 amended by this act, shall not be required to submit an application for  
549 the issuance of any such revised endorsement and shall be allowed to  
550 provide instruction in any course in which the subject matter content of  
551 such course corresponds with such revised endorsement. On and after  
552 July 1, 2026, the State Board of Education shall assign such revised  
553 endorsement upon the issuance or reissuance of any professional  
554 educator certificate.

555 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 10-145f of the general statutes is  
556 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
557 *2024*):

558 (b) (1) Any person who does not hold a valid certificate pursuant to  
559 section 10-145b, as amended by this act, shall achieve a satisfactory  
560 evaluation on the appropriate State Board of Education approved  
561 subject area assessment in order to be eligible for a certificate pursuant  
562 to said section unless such assessment has not been approved by the  
563 State Board of Education at the time of application, in which case the  
564 applicant shall not be denied a certificate solely because of the lack of an  
565 evaluation on such assessment.

566 (2) Any person applying for an additional certification endorsement  
567 shall achieve a satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate State Board of  
568 Education approved subject area assessment in order to be eligible for  
569 such additional endorsement, unless such assessment has not been  
570 approved by the State Board of Education at the time of application, in  
571 which case the applicant shall not be denied the additional endorsement

572 solely because of the lack of an evaluation on such assessment.

573 (3) On and after July 1, 1992, any teacher who held a valid teaching  
574 certificate but whose certificate lapsed and who had completed all  
575 requirements for the issuance of a new certificate pursuant to section 10-  
576 145b, as amended by this act, except for filing an application for such  
577 certificate, prior to the date on which the lapse occurred, may file, within  
578 one year of the date on which the lapse occurred, an application with  
579 the Commissioner of Education for the issuance of such certificate.  
580 Upon the filing of such an application, the commissioner may grant such  
581 certificate and such certificate shall be retroactive to the date on which  
582 the lapse occurred, provided the commissioner finds that the lapse of  
583 the certificate occurred as a result of a hardship or extenuating  
584 circumstances beyond the control of the applicant. If such teacher has  
585 attained tenure and is reemployed by the same board of education in  
586 any equivalent unfilled position for which the person is qualified as a  
587 result of the issuance of a certificate pursuant to this subdivision, the  
588 lapse period shall not constitute a break in employment for such person  
589 reemployed and shall be used for the purpose of calculating continuous  
590 employment pursuant to section 10-151. If such teacher has not attained  
591 tenure, the time unemployed due to the lapse of a certificate shall not be  
592 counted toward tenure, except that if such teacher is reemployed by the  
593 same board of education as a result of the issuance of a certificate  
594 pursuant to this subdivision, such teacher may count the previous  
595 continuous employment immediately prior to the lapse towards tenure.  
596 Using information provided by the Teachers' Retirement Board, the  
597 Department of Education shall annually notify each local or regional  
598 board of education of the name of each teacher employed by such board  
599 of education whose provisional certificate will expire during the period  
600 of twelve months following such notice. Upon receipt of such notice the  
601 superintendent of each local and regional board of education shall  
602 notify each such teacher in writing, at such teacher's last-known  
603 address, that the teacher's provisional certificate will expire.

604 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection to the contrary,  
605 to be eligible for a certificate to teach subjects for which a bachelor's

606 degree is not required, any applicant who is otherwise eligible for  
607 certification in such endorsement areas shall be entitled to a certificate  
608 without having met the requirements of the competency examination  
609 and subject area assessment pursuant to this subsection for a period not  
610 to exceed two years, except that for a certificate to teach skilled trades  
611 or trade-related or occupational subjects, the commissioner may waive  
612 the requirement that the applicant take the competency examination.  
613 The commissioner may, upon the showing of good cause, extend the  
614 certificate.

615 (5) On and after July 1, 2011, any person applying for a certification  
616 in the endorsement area of elementary education shall achieve a  
617 satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate State Board of Education  
618 approved mathematics assessment in order to be eligible for such  
619 elementary education endorsement.

620 (6) On and after July 1, 2018, any person who holds an initial,  
621 provisional or professional educator certificate and achieves a  
622 satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate State Board of Education  
623 approved subject area assessment shall be issued a cross endorsement  
624 in the relevant certification endorsement area corresponding to a  
625 teacher shortage area, as determined by the Commissioner of Education  
626 pursuant to section 10-8b.

627 (7) On and after July 1, 2024, any person who holds an initial educator  
628 certificate, a provisional educator certificate or a professional educator  
629 certificate and achieves a satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate  
630 State Board of Education approved subject area assessment shall be  
631 issued a cross endorsement in the relevant certification endorsement  
632 area. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to the  
633 endorsement areas of special education, teaching English to speakers of  
634 other languages, bilingual, remedial reading and remedial language arts  
635 or school library media specialist.

636 Sec. 6. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2024) (a) The State Board of Education  
637 shall issue, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-145b of the

638 general statutes, as amended by this act, an initial educator certificate to  
639 any person who successfully satisfies one of the following pathways to  
640 professional certification:

641 (1) Successful completion of an educator preparation program  
642 approved by the State Board of Education.

643 (2) Successful completion of an alternate route to certification  
644 program pursuant to section 10-145p, 10-145t, as amended by this act,  
645 10-145w, as amended by this act, or 10-155d of the general statutes.

646 (3) Is an educator from another state and meets the requirements set  
647 forth in subsections (c) and (f) of section 10-145f, section 10-146c or  
648 section 10-146i of the general statutes.

649 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
650 the State Board of Education may waive any of the requirements of this  
651 section and issue an initial educator certificate to any person who  
652 presents a combination of education and experience that the state board  
653 determines is the equivalent of the education and experience required  
654 under this section.

655 Sec. 7. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-145t of the general statutes  
656 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
657 *1, 2024*):

658 (a) For purposes of this section, "school support staff" means any  
659 person employed by a local or regional board of education as a behavior  
660 analyst or an assistant behavior analyst, as such terms are defined in  
661 section 20-185i, an athletic coach, as defined in section 10-149d, or a  
662 [school paraprofessional] paraeducator.

663 (b) (1) The Department of Education shall review and approve  
664 proposals for alternate route to certification programs for persons  
665 employed as school support staff. In order to be approved, a proposal  
666 shall provide that the alternate route to certification program [(1)] (A)  
667 be provided by a public or independent institution of higher education,

668 a local or regional board of education, a regional educational service  
669 center or a private, nonprofit teacher or administrator training  
670 organization approved by the State Board of Education; [(2)] (B) accept  
671 only those participants who [(A)] hold a bachelor's degree from an  
672 institution of higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for  
673 Higher Education or the Office of Higher Education or regionally  
674 accredited, (B)] (i) have been employed as school support staff by a local  
675 or regional board of education for at least forty school months, and [(C)]  
676 (ii) are recommended by the immediate supervisor or district  
677 administrator of such person on the basis of such person's performance;  
678 [(3)] (C) require each participant to complete a one-year residency that  
679 requires such person to serve [(A)] (i) in a position requiring  
680 professional certification, and [(B)] (ii) in a full-time position for ten  
681 school months at a local or regional board of education in the state under  
682 the supervision of [(i)] (I) a certified administrator or teacher, and [(ii)]  
683 (II) a supervisor from an institution or organization described in  
684 [subdivision (1) of this subsection] subparagraph (A) of this subdivision;  
685 and [(4)] (D) meet such other criteria as the department requires.

686 (2) The department may approve any program that (A) accepts  
687 participants who hold a bachelor's degree from an institution of higher  
688 education accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or  
689 the Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited, or (B) partners  
690 with an institution of higher education that is regionally accredited, or  
691 has received an equivalent accreditation, to provide a dual degree-plus-  
692 certification program for participants who hold an associate degree. The  
693 department shall give priority to those programs that provide  
694 participants flexibility in remaining in their positions as a school  
695 support staff while pursuing an initial educator certificate, other than  
696 the period when such participants are completing the one-year  
697 residency requirement described in subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1)  
698 of this subsection.

699 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 10-145w of the general statutes is  
700 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
701 *2024*):

702 (a) As used in this section, "person from an alternate profession"  
703 means a person who (1) holds at least a bachelor's degree from an  
704 institution of higher education accredited by the Board of Regents for  
705 Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or that is regionally  
706 accredited, and (A) is a paraeducator, (B) is a veteran, as defined in  
707 section 27-103, (C) holds a charter school educator permit, issued by the  
708 State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-145q, [or] (D) is  
709 employed or was previously employed as a professor at an accredited  
710 institution of higher education, as defined in section 10a-34, or (E) has  
711 completed at least five years of work experience requiring consistent  
712 exercise of discretion and independent judgment in the field related to  
713 the relevant endorsement area, or (2) holds a master's degree from a  
714 social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work  
715 Education or, for any person educated outside the United States or its  
716 territories, an educational program deemed equivalent by the council.

717 Sec. 9. Subsection (e) of section 10-144d of the 2024 supplement to the  
718 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
719 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

720 (e) The council shall (1) advise the [State Board of Education, the  
721 Governor] Commissioner of Education and the joint standing  
722 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
723 relating to education concerning [teacher preparation,] teacher  
724 recruitment, teacher retention, [teacher certification,] teacher  
725 professional development, teacher assessment and evaluation, [and]  
726 teacher professional discipline, [; (2) review and comment upon all  
727 regulations and other standards concerning the approval of teacher  
728 preparation programs and teacher certification] the equitable  
729 distribution of teachers, diversity of the teaching workforce, special  
730 education, testing and assessment of students, school safety and social-  
731 emotional learning; (2) share perspectives on the impact of proposed  
732 policies and initiatives on classroom practice with the commissioner and  
733 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
734 cognizance of matters relating to education; (3) provide suggestions and  
735 feedback on guidance to be sent to school districts related to the

736 implementation of such policies and initiatives with the commissioner;  
737 and [(3)] (4) report to the [State Board of Education, the Governor]  
738 commissioner and the joint standing committee of the General  
739 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education not later  
740 than January 15, 1991, and annually thereafter, on its activities and  
741 recommendations, if any, concerning the condition of the teaching  
742 profession.

743 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) There is established the  
744 Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board. The board  
745 shall be responsible for modernizing and aligning educator preparation  
746 and certification to ensure that policies are optimized to attract and  
747 retain effective and diverse professionals for employment in the state's  
748 public schools.

749 (b) The board shall develop standards and proposals for regulations  
750 or legislation relating to educator preparation and certification. Such  
751 standards and proposals shall reflect the teaching profession and  
752 respond to emerging understandings of effective, evidence-based  
753 practices and address the following objectives: (1) Building streamlined,  
754 flexible pathways in the educator profession that are grounded in a  
755 commitment to educator effectiveness, (2) enabling educators to  
756 broaden their scope of practice to meet more students' needs, (3)  
757 ensuring educator preparation programs are accountable for both the  
758 quality training experiences and outcomes for candidates, (4) creating a  
759 system to help educators continuously improve their practice that  
760 supports and rewards educators who demonstrate mastery, (5)  
761 supporting improved data transparency regarding the state's  
762 distribution of educators and educator vacancies and accountability for  
763 remedying observed inequities, and (6) treating educators as  
764 professionals and lifelong learners who need access to high-quality  
765 professional learning and mentorships throughout their careers.

766 (c) The board shall consist of the following members:

767 (1) Four public school classroom teachers, who are classroom



768 teachers at the time of their appointment and throughout their term on  
769 the board, as follows:

770 (A) Two appointed by the Connecticut Education Association, one of  
771 whom is a teacher for students in grades kindergarten to grade six,  
772 inclusive, and one of whom is a high school teacher;

773 (B) One appointed by the American Federation of Teachers-  
774 Connecticut, one of whom is a special education teacher; and

775 (C) One appointed by the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council.

776 (2) Three representatives from an educator preparation program  
777 approved by the State Board of Education, as follows:

778 (A) One appointed by the American Association of Colleges for  
779 Teacher Education Connecticut Chapter, who is a representative from  
780 an educator preparation program offered by a public institution of  
781 higher education;

782 (B) One appointed by the Connecticut Conference of Independent  
783 Colleges; and

784 (C) One appointed by the Commissioner of Education, who is a  
785 representative of an alternate route to certification program.

786 (3) Three administrators, who are employed by a local or regional  
787 board of education, as follows:

788 (A) One appointed by the Connecticut Association of Public School  
789 Superintendents, who is a superintendent of schools for an urban school  
790 district;

791 (B) One appointed by the Connecticut Association of Schools, who  
792 represents a rural school district; and

793 (C) One appointed by the Connecticut Federation of School  
794 Administrators, who represents a suburban school district.

795 (4) One appointed by the Connecticut Association of Boards of  
796 Education.

797 (5) One appointed by the Connecticut Business and Industry  
798 Association, who is a representative from the education and workforce  
799 affiliate of the association.

800 (6) A representative from the Increasing Educator Diversity Policy  
801 Oversight Council, established pursuant to section 10-156bb of the  
802 general statutes, designated by the council.

803 (7) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

804 (8) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's  
805 designee.

806 (9) The superintendent of the Technical Education and Career  
807 System, or the superintendent's designee.

808 (d) All initial appointments to the board shall be made not later than  
809 August 1, 2024. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority  
810 not later than ten days following such vacancy. Members shall serve  
811 three-year terms.

812 (e) The chairperson and vice chairperson of the board shall be elected  
813 from among the voting members of the board. The board shall establish  
814 bylaws for the operation and management of the board. An employee  
815 of the Department of Education shall be designated by the  
816 Commissioner of Education to serve as the administrator of the board.

817 (f) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the board  
818 shall develop an annual report that includes a detailed summary of the  
819 substance and disposition of any standards and proposals for  
820 regulations or legislation developed by the board or the State Board of  
821 Education pursuant to section 11 of this act. The board shall submit such  
822 annual report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
823 having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with  
824 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

825       Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The Connecticut Educator  
826 Preparation and Certification Board and the State Board of Education  
827 shall each have the authority to develop standards and proposals for  
828 regulations and legislation relating to educator preparation and  
829 certification.

830       (b) (1) Any such standard or proposal developed by the Connecticut  
831 Educator Preparation and Certification Board shall be submitted to the  
832 State Board of Education for review. The State Board of Education shall  
833 approve or reject any such standard or proposal not later than sixty days  
834 after receipt of such standard or proposal. If such standard or proposal  
835 is approved, such standard or proposal shall be implemented.

836       (2) Any such standard or proposal developed by the State Board of  
837 Education shall be submitted to the Connecticut Educator Preparation  
838 and Certification Board for review. The Connecticut Educator  
839 Preparation and Certification Board shall approve or reject any such  
840 standard or proposal not later than sixty days after receipt of such  
841 standard or proposal. If such standard or proposal is approved, such  
842 standard or proposal shall be implemented.

843       (3) If such approved proposal is for regulations, the State Board of  
844 Education shall adopt regulations consistent with such approved  
845 proposal in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general  
846 statutes.

847       (4) If such approved proposal is for legislation, such approved  
848 proposal shall be submitted to the joint standing committee of the  
849 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,  
850 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

851       Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2025,  
852 the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board,  
853 established pursuant to section 10 of this act, shall develop standards  
854 and proposals for regulations and legislation regarding (1) the  
855 evaluation criteria that will be used to assess proposals from local or  
856 regional boards of education, regional educational service centers and

857 educator preparation programs for alternative pathways for educators  
858 to progress from an initial educator certificate to a professional educator  
859 certificate or to be issued a cross endorsement that will enable such  
860 educators to teach in content areas or grades beyond their initial  
861 certification areas, (2) the manner in which degrees from educator  
862 preparation programs approved by the State Board of Education will  
863 align with the revised endorsement codes under section 10-145d of the  
864 general statutes, as amended by this act, (3) the adequacy and relevance  
865 of existing certification endorsement areas, (4) the implementation of the  
866 standards for educator preparation programs developed by the Council  
867 for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, (5) the necessity of the  
868 temporary ninety-day certificate issued under section 10-145b of the  
869 general statutes, as amended by this act, and (6) the design and  
870 development of a state-wide data dashboard that enables longitudinal  
871 monitoring of educator workforce data.

872 (b) Not later than July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the board shall  
873 (1) collect and review (A) state-specific data, including, but not limited  
874 to, qualitative data on stakeholders' experiences and quantitative data  
875 from the Department of Education on educator vacancies, shortage  
876 areas and the educator preparation program dashboard, and (B) data on  
877 applicable national policy developments relating to educator  
878 preparation, certification and employment, (2) evaluate whether any  
879 changes are needed to the current educator preparation and certification  
880 frameworks, and (3) develop, as necessary, evidence-based standards  
881 and proposals for regulations and legislation to strengthen existing  
882 systems.

883 Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The Connecticut Educator  
884 Preparation and Certification Board, established pursuant to section 10  
885 of this act, shall (1) conduct a review of the existing regulations and  
886 statutes relating to educator preparation and certification to identify  
887 obsolete or conflicting provisions of such regulations and statutes, (2)  
888 review the state's approach to assessing whether candidates for  
889 certification have demonstrated minimum content knowledge within  
890 their endorsement areas for purposes of section 10-145f of the general

891 statutes, as amended by this act, and (3) develop recommendations as  
892 to whether alternative approaches should be offered to allow candidates  
893 to demonstrate such minimum content knowledge. Not later than  
894 January 31, 2025, the board shall submit a report on its findings, as well  
895 as any recommendations for legislation, to the State Board of Education  
896 and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
897 cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the  
898 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

899 (b) The Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board,  
900 established pursuant to section 10 of this act, shall (1) undertake a  
901 comprehensive review of the certification endorsement areas for the  
902 purpose of (A) developing standards regarding the adequacy and  
903 relevance of such endorsement areas, and (B) considering whether the  
904 grade ranges for the endorsement areas should be expanded, (2) explore  
905 alternative pathways for educators to receive cross endorsements, and  
906 (3) consider whether to transfer authority over candidate admission  
907 criteria for alternate route to certification programs to the program  
908 providers. Not later than July 1, 2025, the board shall submit a report on  
909 its findings, as well as any recommendations for legislation, to the State  
910 Board of Education and the joint standing committee of the General  
911 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in  
912 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

913 Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Not later than July 1, 2026, the  
914 Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board, established  
915 pursuant to section 10 of this act, shall develop standards regarding the  
916 criteria to be used when reviewing educator preparation programs and  
917 alternate route to certification programs for new or continuing program  
918 approval. Such standards shall include a requirement that (1) any  
919 educator preparation program or alternate route to certification  
920 program shall obtain continuing program approval every seven years,  
921 and (2) the methodology for determinations regarding continuing  
922 program approval shall be based on final accreditation decisions of the  
923 Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and be classified  
924 in the following categories: Approval, provisional, probationary or

925 denial of approval.

926 Sec. 15. Section 10-145aa of the 2024 supplement to the general  
927 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
928 (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

929 [On and after July 1, 2022, the preservice performance assessment,  
930 edTPA, as adopted by the State Board of Education on December 7,  
931 2016, shall be used exclusively as an accountability tool for teacher  
932 preparation programs, as defined in section 10-10a, offered at  
933 institutions of higher education in the state. The results of such  
934 preservice performance assessment shall not be used by the State Board  
935 of Education to deny an application for the issuance of an initial  
936 educator certificate under section 10-145b.]

937 (a) On and after July 1, 2024, the State Board of Education shall not  
938 (1) use the results of the preservice performance assessment, edTPA, as  
939 adopted by the State Board of Education on December 7, 2016, to deny  
940 an application for the issuance of an initial educator certificate under  
941 section 10-145b, as amended by this act, and (2) require a teacher  
942 preparation program, as defined in section 10-10a, offered at an  
943 institution of higher education in the state to use edTPA as a (A)  
944 preservice performance assessment for such teacher preparation  
945 program, and (B) program completion requirement.

946 (b) On and after July 1, 2024, no institution of higher education in the  
947 state that offers a teacher preparation program shall use the results of  
948 edTPA to deny a candidate successful completion of such teacher  
949 preparation program. Nothing in this subsection shall prevent an  
950 institution of higher education from using such results as a diagnostic  
951 tool for the purpose of providing any necessary remedial instruction to  
952 a candidate while such candidate is enrolled in such teacher preparation  
953 program.

954 Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section,  
955 "occupational subject" includes, but is not limited to, automobile  
956 servicing, carpentry, plumbing, culinary arts, electronics, cosmetology

957 and public safety.

958 (b) The State Board of Education may issue an initial educator  
959 certificate for occupational subjects in technical education and career  
960 schools to an applicant who has (1) obtained a high school diploma or  
961 its equivalent, (2) completed five years of experience in the field for  
962 which the certificate is sought, which may include not more than two  
963 years of in a registered apprenticeship, work-based learning program or  
964 other specialized schooling, (3) completed a minimum of six semester  
965 hours of credit teaching vocational and industrial education, and (4)  
966 completed a course of study in special education comprised of not fewer  
967 than three semester hours, which shall include study in understanding  
968 the growth and development of exceptional children, including children  
969 with a disability, gifted and talented children and children who may  
970 require special education, and methods for identifying, planning for and  
971 working effectively with special needs children in the regular  
972 classroom. An initial educator certificate for occupational subjects in  
973 technical education and career schools shall authorize the holder to  
974 teach an occupational subject in the Technical Education and Career  
975 System.

976 (c) An applicant who is otherwise eligible for an initial educator  
977 certificate for occupational subjects in technical education and career  
978 schools, but is deficient in meeting the course requirements to the extent  
979 of not more than six semester hours of credit, as described in subdivision  
980 (3) of subsection (b) of this section, and a course of study in special  
981 education, as described in subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of this  
982 section, may be issued an interim educator certificate, valid for one year,  
983 which may be reissued for a second year by the Commissioner of  
984 Education. If the holder of such interim educator certificate fails to meet  
985 such course requirements at the expiration of such interim educator  
986 certificate, the commissioner shall prevent the holder from serving in  
987 the employ of a board of education in a position covered by the initial  
988 educator certificate for occupational subjects in technical education and  
989 career schools, except that the course work in which the applicant is  
990 deficient may be deferred for one additional year for good cause shown.

991 Sec. 17. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section, "trade  
992 and industrial occupations" includes, but is not limited to, food service,  
993 automotive servicing, machine tool and operation, building  
994 maintenance and repairs, welding, appliance repair and public safety.

995 (b) The State Board of Education may issue an initial educator  
996 certificate for trade and industrial occupations in comprehensive high  
997 schools to an applicant who has (1) provided a written request from a  
998 local or regional board of education, (2) obtained a high school diploma  
999 or its equivalent, (3) completed a minimum of three years of approved  
1000 successful work experience appropriate to the field for which such  
1001 certificate is sought, which may include not more than two years of  
1002 specialized appropriate schooling, (4) completed a minimum of six  
1003 semester hours of credit in professional education in areas such as (A)  
1004 teaching vocational and industrial education, or (B) foundations of  
1005 education, educational psychology, adolescent psychology, psychology  
1006 of learning, curriculum and methods of teaching, classroom instruction  
1007 and management, multicultural diversity or equity issues in education,  
1008 and (5) completed a course of study in special education comprised of  
1009 not fewer than three semester hours, which shall include study in  
1010 understanding the growth and development of exceptional children,  
1011 including children with a disability, gifted and talented children and  
1012 children who may require special education, and methods for  
1013 identifying, planning for and working effectively with special needs  
1014 children in the regular classroom. An initial educator certificate for trade  
1015 and industrial occupations in comprehensive high schools shall  
1016 authorize the holder to teach in a comprehensive high school trade and  
1017 industrial program in grades six to twelve, inclusive, except such initial  
1018 educator certificate for trade and industrial occupations in  
1019 comprehensive high schools shall not be valid to teach in the Technical  
1020 Education and Career System.

1021 (c) An applicant who is otherwise eligible for an initial educator  
1022 certificate for trade and industrial occupations in comprehensive high  
1023 schools, but is deficient in meeting the course requirements to the extent  
1024 of not more than six semester hours of credit, as described in subdivision



1025 (4) of subsection (b) of this section, and a course of study in special  
1026 education, as described in subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of this  
1027 section, may be issued an interim educator certificate, valid for one year,  
1028 which may be reissued for a second year by the Commissioner of  
1029 Education. If the holder of such interim educator certificate fails to meet  
1030 such course requirements at the expiration of such interim educator  
1031 certificate, the commissioner shall prevent the holder from serving in  
1032 the employ of a board of education in a position covered by the initial  
1033 educator certificate for trade and industrial occupations in  
1034 comprehensive high schools, except that the course work in which the  
1035 applicant is deficient may be deferred for one additional year for good  
1036 cause shown.

1037 Sec. 18. Section 31-51rr of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1038 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1039 (a) Each political subdivision of the state shall [grant] provide the  
1040 same family and medical leave benefits under the federal Family and  
1041 Medical Leave Act, P.L. 103-3, and 29 CFR 825.112 to (1) any employee  
1042 of such political subdivision who is [(1)] a party to a marriage in which  
1043 the other party is of the same sex as the employee, and who has been  
1044 employed for at least twelve months by such employer and for at least  
1045 one thousand two hundred fifty hours of service with such employer  
1046 during the previous twelve-month period, [the same family and medical  
1047 leave benefits under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, P.L. 103-  
1048 3, and 29 CFR 825.112.] which benefits shall be the same as are provided  
1049 to an employee who is a party to a marriage in which the other party is  
1050 of the opposite sex of such employee, [or] (2) on or after the effective  
1051 date of regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, a  
1052 [school paraprofessional in an educational setting] paraeducator who  
1053 has been employed in an educational setting for at least twelve months  
1054 by such employer and for at least nine hundred fifty hours of service  
1055 with such employer during the previous twelve-month period, [the  
1056 same family and medical leave benefits provided under subdivision (1)  
1057 of this subsection to an employee who has been employed for at least  
1058 twelve months by such employer and for at least one thousand two

1059 hundred fifty hours of service with such employer during the previous  
1060 twelve-month period] or (3) on or after October 1, 2024, any person  
1061 employed by a local or regional board of education who does not hold  
1062 a professional certification under chapter 166 and has been employed  
1063 for at least twelve months by such employer and for at least nine  
1064 hundred fifty hours of service with such employer during the previous  
1065 twelve-month period.

1066 (b) (1) Any employee of a political subdivision of the state who has  
1067 worked at least twelve months and one thousand two hundred fifty  
1068 hours for such employer during the previous twelve-month period, [or]  
1069 (2) on or after the effective date of regulations adopted pursuant to  
1070 subsection (f) of this section, a [school paraprofessional in an  
1071 educational setting] paraeducator who has been employed in an  
1072 educational setting for at least twelve months by such employer and for  
1073 at least nine hundred fifty hours of service with such employer during  
1074 the previous twelve-month period, or (3) on or after October 1, 2024, any  
1075 person employed by a local or regional board of education who does not  
1076 hold a professional certification under chapter 166 and has been  
1077 employed for at least twelve months by such employer and for at least  
1078 nine hundred fifty hours of service with such employer during the  
1079 previous twelve-month period may request leave in order to serve as an  
1080 organ or bone marrow donor, provided such employee may be  
1081 required, prior to the inception of such leave, to provide sufficient  
1082 written certification from the physician of such employee, a physician  
1083 assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse of the proposed organ  
1084 or bone marrow donation and the probable duration of the employee's  
1085 recovery from such donation.

1086 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing leave in  
1087 addition to the total of twelve workweeks of leave during any twelve-  
1088 month period provided under the federal Family and Medical Leave  
1089 Act, P.L. 103-3.

1090 (d) The Labor Department shall enforce compliance with the  
1091 provisions of this section.

1092 (e) For the purposes of subdivision (2) of subsections (a) and (b) of  
1093 this section, no hours of service worked by a [paraprofessional]  
1094 paraeducator prior to the effective date of regulations adopted pursuant  
1095 to subsection (f) of this section shall be included in the requisite nine  
1096 hundred fifty hours of service.

1097 (f) The Labor Commissioner shall adopt regulations for the provision  
1098 of family and medical leave benefits to [school paraprofessionals]  
1099 paraeducators employed in an educational setting pursuant to this  
1100 section.

1101 Sec. 19. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025,  
1102 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in consultation  
1103 with the Commissioner of Education, shall reclassify one authorized  
1104 position at the Department of Education that remains unfilled for the  
1105 purpose of hiring an individual to serve as the administrator of the  
1106 Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board, established  
1107 pursuant to section 10 of this act. The department shall use funds  
1108 appropriated to the department's personal services account for the  
1109 purpose of filling such position reclassified pursuant to this section.

1110 Sec. 20. Subsection (a) of section 10-66r of the general statutes is  
1111 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
1112 *2024*):

1113 (a) Each regional educational service center shall develop, in  
1114 consultation with the Department of Education, a regional model for the  
1115 provision of special education services related to transportation,  
1116 training and therapeutic services to be used for the provision of such  
1117 special education services to all school districts served by such regional  
1118 educational service center. Each regional model shall take into account  
1119 the least restrictive environment for students receiving special  
1120 education and related services and include (1) a regional transportation  
1121 plan, developed in consultation with public transit districts, that  
1122 provides transportation to children requiring special education and  
1123 related services, (2) a regional educator training plan that provides

1124 special education training to teachers, [school paraprofessionals]  
1125 paraeducators and administrators that includes, but need not be limited  
1126 to, instruction regarding classroom techniques to improve the provision  
1127 of special education and related services to children and the  
1128 implementation of scientific research-based interventions, (3) a regional  
1129 plan for the provision of therapeutic services, including, but not limited  
1130 to, speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy, and (4)  
1131 a plan for the provision of transportation, training and therapeutic  
1132 services in a manner that makes such services readily available to each  
1133 school district served by the regional educational service center rather  
1134 than by request of a school district.

1135 Sec. 21. Section 10-74q of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes  
1136 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
1137 *1, 2024*):

1138 (a) Not later than July 1, 2024, the Department of Education, in  
1139 consultation with the Departments of Developmental Services and  
1140 Aging and Disability Services and the regional educational service  
1141 centers, shall develop a training program for transition coordinators,  
1142 educators and [school paraprofessionals] paraeducators. Such training  
1143 program shall comply with the minimum standards established by the  
1144 State-wide Transition Services Coordinator pursuant to section 10-74o.

1145 (b) Each regional educational service center shall provide the training  
1146 program developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section at no cost  
1147 to transition coordinators, educators and [school paraprofessionals]  
1148 paraeducators who provide transition services and any other educators  
1149 or school staff interested in becoming a transition coordinator or  
1150 providing transition services.

1151 Sec. 22. Subsection (b) of section 10-74r of the 2024 supplement to the  
1152 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
1153 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1154 (b) Each educator and [school paraprofessional] paraeducator who  
1155 provides special education for students fourteen years of age or older

1156 shall complete the training program developed by the Department of  
1157 Education pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-74q, as amended by  
1158 this act, provided (1) each such educator and [school paraprofessional]  
1159 paraeducator hired prior to the date upon which the training program  
1160 commences shall complete such training program during the five-year  
1161 period immediately following such date, and (2) each such educator and  
1162 [school paraprofessional] paraeducator hired after such date shall  
1163 complete such training program not later than one year from the date  
1164 such educator or [school paraprofessional] paraeducator is hired to  
1165 provide such services.

1166 Sec. 23. Subdivision (10) of subsection (a) of section 10-76d of the 2024  
1167 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
1168 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1169 (10) (A) Each local and regional board of education responsible for  
1170 providing special education and related services to a child or pupil shall  
1171 notify the parent or guardian of a child who requires or who may  
1172 require special education, a pupil if such pupil is an emancipated minor  
1173 or eighteen years of age or older who requires or who may require  
1174 special education or a surrogate parent appointed pursuant to section  
1175 10-94g, in writing, at least five school days before such board proposes  
1176 to, or refuses to, initiate or change the child's or pupil's identification,  
1177 evaluation or educational placement or the provision of a free  
1178 appropriate public education to the child or pupil.

1179 (B) Upon request by a parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent,  
1180 the responsible local or regional board of education shall provide such  
1181 parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent an opportunity to meet with  
1182 a member of the planning and placement team designated by such  
1183 board prior to the referral planning and placement team meeting at  
1184 which the assessments and evaluations of the child or pupil who  
1185 requires or may require special education is presented to such parent,  
1186 guardian, pupil or surrogate parent for the first time. Such meeting shall  
1187 be for the sole purpose of discussing the planning and placement team  
1188 process and any concerns such parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate

1189 parent has regarding the child or pupil who requires or may require  
1190 special education.

1191 (C) Such parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent shall (i) be given  
1192 at least five school days' prior notice of any planning and placement  
1193 team meeting conducted for such child or pupil, (ii) have the right to be  
1194 present at and participate in all portions of such meeting at which an  
1195 educational program for such child or pupil is developed, reviewed or  
1196 revised, (iii) have the right to have (I) advisors of such person's own  
1197 choosing and at such person's own expense, (II) the [school  
1198 paraprofessional] paraeducator assigned to such child or pupil, if any,  
1199 (III) such child or pupil's birth-to-three service coordinator, if any, and  
1200 (IV) a language interpreter, including a registered interpreter for  
1201 persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind, who is present in  
1202 person or available by telephone or through an online technology  
1203 platform, or through an Internet web site or other electronic application  
1204 approved by the State Board of Education, provided by the responsible  
1205 local or regional board of education if there is an apparent need or upon  
1206 the request of such parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent, who  
1207 shall attend and participate or be available in all portions of such  
1208 meeting at which an educational program for such child or pupil is  
1209 developed, reviewed or revised, and (iv) have the right to have each  
1210 recommendation made in such child or pupil's birth-to-three  
1211 individualized transition plan, as required by section 17a-248e, if any,  
1212 addressed by the planning and placement team during such meeting at  
1213 which an educational program for such child or pupil is developed. The  
1214 notice given pursuant to clause (i) of this subparagraph shall include,  
1215 but need not be limited to, specification of the rights enumerated in this  
1216 subparagraph.

1217 (D) Immediately upon the formal identification of any child as a child  
1218 requiring special education and at each planning and placement team  
1219 meeting for such child, the responsible local or regional board of  
1220 education shall inform the parent or guardian of such child or surrogate  
1221 parent or, in the case of a pupil who is an emancipated minor or eighteen  
1222 years of age or older, the pupil of (i) the laws relating to special

1223 education, (ii) the rights of such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or  
1224 pupil under such laws and the regulations adopted by the State Board  
1225 of Education relating to special education, including the right of a  
1226 parent, guardian or surrogate parent to (I) withhold from enrolling such  
1227 child in kindergarten, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-  
1228 184, (II) have advisors and the [school paraprofessional] paraeducator  
1229 assigned to such child or pupil attend and participate in all portions of  
1230 such meeting at which an educational program for such child or pupil  
1231 is developed, reviewed or revised, in accordance with the provisions of  
1232 subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, (III) obtain the plain language  
1233 resources available on the Department of Education's Internet web site  
1234 pursuant to subsection (g) of section 10-76h explaining the hearing and  
1235 appeals process, as provided in section 10-76h, available to such child or  
1236 pupil if there is a disagreement about the individualized education  
1237 program, identification, evaluation or educational placement of or the  
1238 provision of a free appropriate public education to such child or pupil,  
1239 and (IV) receive information regarding free and low-cost legal  
1240 assistance, and (iii) any relevant information and resources relating to  
1241 individualized education programs created by the Department of  
1242 Education, including, but not limited to, information relating to  
1243 transition resources and services for high school students and the  
1244 Parent's Guide to Special Education in Connecticut developed by the  
1245 department. If such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil does not  
1246 attend a planning and placement team meeting, the responsible local or  
1247 regional board of education shall mail such information to such person.  
1248 Each responsible local or regional board of education shall provide a  
1249 child or pupil's individualized education program, any documents  
1250 relating to such program and all the information required pursuant to  
1251 this subparagraph translated into the primary language spoken by such  
1252 parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil if there is an apparent need  
1253 or upon the request of the parent guardian, surrogate parent or pupil.

1254 (E) Each local and regional board of education shall have in effect at  
1255 the beginning of each school year an educational program for each child  
1256 or pupil who has been identified as eligible for special education, and

1257 shall provide (i) the informational handout described in section 10-74v  
1258 to each child with an individualized education program or plan  
1259 pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and (ii) the  
1260 Parent's Guide to Special Education in Connecticut developed by the  
1261 Department of Education and the rights and resources available to such  
1262 child in the provision of special education and related services.

1263 (F) (i) At each initial planning and placement team meeting for a child  
1264 or pupil, the responsible local or regional board of education shall  
1265 inform the parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil of the laws  
1266 relating to physical restraint and seclusion pursuant to section 10-236b<sub>2</sub>  
1267 as amended by this act, and the rights of such parent, guardian,  
1268 surrogate parent or pupil under such laws and the regulations adopted  
1269 by the State Board of Education relating to physical restraint and  
1270 seclusion and the right of such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or  
1271 pupil, during such meeting at which an educational program for such  
1272 child or pupil is developed, to have (I) such child or pupil's birth-to-  
1273 three service coordinator attend and participate in all portions of such  
1274 meeting, and (II) each recommendation made in the transition plan, as  
1275 required by section 17a-248e, by such child or pupil's birth-to-three  
1276 service coordinator addressed by the planning and placement team.

1277 (ii) At the first planning and placement team meeting after a child  
1278 who requires special education and related services reaches the age of  
1279 fourteen, each responsible local or regional board of education shall  
1280 provide information to the child and the parent, guardian or surrogate  
1281 parent about the full range of decision-making supports, including  
1282 alternatives to guardianship and conservatorship, and the online  
1283 resource developed by the Department of Education pursuant to section  
1284 10-74s. The responsible local or regional board of education shall  
1285 continue to provide such information to the child and the parent,  
1286 guardian or surrogate parent at least annually thereafter.

1287 (iii) Each responsible local or regional board of education shall  
1288 provide the notice created by the Mediation Services Coordinator  
1289 pursuant to subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section 10-76z to each



1290 parent, guardian or surrogate parent of any child who requires special  
1291 education by (I) distributing such notice to such parents, guardians or  
1292 surrogate parents at the beginning of each school year, and (II) reading  
1293 such notice out loud at the conclusion of the first planning and  
1294 placement team meeting at the beginning of each school year.

1295 (G) Upon request by a parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent,  
1296 the responsible local or regional board of education shall provide the  
1297 results of the assessments and evaluations used in the determination of  
1298 eligibility for special education for a child or pupil to such parent,  
1299 guardian, surrogate parent or pupil at least three school days before the  
1300 referral planning and placement team meeting at which such results of  
1301 the assessments and evaluations will be discussed for the first time.

1302 (H) Each local or regional board of education shall monitor the  
1303 development of each child who, pursuant to subsection (a) of section  
1304 17a-248e, has been (i) referred for a registration on a mobile application  
1305 designated by the Commissioner of Early Childhood, in partnership  
1306 with such child's parent, guardian or surrogate parent, or (ii) provided  
1307 a form for such child's parent, guardian or surrogate parent to complete  
1308 and submit to such local or regional board of education that screens for  
1309 developmental and social-emotional delays using a validated screening  
1310 tool, such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire and the Ages and Stages  
1311 Social-Emotional Questionnaire, or its equivalent. If such monitoring  
1312 results in suspecting a child of having a developmental delay, the board  
1313 shall schedule a planning and placement team meeting with such child's  
1314 parent, guardian or surrogate parent for the purposes of identifying  
1315 services for which such child may be eligible, including, but not limited  
1316 to, a preschool program under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities  
1317 Act, 20 USC 1471 et seq. If a parent, guardian or surrogate parent of any  
1318 child referred for a registration on the mobile application or provided a  
1319 form to complete and submit, pursuant to subsection (a) of section 17a-  
1320 248e, fails to complete such registration or complete and submit such  
1321 form after a period of six months from the date of such referral or  
1322 provision of such form, the board shall send a reminder, in the form and  
1323 manner determined by the board, to such parent, guardian or surrogate

1324 parent to complete such registration or complete and submit such form.  
1325 The board shall send another reminder after a period of one year from  
1326 such referral or provision of such form if such registration remains  
1327 incomplete or such form is not submitted.

1328 (I) Prior to any planning and placement team meeting for a child or  
1329 pupil in which an educational program for such child or pupil is  
1330 developed, reviewed or revised, if the parent, guardian, pupil or  
1331 surrogate parent has requested that the [school paraprofessional]  
1332 paraeducator assigned to such child or pupil attend such meeting, then  
1333 the responsible local or regional board of education shall provide (i)  
1334 adequate notice of such meeting to such [school paraprofessional]  
1335 paraeducator so that such [school paraprofessional] paraeducator may  
1336 adequately prepare for such meeting, and (ii) training, upon request of  
1337 such [school paraprofessional] paraeducator, on the role of such [school  
1338 paraprofessional] paraeducator at such meeting. Following such  
1339 meeting, such [school paraprofessional] paraeducator, or any other  
1340 paraprofessional who is providing special education or related services  
1341 to such child, shall review such educational program with a supervisor,  
1342 as needed, and be permitted to view such educational program in order  
1343 to be able to provide special education or related services to such child  
1344 or pupil in accordance with such educational program.

1345 Sec. 24. Section 10-155j of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1346 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1347 The Department of Education shall, within available appropriations,  
1348 promote and encourage professional development activities for [school  
1349 paraprofessionals] paraeducators with instructional responsibilities.  
1350 Such activities may include, but shall not be limited to, providing local  
1351 and regional boards of education with training modules and curricula  
1352 for professional development for [paraprofessionals] paraeducators and  
1353 assisting boards of education in the effective use of [paraprofessionals]  
1354 paraeducators and the development of strategies to improve  
1355 communications between teachers and [paraprofessionals]  
1356 paraeducators in the provision of effective student instruction.

1357 Sec. 25. Section 10-155k of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1358 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1359 On and after July 1, 2013, the Commissioner of Education shall  
1360 establish a School Paraprofessional Advisory Council, which on and  
1361 after July 1, 2021, shall be known as the School Paraeducator Advisory  
1362 Council, consisting of (1) one [school paraprofessional] paraeducator  
1363 from each state-wide bargaining representative organization that  
1364 represents [school paraprofessionals] paraeducators with instructional  
1365 responsibilities, (2) one representative from each of the exclusive  
1366 bargaining units for certified employees, chosen pursuant to section 10-  
1367 153b, (3) the most recent recipient of the Connecticut [Paraprofessional]  
1368 Paraeducator of the Year Award, (4) two representatives from the  
1369 regional educational service centers, appointed by the Commissioner of  
1370 Education, and (5) a school administrator, appointed by the Connecticut  
1371 Federation of School Administrators. The council shall hold quarterly  
1372 meetings and advise, at least quarterly, the Commissioner of Education,  
1373 or the commissioner's designee, of the needs for (A) professional  
1374 development and the training of [paraprofessionals] paraeducators and  
1375 the effectiveness of the content and the delivery of existing training for  
1376 such [paraprofessionals] paraeducators, (B) appropriate staffing  
1377 strategies for [paraprofessionals, and (C)] paraeducators, and (C)  
1378 consideration of other relevant issues relating to [paraprofessionals]  
1379 paraeducators. The council shall report, annually, in accordance with  
1380 the provisions of section 11-4a, on the recommendations given to the  
1381 commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, pursuant to the  
1382 provisions of this section, to the joint standing committee of the General  
1383 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education.

1384 Sec. 26. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-156gg of the  
1385 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
1386 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1387 (2) "Minority candidate" means an individual who is a minority and  
1388 employed by a local or regional board of education as a [school  
1389 paraprofessional] paraeducator or an associate instructor;

1390 Sec. 27. Section 10-212a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1391 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1392 (a) (1) A school nurse or, in the absence of such nurse, any other nurse  
1393 licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 378, including a nurse  
1394 employed by, or providing services under the direction of a local or  
1395 regional board of education at, a school-based health clinic, who shall  
1396 administer medical preparations only to students enrolled in such  
1397 school-based health clinic in the absence of a school nurse, the principal,  
1398 any teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational  
1399 therapist employed by a school district, or coach of intramural and  
1400 interscholastic athletics of a school may administer, subject to the  
1401 provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection, medicinal preparations,  
1402 including such controlled drugs as the Commissioner of Consumer  
1403 Protection may, by regulation, designate, to any student at such school  
1404 pursuant to the written order of a physician licensed to practice  
1405 medicine, or a dentist licensed to practice dental medicine in this or  
1406 another state, or an optometrist licensed to practice optometry in this  
1407 state under chapter 380, or an advanced practice registered nurse  
1408 licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a, or a physician  
1409 assistant licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-12d, and the  
1410 written authorization of a parent or guardian of such child. The  
1411 administration of medicinal preparations by a nurse licensed pursuant  
1412 to the provisions of chapter 378, a principal, teacher, licensed athletic  
1413 trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a  
1414 school district, or coach shall be under the general supervision of a  
1415 school nurse. No such school nurse or other nurse, principal, teacher,  
1416 licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist  
1417 employed by a school district, coach or [school paraprofessional]  
1418 paraeducator administering medication pursuant to this section shall be  
1419 liable to such student or a parent or guardian of such student for civil  
1420 damages for any personal injuries that result from acts or omissions of  
1421 such school nurse or other nurse, principal, teacher, licensed athletic  
1422 trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a  
1423 school district, coach or [school paraprofessional] paraeducator

1424 administering medication pursuant to this section in administering such  
1425 preparations that may constitute ordinary negligence. This immunity  
1426 does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton  
1427 negligence.

1428 (2) Each local and regional board of education that allows a school  
1429 nurse or, in the absence of such nurse, any other nurse licensed pursuant  
1430 to the provisions of chapter 378, including a nurse employed by, or  
1431 providing services under the direction of a local or regional board of  
1432 education at, a school-based health clinic, who shall administer medical  
1433 preparations only to students enrolled in such school-based health clinic  
1434 in the absence of a school nurse, the principal, any teacher, licensed  
1435 athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by  
1436 a school district, coach of intramural and interscholastic athletics or  
1437 [school paraprofessional] paraeducator of a school to administer  
1438 medicine or that allows a student to possess, self-administer or possess  
1439 and self-administer medicine, including medicine administered  
1440 through the use of an asthmatic inhaler or an automatic prefilled  
1441 cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment, shall adopt  
1442 written policies and procedures, in accordance with this section and the  
1443 regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, that shall  
1444 be approved by the school medical advisor, if any, or other qualified  
1445 licensed physician. Once so approved, such administration of  
1446 medication shall be in accordance with such policies and procedures.

1447 (3) A director of a school readiness program as defined in section 10-  
1448 16p or a before or after school program exempt from licensure by the  
1449 Department of Public Health pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection  
1450 (b) of section 19a-77, or the director's designee, may administer  
1451 medications to a child enrolled in such a program in accordance with  
1452 regulations adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with  
1453 the provisions of chapter 54. No individual administering medications  
1454 pursuant to this subdivision shall be liable to such child or a parent or  
1455 guardian of such child for civil damages for any personal injuries that  
1456 result from acts or omissions of such individual in administering such  
1457 medications which may constitute ordinary negligence. This immunity

1458 shall not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton  
1459 negligence.

1460 (b) Each school wherein any controlled drug is administered under  
1461 the provisions of this section shall keep such records thereof as are  
1462 required of hospitals under the provisions of subsections (f) and (h) of  
1463 section 21a-254 and shall store such drug in such manner as the  
1464 Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall, by regulation, require.

1465 (c) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
1466 Commissioner of Public Health, shall adopt regulations, in accordance  
1467 with the provisions of chapter 54, determined to be necessary by the  
1468 board to carry out the provisions of this section, including, but not  
1469 limited to, regulations that (1) specify conditions under which a coach  
1470 of intramural and interscholastic athletics may administer medicinal  
1471 preparations, including controlled drugs specified in the regulations  
1472 adopted by the commissioner, to a child participating in such intramural  
1473 and interscholastic athletics, (2) specify conditions and procedures for  
1474 the administration of medication by school personnel to students,  
1475 including, but not limited to, (A) the conditions and procedures for the  
1476 storage and administration of epinephrine by school personnel to  
1477 students for the purpose of emergency first aid to students who  
1478 experience allergic reactions and who do not have a prior written  
1479 authorization for the administration of epinephrine, in accordance with  
1480 the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section, and (B)  
1481 the conditions and procedures for the storage and administration of  
1482 opioid antagonists by school personnel to students who experience an  
1483 opioid-related drug overdose and who do not have a prior written  
1484 authorization for the administration of an opioid antagonist, in  
1485 accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of  
1486 this section, and (3) specify conditions for the possession, self-  
1487 administration or possession and self-administration of medication by  
1488 students, including permitting a child diagnosed with: (A) Asthma to  
1489 retain possession of an asthmatic inhaler at all times while attending  
1490 school for prompt treatment of the child's asthma and to protect the  
1491 child against serious harm or death provided a written authorization for

1492 self-administration of medication signed by the child's parent or  
1493 guardian and an authorized prescriber is submitted to the school nurse;  
1494 and (B) an allergic condition to retain possession of an automatic  
1495 prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment at  
1496 all times, including while attending school or receiving school  
1497 transportation services, for prompt treatment of the child's allergic  
1498 condition and to protect the child against serious harm or death  
1499 provided a written authorization for self-administration of medication  
1500 signed by the child's parent or guardian and an authorized prescriber is  
1501 submitted to the school nurse. The regulations shall require  
1502 authorization pursuant to: (i) The written order of a physician licensed  
1503 to practice medicine in this or another state, a dentist licensed to practice  
1504 dental medicine in this or another state, an advanced practice registered  
1505 nurse licensed under chapter 378, a physician assistant licensed under  
1506 chapter 370, a podiatrist licensed under chapter 375, or an optometrist  
1507 licensed under chapter 380; and (ii) the written authorization of a parent  
1508 or guardian of such child.

1509 (d) (1) (A) With the written authorization of a student's parent or  
1510 guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order of a qualified medical  
1511 professional, a school nurse and a school medical advisor, if any, may  
1512 jointly approve and provide general supervision to an identified [school  
1513 paraprofessional] paraeducator to administer medication, including,  
1514 but not limited to, medication administered with a cartridge injector, to  
1515 a specific student with a medically diagnosed allergic condition that  
1516 may require prompt treatment in order to protect the student against  
1517 serious harm or death.

1518 (2) A school nurse or, in the absence of a school nurse, a qualified  
1519 school employee shall maintain epinephrine in cartridge injectors for the  
1520 purpose of emergency first aid to students who experience allergic  
1521 reactions and do not have a prior written authorization of a parent or  
1522 guardian or a prior written order of a qualified medical professional for  
1523 the administration of epinephrine. A school nurse or a school principal  
1524 shall select qualified school employees to administer such epinephrine  
1525 under this subdivision, and there shall be at least one such qualified

1526 school employee on the grounds of the school during regular school  
1527 hours in the absence of a school nurse. A school nurse or, in the absence  
1528 of such school nurse, such qualified school employee may administer  
1529 such epinephrine under this subdivision, provided such administration  
1530 of epinephrine is in accordance with policies and procedures adopted  
1531 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such administration of  
1532 epinephrine by a qualified school employee shall be limited to situations  
1533 when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. No qualified school  
1534 employee shall administer such epinephrine under this subdivision  
1535 unless such qualified school employee annually completes the training  
1536 program described in section 10-212g. The parent or guardian of a  
1537 student may submit, in writing, to the school nurse and school medical  
1538 advisor, if any, that epinephrine shall not be administered to such  
1539 student under this subdivision.

1540 (3) In the case of a student with a medically diagnosed life-  
1541 threatening allergic condition, (A) with the written authorization of  
1542 such student's parent or guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order  
1543 of a qualified medical professional, such student may possess, self-  
1544 administer or possess and self-administer medication, including, but  
1545 not limited to, medication administered with a cartridge injector, to  
1546 protect such student against serious harm or death.

1547 (4) For purposes of this subsection, (A) "cartridge injector" means an  
1548 automatic prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable  
1549 equipment used to deliver epinephrine in a standard dose for  
1550 emergency first aid response to allergic reactions, (B) "qualified school  
1551 employee" means a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed  
1552 physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach  
1553 or [school paraprofessional] paraeducator, and (C) "qualified medical  
1554 professional" means (i) a physician licensed under chapter 370, (ii) an  
1555 optometrist licensed to practice optometry under chapter 380, (iii) an  
1556 advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance  
1557 with section 20-94a, or (iv) a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in  
1558 accordance with section 20-12d.



1559 (e) (1) With the written authorization of a student's parent or  
1560 guardian, and (2) pursuant to a written order of the student's physician  
1561 licensed under chapter 370 or the student's advanced practice registered  
1562 nurse licensed under chapter 378, a school nurse or a school principal  
1563 shall select, and a school nurse shall provide general supervision to, a  
1564 qualified school employee to administer medication with injectable  
1565 equipment used to administer glucagon to a student with diabetes that  
1566 may require prompt treatment in order to protect the student against  
1567 serious harm or death. Such authorization shall be limited to situations  
1568 when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. No qualified school  
1569 employee shall administer medication under this subsection unless (A)  
1570 such qualified school employee annually completes any training  
1571 required by the school nurse and school medical advisor, if any, in the  
1572 administration of medication with injectable equipment used to  
1573 administer glucagon, (B) the school nurse and school medical advisor,  
1574 if any, have attested, in writing, that such qualified school employee has  
1575 completed such training, and (C) such qualified school employee  
1576 voluntarily agrees to serve as a qualified school employee. For purposes  
1577 of this subsection, "injectable equipment used to administer glucagon"  
1578 means an injector or injectable equipment used to deliver glucagon in  
1579 an appropriate dose for emergency first aid response to diabetes. For  
1580 purposes of this subsection, "qualified school employee" means a  
1581 principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or  
1582 occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or [school  
1583 paraprofessional] paraeducator.

1584 (f) (1) (A) With the written authorization of a student's parent or  
1585 guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order of a physician licensed  
1586 under chapter 370 or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed  
1587 under chapter 378, a school nurse and a school medical advisor, if any,  
1588 shall select, and a school nurse shall provide general supervision to, a  
1589 qualified school employee to administer antiepileptic medication,  
1590 including by rectal syringe, to a specific student with a medically  
1591 diagnosed epileptic condition that requires prompt treatment in  
1592 accordance with the student's individual seizure action plan. Such

1593 authorization shall be limited to situations when the school nurse is  
1594 absent or unavailable. No qualified school employee shall administer  
1595 medication under this subsection unless (i) such qualified school  
1596 employee annually completes the training program described in  
1597 subdivision (2) of this subsection, (ii) the school nurse and school  
1598 medical advisor, if any, have attested, in writing, that such qualified  
1599 school employee has completed such training, (iii) such qualified school  
1600 employee receives monthly reviews by the school nurse to confirm such  
1601 qualified school employee's competency to administer antiepileptic  
1602 medication under this subsection, and (iv) such qualified school  
1603 employee voluntarily agrees to serve as a qualified school employee. For  
1604 purposes of this subsection, "qualified school employee" means a  
1605 principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or  
1606 occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or [school  
1607 paraprofessional] paraeducator.

1608 (2) The Department of Education, in consultation with the School  
1609 Nurse Advisory Council, established pursuant to section 10-212f, and  
1610 the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut, shall develop an  
1611 antiepileptic medication administrating training program. Such training  
1612 program shall include instruction in (A) an overview of childhood  
1613 epilepsy and types of seizure disorders, (B) interpretation of individual  
1614 student's emergency seizure action plan and recognition of individual  
1615 student's seizure activity, (C) emergency management procedures for  
1616 seizure activity, including administration techniques for emergency  
1617 seizure medication, (D) when to activate emergency medical services  
1618 and postseizure procedures and follow-up, (E) reporting procedures  
1619 after a student has required such delegated emergency seizure  
1620 medication, and (F) any other relevant issues or topics related to  
1621 emergency interventions for students who experience seizures.

1622 (g) (1) A school nurse or, in the absence of a school nurse, a qualified  
1623 school employee may maintain opioid antagonists for the purpose of  
1624 emergency first aid to students who experience an opioid-related drug  
1625 overdose and do not have a prior written authorization of a parent or  
1626 guardian or a prior written order of a qualified medical professional for

1627 the administration of such opioid antagonist. A school nurse or a school  
1628 principal shall select qualified school employees to administer such  
1629 opioid antagonist under this subdivision, and there shall be at least one  
1630 such qualified school employee on the grounds of the school during  
1631 regular school hours in the absence of a school nurse. A school nurse or,  
1632 in the absence of such school nurse, such qualified school employee may  
1633 administer such opioid antagonist under this subdivision, provided  
1634 such administration of the opioid antagonist is in accordance with  
1635 policies and procedures adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
1636 section. Such administration of an opioid antagonist by a qualified  
1637 school employee shall be limited to situations when the school nurse is  
1638 absent or unavailable. No school nurse or qualified school employee  
1639 shall administer such opioid antagonist under this subdivision unless  
1640 such school nurse or qualified school employee completes a training  
1641 program in the distribution and administration of an opioid antagonist  
1642 developed by the Department of Education, Department of Public  
1643 Health and the Department of Consumer Protection, or under an  
1644 agreement entered into pursuant to section 21a-286. The parent or  
1645 guardian of a student may submit a request, in writing, to the school  
1646 nurse and school medical advisor, if any, that an opioid antagonist shall  
1647 not be administered to such student under this subdivision.

1648 (2) Not later than October 1, 2022, the Department of Education, in  
1649 consultation with the Departments of Consumer Protection and Public  
1650 Health, shall develop guidelines for use by local and regional boards of  
1651 education on the storage and administration of opioid antagonists in  
1652 schools in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

1653 (3) For purposes of this subsection, (A) "opioid antagonist" means  
1654 naloxone hydrochloride or any other similarly acting and equally safe  
1655 drug approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for the  
1656 treatment of a drug overdose, (B) "qualified school employee" means a  
1657 principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or  
1658 occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or [school  
1659 paraprofessional] paraeducator, and (C) "qualified medical  
1660 professional" means (i) a physician licensed under chapter 370, (ii) an

1661 optometrist licensed to practice optometry under chapter 380, (iii) an  
1662 advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance  
1663 with section 20-94a, or (iv) a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in  
1664 accordance with section 20-12d.

1665 Sec. 28. Subsection (b) of section 10-221o of the general statutes is  
1666 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
1667 *2024*):

1668 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year  
1669 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall adopt a  
1670 policy, as the board deems appropriate, concerning the circumstances  
1671 when a school employee may prevent or otherwise restrict a student  
1672 from participating in the entire time devoted to physical exercise in the  
1673 regular school day, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, as a form  
1674 of discipline. Such policy shall (1) permit such prevention or restriction  
1675 (A) when a student poses a danger to the health or safety of other  
1676 students or school personnel, or (B) when such prevention or restriction  
1677 is limited to the period devoted to physical exercise that is the shortest  
1678 in duration if there are two or more periods devoted to physical exercise  
1679 in a school day, provided the period of time devoted to physical exercise  
1680 that such student may participate in during such school day is at least  
1681 twenty minutes in duration, (2) only permit such prevention or  
1682 restriction once during a school week, unless such student is a danger  
1683 to the health or safety of other students or school personnel, (3) not  
1684 include any provisions that such board determines are unreasonably  
1685 restrictive or punitive, (4) distinguish between (A) discipline imposed  
1686 prior to the start of such time devoted to physical exercise and discipline  
1687 imposed during such time devoted to physical exercise, and (B)  
1688 discipline that (i) prevents or otherwise restricts a student from  
1689 participating in such time devoted to physical exercise prior to such time  
1690 devoted to physical exercise, and (ii) methods used to redirect a  
1691 student's behavior during such time devoted to physical exercise, and  
1692 (5) not permit such prevention or restriction if a student does not  
1693 complete such student's work on time or for such student's academic  
1694 performance. For purposes of this section, "school employee" means (A)

1695 a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school  
1696 superintendent, guidance counselor, school counselor, psychologist,  
1697 social worker, nurse, physician, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator  
1698 or coach employed by a local or regional board of education or working  
1699 in a public elementary, middle or high school; or (B) any other  
1700 individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular  
1701 contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of  
1702 students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high school,  
1703 pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of education.

1704 Sec. 29. Section 10-221u of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1705 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1706 Not later than October 1, 2013, each local and regional board of  
1707 education shall adopt a policy, as the board deems appropriate,  
1708 concerning the issue regarding any school employee being involved in  
1709 requiring any student enrolled in grades kindergarten to twelve,  
1710 inclusive, to engage in physical activity as a form of discipline during  
1711 the regular school day. For purposes of this section, "school employee"  
1712 means (1) a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school  
1713 superintendent, guidance counselor, school counselor, psychologist,  
1714 social worker, nurse, physician, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator  
1715 or coach employed by a local or regional board of education or working  
1716 in a public elementary, middle or high school; or (2) any other  
1717 individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular  
1718 contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of  
1719 students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high school,  
1720 pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of education.

1721 Sec. 30. Subdivision (8) of subsection (a) of section 10-222d of the  
1722 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
1723 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1724 (8) "School employee" means (A) a teacher, substitute teacher, school  
1725 administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, school  
1726 counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, [school

1727 paraprofessional] paraeducator or coach employed by a local or regional  
1728 board of education or working in a public elementary, middle or high  
1729 school; or (B) any other individual who, in the performance of his or her  
1730 duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to  
1731 or on behalf of students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high  
1732 school, pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of  
1733 education;

1734 Sec. 31. Subsections (d) to (g), inclusive, of section 10-223e of the  
1735 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
1736 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1737 (d) (1) For those schools classified as category three schools, the  
1738 department may require such schools to (A) develop and implement  
1739 plans consistent with this section and federal law to elevate the school  
1740 from low achieving status, and (B) be the subject of actions as described  
1741 in the state-wide performance management and support plan, prepared  
1742 in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of  
1743 this section.

1744 (2) For those schools classified as category three schools, the  
1745 department may require the local or regional board of education for  
1746 such schools to collaborate with the regional educational service center  
1747 that serves the area in which such schools are located to develop plans  
1748 to ensure such schools provide (A) early education opportunities, (B)  
1749 summer school, (C) extended school day or year programming, (D)  
1750 weekend classes, (E) tutorial assistance to their students, or (F)  
1751 professional development to their administrators, principals, teachers  
1752 and [paraprofessionals] paraeducators. In requiring any educational  
1753 program authorized by this subdivision, the Commissioner of  
1754 Education may limit the offering of such program to the subgroup of  
1755 students that have failed to reach performance benchmarks or those in  
1756 transitional or milestone grades or those who are otherwise at  
1757 substantial risk of educational failure as described in the state-wide  
1758 performance management and support plan, prepared in accordance  
1759 with the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section.

1760 (e) (1) (A) Any school or school district identified as in need of  
1761 improvement pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this  
1762 section and requiring corrective action pursuant to the requirements of  
1763 the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, shall be designated and  
1764 listed as a low achieving school or school district and shall be subject to  
1765 intensified supervision and direction by the State Board of Education.

1766 (B) Any school classified as a category four school or category five  
1767 school or a school designated as a focus school shall be designated as  
1768 low achieving and shall be subject to intensified supervision and  
1769 direction by the State Board of Education.

1770 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of this title or any regulation  
1771 adopted pursuant to said title, except as provided in subdivision (3) of  
1772 this subsection, in carrying out the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
1773 subsection and this subdivision, the State Board of Education shall take  
1774 any of the following actions to improve student performance of the  
1775 school district, a particular school in the district or among student  
1776 subgroups, and remove the school or district from the list of schools or  
1777 districts designated and listed as a low achieving school or district  
1778 pursuant to said subdivision (1), and to address other needs of the  
1779 school or district: (A) Require an operations audit to identify possible  
1780 programmatic savings and an instructional audit to identify any deficits  
1781 in curriculum and instruction or in the learning environment of the  
1782 school or district; (B) require the local or regional board of education for  
1783 such school or district to use state and federal funds for critical needs,  
1784 as directed by the State Board of Education; (C) provide incentives to  
1785 attract highly qualified teachers and principals; (D) direct the transfer  
1786 and assignment of teachers and principals; (E) require additional  
1787 training and technical assistance for parents and guardians of children  
1788 attending the school or a school in the district and for teachers,  
1789 principals, and central office staff members hired by the district; (F)  
1790 require the local or regional board of education for the school or district  
1791 to implement model curriculum, including, but not limited to,  
1792 recommended textbooks, materials and supplies approved by the  
1793 Department of Education; (G) identify schools for reconstitution, as may

1794 be phased in by the commissioner, as state or local charter schools,  
1795 schools established pursuant to section 10-74g, innovation schools  
1796 established pursuant to section 10-74h, or schools based on other models  
1797 for school improvement, or for management by an entity other than the  
1798 local or regional board of education for the district in which the school  
1799 is located; (H) direct the local or regional board of education for the  
1800 school or district to develop and implement a plan addressing deficits  
1801 in achievement and in the learning environment as recommended in the  
1802 instructional audit; (I) assign a technical assistance team to the school or  
1803 district to guide school or district initiatives and report progress to the  
1804 Commissioner of Education; (J) establish instructional and learning  
1805 environment benchmarks for the school or district to meet as it  
1806 progresses toward removal from the list of low achieving schools or  
1807 districts; (K) provide funding to any proximate district to a district  
1808 designated as a low achieving school district so that students in a low  
1809 achieving district may attend public school in a neighboring district; (L)  
1810 direct the establishment of learning academies within schools that  
1811 require continuous monitoring of student performance by teacher  
1812 groups; (M) require a local or regional board of education to (i) undergo  
1813 training designed to improve the operational efficiency and  
1814 effectiveness of the board of education as leaders of its district  
1815 improvement plans by distinguishing and making clear the proper roles  
1816 and different functions of the board of education, including the  
1817 responsibility of developing the improvement plans and education  
1818 policy for the district, and the school and district-level administrators,  
1819 including the responsibility of implementing such improvement plans  
1820 and policies, and (ii) submit an annual action plan to the Commissioner  
1821 of Education outlining how, when and in what manner their  
1822 effectiveness shall be monitored; (N) require the appointment of (i) a  
1823 superintendent, approved by the Commissioner of Education, or (ii) a  
1824 district improvement officer, selected by the commissioner, whose  
1825 authority is consistent with the provisions of section 138 of public act  
1826 11-61, and whose term shall be for one school year, except that the State  
1827 Board of Education may extend such period; or (O) any combination of  
1828 the actions described in this subdivision or similar, closely related



1829 actions.

1830 (3) If a directive of the State Board of Education pursuant to  
1831 subparagraph (C), (D), (E), (G) or (L) of subdivision (2) of this subsection  
1832 or a directive to implement a plan pursuant to subparagraph (H) of said  
1833 subdivision (2) affects working conditions, such directive shall be  
1834 carried out in accordance with the provisions of sections 10-153a to 10-  
1835 153n, inclusive.

1836 (f) The State Board of Education shall monitor the progress of each  
1837 school or district designated as a low achieving school or district  
1838 pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of this section and provide  
1839 notice to the local or regional board of education for each such school or  
1840 district of the school or district's progress toward meeting the  
1841 benchmarks established by the State Board of Education pursuant to  
1842 subsection (e) of this section. If a school or district fails to make  
1843 acceptable progress toward meeting such benchmarks established by  
1844 the State Board of Education or fails to make adequate yearly progress  
1845 pursuant to the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-  
1846 110, for two consecutive years while designated as a low achieving  
1847 school district, the State Board of Education, after consultation with the  
1848 Governor and chief elected official or officials of the district, may (1)  
1849 request that the General Assembly enact legislation authorizing that  
1850 control of the district be reassigned to the State Board of Education or  
1851 other authorized entity, or (2) notwithstanding the provisions of chapter  
1852 146, any special act, charter or ordinance, grant the Commissioner of  
1853 Education the authority to reconstitute the local or regional board of  
1854 education for such school district in accordance with the provisions of  
1855 subsection (i) of this section.

1856 (g) Any school district or elementary school after two successive  
1857 years of failing to make adequate yearly progress shall be designated as  
1858 a low achieving school district or school and shall be evaluated by the  
1859 Commissioner of Education. After such evaluation, the commissioner  
1860 may require that such school district or school provide full-day  
1861 kindergarten classes, summer school, extended school day, weekend

1862 classes, tutorial assistance to its students or professional development  
1863 to its administrators, principals, teachers and [paraprofessional teacher  
1864 aides] paraeducators if (1) on any subpart of the mastery examination  
1865 administered to students in grade three, pursuant to section 10-14n,  
1866 thirty per cent or more of the students in any subgroup, as defined by  
1867 the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, do not achieve the level of  
1868 proficiency or higher, or (2) the commissioner determines that it would  
1869 be in the best educational interests of the school or the school district to  
1870 have any of these programs. In ordering any educational program  
1871 authorized by this subsection, the commissioner may limit the offering  
1872 of the program to the subgroup of students that have failed to achieve  
1873 proficiency as determined by this subsection, those in particular grades  
1874 or those who are otherwise at substantial risk of educational failure. The  
1875 costs of instituting the ordered educational programs shall be borne by  
1876 the identified low achieving school district or the school district in  
1877 which an identified low achieving school is located. The commissioner  
1878 shall not order an educational program that costs more to implement  
1879 than the total increase in the amount of the grant that a town receives  
1880 pursuant to section 10-262i in any fiscal year above the prior fiscal year.

1881 Sec. 32. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 10-223j of the  
1882 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
1883 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1884 (4) The provisions of subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of this  
1885 subsection shall not apply to a school described in said subdivisions if  
1886 (A) such school consists of a single grade level, or (B) such school is  
1887 under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education that has  
1888 adopted a similar school governance council model on or before July 1,  
1889 2011, that consists of parents, teachers from each grade level or subject  
1890 area, administrators and [paraprofessionals] paraeducators and such  
1891 school governance council model is being administered at such school  
1892 at the time such school is so identified as in need of improvement or so  
1893 designated as a low achieving school.

1894 Sec. 33. Subsection (o) of section 10-236b of the 2024 supplement to

1895 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
1896 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1897 (o) (1) Each local or regional board of education shall provide training  
1898 regarding the physical restraint and seclusion of students to the  
1899 members of the crisis intervention team for each school in the district,  
1900 identified pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. A local or  
1901 regional board of education may provide such training to any teacher,  
1902 as defined in section 10-144d, as amended by this act, administrator, as  
1903 defined in section 10-144e, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator or  
1904 other school employee, as defined in section 10-222d, as amended by  
1905 this act, designated by the school principal and who has direct contact  
1906 with students. Such training shall be provided during the school year  
1907 commencing July 1, 2017, and each school year thereafter, and shall  
1908 include, but not be limited to:

1909 (A) An overview of the relevant laws and regulations regarding the  
1910 use of physical restraint and seclusion on students and the proper uses  
1911 of physical restraint and seclusion. For the school year commencing July  
1912 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, such overview shall be provided by the  
1913 Department of Education, in a manner and form as prescribed by the  
1914 Commissioner of Education;

1915 (B) The creation of a plan by which each local and regional board of  
1916 education shall provide training regarding the prevention of incidents  
1917 requiring physical restraint or seclusion of students. Such plan shall be  
1918 implemented not later than July 1, 2018. The Department of Education  
1919 may, within available appropriations, provide ongoing monitoring and  
1920 support to local or regional boards of education regarding the  
1921 formulation and implementation of the plan; and

1922 (C) The creation of a plan by which each local or regional board of  
1923 education shall provide training regarding the proper means of physical  
1924 restraint or seclusion of a student, including, but not limited to, (i)  
1925 various types of physical restraint and seclusion; (ii) the differences  
1926 between life-threatening physical restraint and other varying levels of

1927 physical restraint; (iii) the differences between permissible physical  
1928 restraint and pain compliance techniques; and (iv) monitoring methods  
1929 to prevent harm to a student who is physically restrained or in seclusion.  
1930 Such plan shall be implemented not later than July 1, 2018;

1931 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2017, and each school year  
1932 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall require each  
1933 school in the district to identify a crisis intervention team consisting of  
1934 any teacher, as defined in section 10-144d, as amended by this act,  
1935 administrator, as defined in section 10-144e, [school paraprofessional]  
1936 paraeducator or other school employee, as defined in section 10-222d,  
1937 as amended by this act, designated by the school principal and who has  
1938 direct contact with students. Such teams shall respond to any incident  
1939 in which the use of physical restraint or seclusion may be necessary as  
1940 an emergency intervention to prevent immediate or imminent injury to  
1941 a student or to others. Each member of the crisis intervention team shall  
1942 be recertified in the use of physical restraint and seclusion pursuant to  
1943 subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection or chapter 814e  
1944 on an annual basis. Each local and regional board of education shall  
1945 maintain a list of the members of the crisis intervention team for each  
1946 school.

1947 Sec. 34. Subsection (o) of section 10-236b of the 2024 supplement to  
1948 the general statutes, as amended by section 67 of public act 23-167, is  
1949 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
1950 *2025*):

1951 (o) (1) Each local or regional board of education shall provide training  
1952 regarding the physical restraint and seclusion of students to the  
1953 members of the crisis intervention team for each school in the district,  
1954 identified pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. A local or  
1955 regional board of education may provide such training to any teacher,  
1956 as defined in section 10-144d, as amended by this act, administrator, as  
1957 defined in section 10-144e, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator or  
1958 other school employee, as defined in section 10-222aa, designated by the  
1959 school principal and who has direct contact with students. Such training

1960 shall be provided during the school year commencing July 1, 2017, and  
1961 each school year thereafter, and shall include, but not be limited to:

1962 (A) An overview of the relevant laws and regulations regarding the  
1963 use of physical restraint and seclusion on students and the proper uses  
1964 of physical restraint and seclusion. For the school year commencing July  
1965 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, such overview shall be provided by the  
1966 Department of Education, in a manner and form as prescribed by the  
1967 Commissioner of Education;

1968 (B) The creation of a plan by which each local and regional board of  
1969 education shall provide training regarding the prevention of incidents  
1970 requiring physical restraint or seclusion of students. Such plan shall be  
1971 implemented not later than July 1, 2018. The Department of Education  
1972 may, within available appropriations, provide ongoing monitoring and  
1973 support to local or regional boards of education regarding the  
1974 formulation and implementation of the plan; and

1975 (C) The creation of a plan by which each local or regional board of  
1976 education shall provide training regarding the proper means of physical  
1977 restraint or seclusion of a student, including, but not limited to, (i)  
1978 various types of physical restraint and seclusion; (ii) the differences  
1979 between life-threatening physical restraint and other varying levels of  
1980 physical restraint; (iii) the differences between permissible physical  
1981 restraint and pain compliance techniques; and (iv) monitoring methods  
1982 to prevent harm to a student who is physically restrained or in seclusion.  
1983 Such plan shall be implemented not later than July 1, 2018;

1984 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2017, and each school year  
1985 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall require each  
1986 school in the district to identify a crisis intervention team consisting of  
1987 any teacher, as defined in section 10-144d, as amended by this act,  
1988 administrator, as defined in section 10-144e, [school paraprofessional]  
1989 paraeducator or other school employee, as defined in section 10-222aa,  
1990 designated by the school principal and who has direct contact with  
1991 students. Such teams shall respond to any incident in which the use of

1992 physical restraint or seclusion may be necessary as an emergency  
1993 intervention to prevent immediate or imminent injury to a student or to  
1994 others. Each member of the crisis intervention team shall be recertified  
1995 in the use of physical restraint and seclusion pursuant to subparagraph  
1996 (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection or chapter 814e on an annual  
1997 basis. Each local and regional board of education shall maintain a list of  
1998 the members of the crisis intervention team for each school.

1999 Sec. 35. Subsection (a) of section 10-239e of the general statutes is  
2000 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
2001 *2024*):

2002 (a) The demonstration board shall authorize the parents or legal  
2003 guardian of scholarship recipients to use the demonstration  
2004 scholarships at any public or private school in which the scholarship  
2005 recipient is enrolled provided such public or private school: (1) Meets  
2006 all educational, fiscal, health and safety standards required by law, (2)  
2007 does not discriminate against the admission of students and the hiring  
2008 of teachers on the basis of race, color or economic status and has filed a  
2009 certificate with the State Board of Education that the school is in  
2010 compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (3) in no case  
2011 levies or requires any tuition, fee or charge above the value of the  
2012 education scholarship, (4) is free from sectarian control or influence  
2013 except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, (5) provides public  
2014 access to all financial and administrative records and provides to the  
2015 parent or guardian of each eligible child in the demonstration area  
2016 comprehensive information, in written form, on the courses of study  
2017 offered, curriculum, materials and textbooks, the qualifications of  
2018 teachers, administrators and [paraprofessionals] paraeducators, the  
2019 minimum school day, the salary schedules, financial reports of money  
2020 spent per pupil and such other information as may be required by the  
2021 demonstration board, (6) provides periodic reports to the parents on the  
2022 average progress of the pupils enrolled, and (7) meets any additional  
2023 requirements established for all participating schools by the  
2024 demonstration board.

2025 Sec. 36. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 17a-812 of the  
2026 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
2027 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

2028 (1) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall provide,  
2029 upon written request from any interested school district, the services of  
2030 teachers who instruct students who are visually impaired, based on the  
2031 levels established in the individualized education or service plan. The  
2032 Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall also make  
2033 available resources, including, but not limited to, the braille and large  
2034 print library, to all teachers of public and nonpublic school children. The  
2035 commissioner may also provide vision-related professional  
2036 development and training to all school districts and cover the actual cost  
2037 for [paraprofessionals] paraeducators from school districts to  
2038 participate in agency-sponsored braille training programs. The  
2039 commissioner shall utilize education consultant positions, funded by  
2040 moneys appropriated from the General Fund, to supplement new  
2041 staffing that will be made available through the educational aid for  
2042 children who are blind or visually impaired account, which shall be  
2043 governed by formal written policies established by the commissioner.

2044 Sec. 37. Subsection (a) of section 46a-11b of the general statutes is  
2045 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
2046 *2024*):

2047 (a) Any physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of chapter  
2048 370, any resident physician or intern in any hospital in this state,  
2049 whether or not so licensed, any registered nurse, any person paid for  
2050 caring for persons in any facility and any licensed practical nurse,  
2051 medical examiner, dental hygienist, dentist, occupational therapist,  
2052 optometrist, chiropractor, psychologist, podiatrist, social worker, school  
2053 teacher, school principal, school guidance counselor, school counselor,  
2054 [school paraprofessional] paraeducator, licensed behavior analyst,  
2055 mental health professional, physician assistant, licensed or certified  
2056 substance abuse counselor, licensed marital and family therapist, speech  
2057 and language pathologist, clergyman, police officer, pharmacist,

2058 physical therapist, licensed professional counselor or sexual assault  
2059 counselor or domestic violence counselor, as defined in section 52-146k,  
2060 who has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any person with  
2061 intellectual disability or any person who receives services from the  
2062 Department of Social Services' Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder  
2063 Services has been abused or neglected shall, as soon as practicable but  
2064 not later than forty-eight hours after such person has reasonable cause  
2065 to suspect or believe that a person with intellectual disability or any  
2066 person who receives services from the Department of Social Services'  
2067 Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Services has been abused or  
2068 neglected, report such information or cause a report to be made in any  
2069 reasonable manner to the commissioner, or the commissioner's  
2070 designee. An unsuccessful attempt to make an initial report to the  
2071 commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, on a weekend, holiday  
2072 or after normal business hours shall not be construed as a violation of  
2073 this section if reasonable attempts are made by a person required to  
2074 report under this subsection to reach the commissioner, or the  
2075 commissioner's designee, as soon as practicable after the initial attempt.  
2076 The initial report shall be followed up by a written report not later than  
2077 five calendar days after the initial report was made. Any person  
2078 required to report under this subsection who fails to make such report  
2079 shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars. For purposes of this  
2080 subsection, "reasonable manner" and "reasonable attempts" mean efforts  
2081 that include, but are not limited to, efforts to reach the commissioner, or  
2082 the commissioner's designee, by phone, in person or by electronic mail.

2083 Sec. 38. Subdivision (13) of section 53a-65 of the 2024 supplement to  
2084 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
2085 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

2086 (13) "School employee" means: (A) A teacher, substitute teacher,  
2087 school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor,  
2088 school counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, [school  
2089 paraprofessional] paraeducator or coach employed by a local or regional  
2090 board of education or a private elementary, middle or high school or  
2091 working in a public or private elementary, middle or high school; or (B)



2092 any other person who, in the performance of his or her duties, has  
2093 regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf  
2094 of students enrolled in (i) a public elementary, middle or high school,  
2095 pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of education, or  
2096 (ii) a private elementary, middle or high school, pursuant to a contract  
2097 with the supervisory agent of such private school.

2098 Sec. 39. Subsection (a) of section 31-3i of the 2024 supplement to the  
2099 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
2100 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

2101 (a) Pursuant to Section 101 of the federal Workforce Innovation and  
2102 Opportunity Act of 2014, P.L. 113-128, the members of the Governor's  
2103 Workforce Council shall be:

2104 (1) The Governor;

2105 (2) A member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the  
2106 speaker of the House of Representatives, and a member of the Senate,  
2107 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

2108 (3) Twenty-four members, appointed by the Governor, who (A) are  
2109 owners of a business, chief executives or operating officers of a business,  
2110 or other business executives or employers with optimum policy-making  
2111 or hiring authority; (B) represent businesses or organizations  
2112 representing businesses that provide employment opportunities that, at  
2113 a minimum, include high-quality, work-relevant training and  
2114 development in in-demand industry sectors or occupation in the state;  
2115 or (C) have been nominated by state business organizations or business  
2116 trade associations. At a minimum, at least one such member shall  
2117 represent small businesses, as defined by the United States Small  
2118 Business Administration; [.]

2119 (4) The Labor Commissioner, Commissioner of Aging and Disability  
2120 Services, Commissioner of Education, Commissioner of Economic and  
2121 Community Development and the Chief Workforce Officer, or their  
2122 respective designees;

2123 (5) Four representatives of labor organizations, who have been  
2124 nominated by state labor federations and appointed by the Governor;

2125 (6) An individual, appointed by the Governor, who is a member of a  
2126 labor organization or a training director from a joint labor-management  
2127 apprenticeship program, or, if no such joint program exists in the state,  
2128 such a representative of an apprenticeship program in the state;

2129 (7) An individual, appointed by the Governor, who is an expert in  
2130 residential construction;

2131 (8) Five members, appointed by the Governor, who represent  
2132 community-based organizations that have demonstrated experience  
2133 and expertise in addressing employment, training, or education,  
2134 including one representative of a community action agency, as defined  
2135 in section 17b-885, and one representative of a philanthropic  
2136 organization;

2137 (9) A representative from the Connecticut State Colleges and  
2138 Universities, a representative from The University of Connecticut and a  
2139 representative from a nonprofit institution of higher education in the  
2140 state, each appointed by the Governor;

2141 (10) A representative from a regional vocational-technical school and  
2142 a representative from a regional agricultural science and technology  
2143 school, each appointed by the Governor;

2144 (11) Two superintendents of a local or regional board of education,  
2145 appointed by the Governor;

2146 (12) A certified teacher employed by a local or regional board of  
2147 education, appointed by the Governor;

2148 ~~[(12)]~~ (13) Two chief elected officials of municipalities, appointed by  
2149 the Governor; and

2150 ~~[(13)]~~ (14) Two members of the public, who are enrolled in or who  
2151 have recently completed a nondegree workforce training program,

2152 appointed by the Governor.

2153 Sec. 40. Section 17a-101a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2154 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

2155 (a) (1) Any mandated reporter, as described in section 17a-101, who  
2156 in the ordinary course of such person's employment or profession has  
2157 reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any child under the age of  
2158 eighteen years (A) has been abused or neglected, as described in section  
2159 46b-120, (B) has had nonaccidental physical injury, or injury which is at  
2160 variance with the history given of such injury, inflicted upon such child,  
2161 or (C) is placed at imminent risk of serious harm, or (2) any school  
2162 employee, as defined in section 53a-65, as amended by this act, who in  
2163 the ordinary course of such person's employment or profession has  
2164 reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any person who is being  
2165 educated by the Technical Education and Career System, [or] a local or  
2166 regional board of education, other than as part of an adult education  
2167 program, or a nonpublic school, is a victim under the provisions of  
2168 section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a, and the  
2169 perpetrator is a school employee shall report or cause a report to be  
2170 made in accordance with the provisions of sections 17a-101b to 17a-  
2171 101d, inclusive.

2172 [(b) (1) Any person required to report under the provisions of this  
2173 section who fails to make such report or fails to make such report within  
2174 the time period prescribed in sections 17a-101b to 17a-101d, inclusive,  
2175 and section 17a-103 shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor, except that  
2176 such person shall be guilty of a class E felony if (A) such violation is a  
2177 subsequent violation, (B) such violation was wilful or intentional or due  
2178 to gross negligence, or (C) such person had actual knowledge that (i) a  
2179 child was abused or neglected, as described in section 46b-120, or (ii) a  
2180 person was a victim described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this  
2181 section.

2182 (2) Any person who intentionally and unreasonably interferes with  
2183 or prevents the making of a report pursuant to this section, or attempts

2184 or conspires to do so, shall be guilty of a class D felony. The provisions  
2185 of this subdivision shall not apply to any child under the age of eighteen  
2186 years or any person who is being educated by the Technical Education  
2187 and Career System or a local or regional board of education, other than  
2188 as part of an adult education program.

2189 (3) Any person found guilty under the provisions of this subsection  
2190 shall be required to participate in an educational and training program.  
2191 The program may be provided by one or more private organizations  
2192 approved by the commissioner, provided the entire cost of the program  
2193 shall be paid from fees charged to the participants, the amount of which  
2194 shall be subject to the approval of the commissioner.

2195 (c) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the  
2196 commissioner's designee, shall promptly notify the Chief State's  
2197 Attorney when there is reason to believe that any such person has failed  
2198 to make a report in accordance with this section.]

2199 [(d)] (b) For purposes of this section and section 17a-101b, a  
2200 mandated reporter's suspicion or belief may be based on factors  
2201 including, but not limited to, observations, allegations, facts or  
2202 statements by a child, victim, as described in subdivision (2) of  
2203 subsection (a) of this section, or third party. Such suspicion or belief does  
2204 not require certainty or probable cause. Nothing in this section shall  
2205 preclude a mandated reporter from conducting a preliminary inquiry to  
2206 determine if reasonable cause exists for such mandated reporter to make  
2207 a report pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

2208 Sec. 41. Section 17a-101e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2209 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

2210 (a) No employer shall (1) discharge, or in any manner discriminate or  
2211 retaliate against, any employee who in good faith makes a report  
2212 pursuant to sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, as amended by this  
2213 act, and 17a-103, testifies or is about to testify in any proceeding  
2214 involving child abuse or neglect, or (2) hinder or prevent, or attempt to  
2215 hinder or prevent, any employee from making a report pursuant to

2216 sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, as amended by this act, and  
2217 17a-103, or testifying in any proceeding involving child abuse or neglect.  
2218 The Attorney General may bring an action in Superior Court against an  
2219 employer who violates this subsection. The court may assess a civil  
2220 penalty of not more than two thousand five hundred dollars and may  
2221 order such other equitable relief as the court deems appropriate.

2222 (b) Any person, institution or agency [which, in good faith,] that (1)  
2223 makes or does not make, in good faith, a report pursuant to sections 17a-  
2224 101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, as amended by this act, and 17a-103, or (2)  
2225 provides, in good faith, professional medical intervention or assistance  
2226 in any proceeding involving child abuse and neglect, including, but not  
2227 limited to, (A) causing a photograph, x-ray or a physical custody  
2228 examination to be made, (B) causing a child to be taken into emergency  
2229 protective custody, (C) disclosing a medical record or other information  
2230 pertinent to the proceeding, or (D) performing a medically relevant test,  
2231 shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, which might  
2232 otherwise arise from or be related to the actions taken pursuant to this  
2233 subsection and shall have the same immunity with respect to any  
2234 judicial proceeding which results from such report or actions, provided  
2235 such person did not perpetrate or cause such abuse or neglect. The  
2236 immunity from civil or criminal liability extends only to actions done  
2237 pursuant to this subsection and does not extend to the malpractice of a  
2238 medical professional that results in personal injury or death.

2239 (c) Any person who is alleged to have knowingly made a false report  
2240 of child abuse or neglect pursuant to sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d,  
2241 inclusive, as amended by this act, and 17a-103 shall be referred to the  
2242 office of the Chief State's Attorney for purposes of a criminal  
2243 investigation.

2244 (d) Any person who knowingly makes a false report of child abuse or  
2245 neglect pursuant to sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, as amended  
2246 by this act, and 17a-103 shall be fined not more than two thousand  
2247 dollars or imprisoned not more than one year or both.

2248 Sec. 42. Subsection (d) of section 17a-101i of the general statutes is  
2249 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
2250 *2024*):

2251 (d) If a school employee, as defined in section 53a-65, as amended by  
2252 this act, or any person holding a certificate, permit or authorization  
2253 issued by the State Board of Education under the provisions of sections  
2254 10-144o to 10-149, inclusive, is convicted of a crime involving an act of  
2255 child abuse or neglect as described in section 46b-120 or a violation of  
2256 subdivision (2) of subsection [(b) of section 17a-101a] (d) of section 17a-  
2257 101o, as amended by this act, or section 53-21, 53a-71 or 53a-73a against  
2258 any person, or a violation of section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-72a or 53a-72b  
2259 against a victim, as described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of  
2260 section 17a-101a, as amended by this act, the state's attorney for the  
2261 judicial district in which the conviction occurred shall in writing notify  
2262 the superintendent of the school district or the supervisory agent of the  
2263 nonpublic school in which the person is employed and the  
2264 Commissioner of Education of such conviction.

2265 Sec. 43. Section 17a-101o of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2266 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

2267 (a) If the Commissioner of Children and Families suspects or knows  
2268 that a mandated reporter, as defined in section 17a-101, [employed by a  
2269 local or regional board of education,] has failed to make a report that a  
2270 child has been abused or neglected or placed in immediate risk of  
2271 serious harm within the time period prescribed in sections 17a-101a to  
2272 [17a-101d] 17a-101c, inclusive, as amended by this act, [and section 17a-  
2273 103,] the commissioner shall make a record of such [delay] failure to  
2274 report and develop and maintain a database of such records. The  
2275 commissioner shall [investigate such delayed reporting. Such  
2276 investigation] conduct an assessment with respect to such failure to  
2277 report. Such assessment shall be conducted in accordance with the  
2278 policy developed in subsection (b) of this section, and include the  
2279 actions taken by the employing local or regional board of education or  
2280 superintendent of schools for the district in response to such employee's

2281 failure to report.

2282 (b) The Department of Children and Families shall develop a policy  
2283 for the [investigation of delayed reports by mandated reporters]  
2284 assessment of the failure of mandated reporters to make reports within  
2285 the time period prescribed in sections 17a-101a to 17a-101c, inclusive, as  
2286 amended by this act. Such policy shall include, but not be limited to,  
2287 when referrals to the appropriate law enforcement agency for [delayed  
2288 reporting] the failure to report are required and when the department  
2289 shall require mandated reporters who have been found to have [delayed  
2290 making a report] failed to make reports to participate in the educational  
2291 and training program pursuant to subsection [(b) of section 17a-101a]  
2292 (d) of this section.

2293 (c) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the  
2294 commissioner's designee, shall promptly notify the Chief State's  
2295 Attorney when there is reason to believe that a mandated reporter has  
2296 failed to make a report in accordance with sections 17a-101a to 17a-101c,  
2297 inclusive, as amended by this act.

2298 (d) (1) Any person required to report under the provisions of section  
2299 17a-101a, as amended by this act, who fails to make such report or fails  
2300 to make such report within the time period prescribed in sections 17a-  
2301 101a to 17a-101c, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall be guilty of a  
2302 class A misdemeanor, except that such person shall be guilty of a class  
2303 E felony if (A) such violation is a subsequent violation, (B) such violation  
2304 was wilful or intentional or due to gross negligence, or (C) such person  
2305 had actual knowledge that (i) a child was abused or neglected, as  
2306 described in section 46b-120, or (ii) a person was a victim described in  
2307 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 17a-101a, as amended by this  
2308 act.

2309 (2) Any person who intentionally and unreasonably interferes with  
2310 or prevents the making of a report pursuant to section 17a-101a, as  
2311 amended by this act, or attempts or conspires to do so, shall be guilty of  
2312 a class D felony. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to

2313 any child under the age of eighteen years or any person who is being  
2314 educated by the Technical Education and Career System, a local or  
2315 regional board of education, other than as part of an adult education  
2316 program, or a nonpublic school.

2317 (3) Any person found guilty under the provisions of this subsection  
2318 shall be required to participate in an educational and training program.  
2319 The program may be provided by one or more private organizations  
2320 approved by the commissioner and the entire cost of the program shall  
2321 be paid from fees charged to the participants, the amount of which shall  
2322 be subject to the approval of the commissioner.

2323 [(c)] (e) For purposes of this section, "child" includes any victim  
2324 described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 17a-101a, as  
2325 amended by this act.

2326 Sec. 44. Section 10-145i of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2327 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

2328 Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 10-144o to 10-146b,  
2329 inclusive, and 10-149, the State Board of Education shall not issue or  
2330 reissue any certificate, authorization or permit pursuant to said sections  
2331 if (1) the applicant for such certificate, authorization or permit has been  
2332 convicted of any of the following: (A) A capital felony, as defined under  
2333 the provisions of section 53a-54b in effect prior to April 25, 2012; (B)  
2334 arson murder, as defined in section 53a-54d; (C) any class A felony; (D)  
2335 any class B felony except a violation of section 53a-122, 53a-252 or 53a-  
2336 291; (E) a crime involving an act of child abuse or neglect as described  
2337 in section 46b-120; or (F) a violation of section [17a-101a] 17a-101o, as  
2338 amended by this act, 53-21, 53-37a, 53a-60b, 53a-60c, 53a-71, 53a-72a,  
2339 53a-72b, 53a-73a, 53a-88, 53a-90a, 53a-99, 53a-103a, 53a-181c, 53a-191,  
2340 53a-196, 53a-196c, 53a-216, 53a-217b or 21a-278 or a violation of  
2341 subsection (a) of section 21a-277, and (2) the applicant completed  
2342 serving the sentence for such conviction within the five years  
2343 immediately preceding the date of the application.

2344 Sec. 45. Section 10-149a of the general statutes is repealed and the



2345 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

2346 If a person holding a certificate, authorization or permit issued by the  
2347 State Board of Education under the provisions of sections 10-144o to 10-  
2348 149, inclusive, is convicted of a felony or fined pursuant to section [17a-  
2349 101a] 17a-101o, as amended by this act, the state's attorney or assistant  
2350 state's attorney for the judicial district in which the conviction or fine  
2351 occurred shall notify, in writing, the Commissioner of Education of such  
2352 conviction or fine.

2353 Sec. 46. Subsection (a) of section 10-222c of the general statutes is  
2354 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
2355 *2024*):

2356 (a) No local or regional board of education, governing council of a  
2357 state or local charter school, interdistrict magnet school operator or  
2358 supervisory agent of a nonpublic school shall offer employment to an  
2359 applicant for a position, including any position which is contracted for,  
2360 if such applicant would have direct student contact, prior to such board,  
2361 council, operator or supervisory agent:

2362 (1) Requiring of such applicant:

2363 (A) To list the name, address and telephone number of each current  
2364 or former employer of the applicant, if such current or former employer  
2365 was a local or regional board of education, council, operator or  
2366 supervisory agent or if such employment otherwise caused the  
2367 applicant to have contact with children;

2368 (B) A written authorization that (i) consents to and authorizes  
2369 disclosure by the employers listed under subparagraph (A) of this  
2370 subdivision of the information requested under subdivision (2) of this  
2371 subsection and the release of related records by such employers, (ii)  
2372 consents to and authorizes disclosure by the Department of Education  
2373 of the information requested under subdivision (3) of this subsection  
2374 and the release of related records by the department, and (iii) releases  
2375 those employers and the department from liability that may arise from

2376 such disclosure or release of records pursuant to subdivision (2) or (3)  
2377 of this subsection; and

2378 (C) A written statement of whether the applicant (i) has been the  
2379 subject of an abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct investigation by any  
2380 employer, state agency or municipal police department, unless the  
2381 investigation resulted in a finding that all allegations were  
2382 unsubstantiated, (ii) has ever been disciplined or asked to resign from  
2383 employment or resigned from or otherwise separated from any  
2384 employment while an allegation of abuse or neglect was pending or  
2385 under investigation by the Department of Children and Families, or an  
2386 allegation of sexual misconduct was pending or under investigation or  
2387 due to an allegation substantiated pursuant to section 17a-101g of abuse  
2388 or neglect, or of sexual misconduct or a conviction for abuse or neglect  
2389 or sexual misconduct, or (iii) has ever had a professional or occupational  
2390 license or certificate suspended or revoked or has ever surrendered such  
2391 a license or certificate while an allegation of abuse or neglect was  
2392 pending or under investigation by the department or an investigation  
2393 of sexual misconduct was pending or under investigation, or due to an  
2394 allegation substantiated by the department of abuse or neglect or of  
2395 sexual misconduct or a conviction for abuse or neglect or sexual  
2396 misconduct;

2397 (2) Conducting a review of the employment history of the applicant  
2398 by contacting those employers listed by the applicant under subdivision  
2399 (1) of this subsection. Such review shall be conducted using a form  
2400 developed by the Department of Education in accordance with section  
2401 3 of public act 16-67 that shall request (A) the dates of employment of  
2402 the applicant, and (B) a statement as to whether the employer has  
2403 knowledge that the applicant (i) was the subject of an allegation of abuse  
2404 or neglect or sexual misconduct for which there is an investigation  
2405 pending with any employer, state agency or municipal police  
2406 department or which has been substantiated, unless such substantiation  
2407 has been reversed as a result of an appeal conducted pursuant to section  
2408 17a-101k; (ii) was disciplined or asked to resign from employment or  
2409 resigned from or otherwise separated from any employment while an

2410 allegation of abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct was pending or  
2411 under investigation, or due to a substantiation of abuse or neglect or  
2412 sexual misconduct, unless such substantiation has been reversed as a  
2413 result of an appeal conducted pursuant to section 17a-101k; or (iii) has  
2414 ever had a professional or occupational license, certificate, authorization  
2415 or permit suspended or revoked or has ever surrendered such a license,  
2416 certificate, authorization or permit while an allegation of abuse or  
2417 neglect or sexual misconduct was pending or under investigation, or  
2418 due to a substantiation of abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct, unless  
2419 such substantiation has been reversed as a result of an appeal conducted  
2420 pursuant to section 17a-101k. Such review may be conducted  
2421 telephonically or through written communication. Notwithstanding the  
2422 provisions of subsection (g) of section 31-51i, not later than five business  
2423 days after any such current or former employer of the applicant receives  
2424 a request for such information, such employer shall respond with such  
2425 information. A local or regional board of education, council, operator or  
2426 supervisory agent may request more information concerning any  
2427 response made by a current or former employer, and, notwithstanding  
2428 the provisions of said subsection (g), such employer shall respond not  
2429 later than five business days after receiving such request; and

2430 (3) Requesting information from the Department of Education  
2431 concerning (A) the eligibility status for employment of any applicant for  
2432 a position requiring a certificate, authorization or permit issued  
2433 pursuant to chapter 166, (B) whether the department has knowledge  
2434 that a finding has been substantiated by the Department of Children and  
2435 Families pursuant to section 17a-101g of abuse or neglect or of sexual  
2436 misconduct against the applicant and any information concerning such  
2437 a finding, and (C) whether the department has received notification that  
2438 the applicant has been convicted of a crime or of criminal charges  
2439 pending against the applicant and any information concerning such  
2440 charges.

2441 Sec. 47. Subsection (m) of section 10-222c of the general statutes is  
2442 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
2443 *2024*):

2444 (m) No local or regional board of education, council, operator or  
2445 supervisory agent shall offer employment to any applicant who had any  
2446 previous employment contract terminated by a board, council, operator  
2447 or supervisory agent or who resigned from such employment, if such  
2448 person has been convicted of a violation of section [17a-101a] 17a-101o,  
2449 as amended by this act, when an allegation of abuse or neglect or sexual  
2450 assault has been substantiated.

2451 Sec. 48. Section 10-221s of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2452 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

2453 (a) Each local and regional board of education shall post the  
2454 telephone number for the Careline operated by the Department of  
2455 Children and Families, pursuant to section 17a-103a, and the Internet  
2456 web site address that provides information about the Careline in a  
2457 conspicuous location frequented by students in each school under the  
2458 jurisdiction of the board. Such posting shall be in various languages that  
2459 are the most appropriate for the students enrolled in the school.

2460 (b) A local or regional board of education shall permit and give  
2461 priority to any investigation conducted by the Commissioner of  
2462 Children and Families or the appropriate local law enforcement agency  
2463 that a child has been abused or neglected pursuant to sections 17a-101a  
2464 to 17a-101d, inclusive, as amended by this act, and section 17a-103. Such  
2465 board of education shall conduct its own investigation and take any  
2466 disciplinary action, in accordance with the provisions of section 17a-  
2467 101i, as amended by this act, upon notice from the commissioner or the  
2468 appropriate local law enforcement agency that such board's  
2469 investigation will not interfere with the investigation of the  
2470 commissioner or such local law enforcement agency. A preliminary  
2471 inquiry described in subsection (b) of section 17a-101a, as amended by  
2472 this act, shall not be considered an investigation conducted by a board  
2473 of education under this section.

2474 Sec. 49. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2024, the  
2475 Commissioner of Children and Families shall update the educational

2476 training program and refresher training program for the accurate and  
2477 prompt identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect,  
2478 developed pursuant to subsection (c) of section 17a-101 of the general  
2479 statutes, to include training for school employees, as defined in section  
2480 53a-65 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, on (1) the proper  
2481 manner in which to conduct a preliminary inquiry described in  
2482 subsection (b) of section 17a-101a of the general statutes, as amended by  
2483 this act, and (2) the provisions of section 10-221s of the general statutes,  
2484 as amended by this act.

2485 Sec. 50. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-156ii of the 2024  
2486 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is  
2487 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

2488 (a) There is established an aspiring educators diversity scholarship  
2489 program administered by the Department of Education. The program  
2490 shall provide an annual scholarship to diverse students who (1)  
2491 graduated from a public high school in [a priority school district, as  
2492 described in section 10-266p] an alliance district, as defined in section  
2493 10-262u, and (2) are enrolled in a teacher preparation program at any  
2494 four-year institution of higher education. A diverse student may receive  
2495 an annual scholarship in an amount up to ten thousand dollars for each  
2496 year such diverse student is enrolled and in good standing in a teacher  
2497 preparation program. As used in this section, "diverse" has the same  
2498 meaning as provided in section 10-156bb.

2499 (b) Not later than January 1, 2023, the department shall, in  
2500 consultation with the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the  
2501 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,  
2502 develop a policy concerning the administration of the scholarship. Such  
2503 policy shall include, but need not be limited to, provisions regarding (1)  
2504 any additional eligibility criteria, (2) payment and distribution of the  
2505 scholarships to diverse students through the teacher preparation  
2506 programs in which they are enrolled, and (3) the notification of students  
2507 in high school in [priority school] alliance districts of the scholarship  
2508 program, including the opportunity to apply for a scholarship under the

2509 program while enrolled in high school and prior to graduation if such  
 2510 student will be enrolled in a teacher preparation program during the  
 2511 following fall semester at a four-year institution of higher education.

2512 Sec. 51. (Effective July 1, 2026) Notwithstanding the provisions of  
 2513 chapter 54 of the general statutes, sections 10-145d-9(b) to 10-145d-9(e),  
 2514 inclusive, 10-145d-9(g)(1), 10-145d-9(i), 10-145d-10(a) to 10-145d-  
 2515 10(b)(9), inclusive, 10-145d-10(c) to 10-145d-10(g), inclusive, 10-145d-11,  
 2516 10-145d-400a(a) to 10-145d-400a(d), inclusive, 10-145d-401(a), 10-145d-  
 2517 401(c), 10-145d-402, 10-145d-403(b), 10-145d-403(g), 10-145d-404 to 10-  
 2518 145d-406, inclusive, 10-145d-407(a), 10-145d-407(b), 10-145d-407(d), 10-  
 2519 145d-407(f), 10-145d-407(h), 10-145d-407(i), 10-145d-409 to 10-145d-415,  
 2520 inclusive, 10-145d-417, 10-145d-419, 10-145d-420(f), 10-145d-421(b), 10-  
 2521 145d-422, 10-145d-423(a), 10-145d-426, 10-145d-427, 10-145d-434, 10-  
 2522 145d-435(b), 10-145d-436 to 10-145d-438, inclusive, 10-145d-441 to 10-  
 2523 145d-453, inclusive, 10-145d-472 to 10-145d-474, inclusive, 10-145d-476  
 2524 to 10-145d-479, inclusive, 10-145d-481, 10-145d-482(c), 10-145d-482(d),  
 2525 10-145d-483, 10-145d-484, 10-145d-535 to 10-145d-537, inclusive, 10-  
 2526 145d-539 to 10-145d-542, inclusive, 10-145d-608 and 10-145d-609 of the  
 2527 regulations of Connecticut state agencies are repealed.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2024	10-145b
Sec. 2	July 1, 2024	10-145d(f)
Sec. 3	July 1, 2024	10-145a
Sec. 4	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 5	July 1, 2024	10-145f(b)
Sec. 6	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 7	July 1, 2024	10-145t(a) and (b)
Sec. 8	July 1, 2024	10-145w(a)
Sec. 9	July 1, 2024	10-144d(e)
Sec. 10	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 11	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 12	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 13	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 14	July 1, 2024	New section

Sec. 15	July 1, 2024	10-145aa
Sec. 16	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 17	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 18	July 1, 2024	31-51rr
Sec. 19	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 20	July 1, 2024	10-66r(a)
Sec. 21	July 1, 2024	10-74q
Sec. 22	July 1, 2024	10-74r(b)
Sec. 23	July 1, 2024	10-76d(a)(10)
Sec. 24	July 1, 2024	10-155j
Sec. 25	July 1, 2024	10-155k
Sec. 26	July 1, 2024	10-156gg(a)(2)
Sec. 27	July 1, 2024	10-212a
Sec. 28	July 1, 2024	10-221o(b)
Sec. 29	July 1, 2024	10-221u
Sec. 30	July 1, 2024	10-222d(a)(8)
Sec. 31	July 1, 2024	10-223e(d) to (g)
Sec. 32	July 1, 2024	10-223j(a)(4)
Sec. 33	July 1, 2024	10-236b(o)
Sec. 34	July 1, 2025	10-236b(o)
Sec. 35	July 1, 2024	10-239e(a)
Sec. 36	July 1, 2024	17a-812(b)(1)
Sec. 37	July 1, 2024	46a-11b(a)
Sec. 38	July 1, 2024	53a-65(13)
Sec. 39	July 1, 2024	31-3i(a)
Sec. 40	July 1, 2024	17a-101a
Sec. 41	July 1, 2024	17a-101e
Sec. 42	July 1, 2024	17a-101i(d)
Sec. 43	July 1, 2024	17a-101o
Sec. 44	July 1, 2024	10-145i
Sec. 45	July 1, 2024	10-149a
Sec. 46	July 1, 2024	10-222c(a)
Sec. 47	July 1, 2024	10-222c(m)
Sec. 48	July 1, 2024	10-221s
Sec. 49	from passage	New section
Sec. 50	July 1, 2024	10-156ii(a) and (b)
Sec. 51	July 1, 2026	New section

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Revenue Loss	None	1 million - 2 million
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	50,000	100,000
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	20,625	41,250
Judicial Department; Corrections, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	Cost	See Below	See Below

**Explanation**

The bill makes a variety of changes regarding teacher certification, mandated reporter requirements, the Governor's Workforce Council, and the Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program. The impact of these changes is described by section below.

**Sections 1 - 8** result in a revenue loss to the resources of the General Fund of approximately \$1 million to \$2 million annually beginning in

<sup>1</sup>The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.25% of payroll in FY 25.



FY 26.

The amendment makes a variety of changes to the educator certification process, including eliminating or reducing certain licensing requirements and associated fees. The elimination and reduction of these fees results in an annual revenue loss of approximately \$1 million to \$2 million to the resources of the General Fund beginning in FY 26.

**Section 9** makes changes regarding the responsibilities of the Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards. This has no fiscal impact, as it is anticipated that the Council can meet the responsibilities with existing resources.

**Sections 10 – 14 and 19** establish a Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board and require the board to develop a variety of reports and proposals regarding a comprehensive update of the educator certification process. Section 19 requires the Office of Policy and Management to reclassify an existing vacant position within the State Department of Education (SDE) for the purpose of staffing the board.

It is anticipated that filling an existing vacant position will result in annualized costs of \$141,250 beginning in FY 26, primarily to SDE. The salary for such a position is anticipated to be \$100,000, with associated fringe benefits costs of \$41,250. FY 25 costs of \$70,625 (\$50,000 for salary and \$20,625 for fringe benefits) are associated with a January 1, 2025 hire date.

**Section 15** makes changes to the way edTPA may be used for educator certification and assessment, including by teacher preparation programs. This has no fiscal impact as it does not change any costs associated with such certification or assessment.

**Sections 16 and 17** have no fiscal impact. They make changes to the certification process for certain educators at the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System and within comprehensive high schools. These revisions do not change any costs associated with such

certification.

**Section 18** results in a cost to local and regional school districts beginning in FY 25 by reducing the number of hours that certain noncertified school employees must have worked in the prior year in order to qualify for unpaid family and medical leave benefits.

To the extent that a non-certified employee (1) becomes eligible for these benefits due to the bill's lower threshold, and (2) takes unpaid leave, there is a cost to local and regional school districts to provide overtime for covering employees. Any cost is anticipated to be minimal.

**Sections 20 - 38** make technical changes which have no fiscal impact.

**Section 39** requires a teacher to be appointed to the Governor's Workforce Council. This has no fiscal impact as it is not anticipated to change any costs incurred by the Council.

**Sections 40 - 49** make various changes to mandated reporter failure offenses, ranging from Class A misdemeanors to Class D felonies. These changes result in a potential cost to the Department of Correction and the Judicial Department for incarceration or probation and a potential revenue gain to the General Fund from fines to the extent that these changes result in more offenses. On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$3,300<sup>2</sup> while the average marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$800<sup>3</sup> each year for adults. Few violations are anticipated.<sup>4</sup>

**Section 50** expands the Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program within SDE to students in teacher preparation programs who

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<sup>2</sup>Inmate marginal cost is based on increased consumables (e.g., food, clothing, water, sewage, living supplies, etc.) This does not include a change in staffing costs or utility expenses because these would only be realized if a unit or facility opened.

<sup>3</sup>Probation marginal cost is based on services provided by private providers and only includes costs that increase with each additional participant. This does not include a cost for additional supervision by a probation officer unless a new offense is anticipated to result in enough additional offenders to require additional probation officers.

<sup>4</sup>Since FY 14, less than 40 charges were recorded for similar offenses.

graduated from any Alliance District, rather than any Priority School District (PSD), beginning in FY 25. This opens the program to students from 20 additional school districts and will increase costs. The amount of the increase is dependent on the number of students who apply for and receive the scholarship who graduated from Alliance Districts (that are not also PSDs). The account is currently projected to lapse \$2 million (50 percent of its total appropriation) in FY 24.

**Section 51** makes technical and conforming changes and has no fiscal impact.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact and results in the above identified fiscal impact.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

*The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5436 (as amended by House "A")\*****AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

SUMMARY§§ 1 & 6 — CHANGES TO EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION

Simplifies the steps required to receive an initial educator certification for those going through an ARC program; prohibits granting any new provisional educator certificates (the middle level of three educator certificates) and makes the initial certification valid for 10 years; establishes new criteria for a professional educator certificate (the highest of the three current certificate levels) including permitting an alternate pathway to professional licensure instead of the master's degree requirement

§§ 2 & 4 — BROADENING GRADES COVERED BY CERTAIN TEACHING ENDORSEMENTS

Broadens grades covered by certain teaching endorsements

§ 3 — ELEMENTARY EDUCATION TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Requires, beginning July 1, 2025, that elementary education teacher preparation programs be aligned with NAEYC standards and competencies for early childhood educators

§ 5 — SUBJECT AREA ASSESSMENTS AND CROSS ENDORSEMENTS

Simplifies the process for certified teachers to gain an additional endorsement (i.e., "cross endorsement")

§ 7 — ARC PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF

Allows SDE to approve ARC programs that partner with an accredited university to provide a dual degree-plus-certification program for participants who hold an associate degree

§ 8 — ARC PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY EXPANDED

Expands who may participate in an existing ARC program for people in alternate professions to include someone with at least five years of work experience requiring discretion and independent judgment in the field related to the teaching endorsement area

#### § 9 — ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR TEACHER PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Requires the council to advise the SDE commissioner, rather than the governor and SBE; adds to the subjects for which the council must provide advice (e.g., equitable distribution of teachers); eliminates a requirement that the council advise on teacher preparation and certification and review and comment on certain regulations and standards

#### § 10 — CREATION OF THE CONNECTICUT EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION BOARD (CEPCB)

Creates the new 16-member CEPCB and charges it with modernizing and aligning educator preparation and certification to attract and retain diverse professionals into teaching, and developing proposals for regulations or legislation relating to educator preparation and certification; requires the board to submit its first annual report to the Education Committee by January 1, 2026

#### § 11 — CEPCB AND SBE CONSIDER AND APPROVE OR REJECT EACH OTHER'S PROPOSALS

Gives CEPCB and SBE each the authority to develop standards and proposals (i.e., "proposals") for regulations and legislation relating to educator preparation and certification; requires each board to consider the proposals of the other board

#### § 12 — CEPCB DUTIES

Requires CEPCB to develop proposals for regulations and legislation by July 1, 2025

#### § 13 — CEPCB REVIEW OF EDUCATOR REGULATIONS AND STATUTES AND CONTENT KNOWLEDGE AND ENDORSEMENT AREAS

Requires CEPCB to review (1) educator preparation and certification regulations and statutes for obsolete or conflicting provisions and (2) how SDE assesses certification candidates' content knowledge within their endorsement area

#### § 14 — CEPCB TO DEVELOP STANDARDS FOR REVIEWING EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Requires CEPCB to develop review criteria for educator preparation and ARC programs

§ 15 — EDTPA

Beginning July 1, 2024, bans SBE from requiring teacher preparation programs to use edTPA for certain purposes; as of the same date, bans teacher preparation programs from using edTPA scores to prevent a student from completing their program

§§ 16 & 17 — TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL AND TRADE OCCUPATIONS EDUCATOR CERTIFICATIONS

Creates and specifies requirements for new occupational subject and trade and industrial occupations educator certifications; allows for interim certifications under certain conditions

§ 18 — FMLA FOR NONCERTIFIED SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEES

Reduces the number of work hours, from 1,250 to 950, that noncertified school employees need to qualify for unpaid family and medical leave benefits

§ 19 — CEPCB ADMINISTRATOR

Requires, for FY 25, OPM to reclassify one unfilled, authorized SDE position in order to hire an administrator for CEPCB

§§ 20-38 — CHANGES TERM TO “PARAEDUCATOR”

Changes the terms “school paraprofessional,” “paraprofessional,” and “paraprofessional teacher aide” to “paraeducator” in various education-related statutes

§ 23 — NOTICE REQUIREMENTS BEFORE SPECIAL EDUCATION PLANNING AND PLACEMENT MEETINGS

Requires the notice school boards must give parents, guardians, or students before a special education planning and placement team meeting to include the rights the law provides them at these meetings

§ 39 — GOVERNOR’S WORKFORCE COUNCIL

Adds a certified teacher to the council’s membership

§§ 40 & 48 — PRELIMINARY INQUIRIES BY MANDATED REPORTERS

Specifies that (1) the mandated reporter law does not prohibit mandated reporters from making a preliminary inquiry to determine if reasonable cause exists for a report and (2) this inquiry is not an abuse or neglect investigation by a school board

§§ 40, 42-45 & 47 — MANDATED REPORTERS MINOR AND TECHNICAL CHANGES

Adds students in nonpublic schools to the list of students for whom the school employee-specific mandated reporter provisions apply; reorganizes certain provisions on penalties for failing to make a report so that they appear in one statute rather than in two separate statutes

§ 41 — IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY

Extends immunity from criminal or civil liability to persons, institutions, and agencies that, in good faith, do not make a report

§ 43 — FAILURE TO REPORT

Requires the DCF commissioner to assess mandated reporters' failure to report within timeframes required by law, rather than investigate delayed reports as current law requires

§ 46 — EMPLOYMENT HISTORY REVIEWS

Excludes, from the information that must be disclosed by school employment applicants' previous employers, information about a substantiated abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct allegation if the substantiation was reversed in an appeal to DCF

§ 49 — DCF TRAINING

Requires DCF to update its training program and refresher training for school employees

§ 50 — ASPIRING EDUCATORS DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Makes the scholarship available to students who graduate from public high schools in alliance districts, rather than public high schools in priority school districts

§ 51 — REPEALED REGULATIONS

Repeals numerous educator preparation program and certification regulations, effective July 1, 2026

**SUMMARY**

This bill makes numerous unrelated changes to the laws on education, as described in the section-by-section analysis below.

\*House Amendment "A":

1. changes effective dates for certain educator certification

- provisions;
2. reduces the membership of the new Educator Preparation and Certification Board from 26 to 16 and requires the education commissioner to designate an existing employee to be the board administrator; and
  3. adds new sections on (a) edTPA, (b) educator certification for vocational teachers, (c) family and medical leave for non-certified employees, (d) paraeducators, (e) the Governor's Workforce Council, (f) mandated reporters, (g) job applicant employment history reviews, and (h) the aspiring educators diversity scholarship program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024, except a few sections vary, see below.

## **§§ 1 & 6 — CHANGES TO EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION**

*Simplifies the steps required to receive an initial educator certification for those going through an ARC program; prohibits granting any new provisional educator certificates (the middle level of three educator certificates) and makes the initial certification valid for 10 years; establishes new criteria for a professional educator certificate (the highest of the three current certificate levels) including permitting an alternate pathway to professional licensure instead of the master's degree requirement*

### **Initial Educator Certification**

The bill simplifies the steps required to receive an initial educator certification for those going through an alternate route to certification (ARC) program. It requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to issue an initial educator certification to a candidate with a bachelor's degree or advanced degree from an accredited higher education institution who completes one of the following pathways:

1. successfully completed an SBE-approved educator preparation program,
2. successfully completed an ARC program pursuant to state law, or
3. is an educator from another state and meets one of a list of



requirements in Connecticut law (see below).

An out-of-state teacher can satisfy the pathway requirement for certification if he or she:

1. graduated from a teacher preparation program at an accredited institution in another state or an SBE-approved ARC program, but has not successfully completed the Connecticut teacher assessments;
2. has taught in another state with an appropriate certificate for at least two years and meets the Connecticut certification requirements except for successful completion of the teacher assessments;
3. was hired by a charter school after July 1 in any school year for a teaching position so long as the person could reasonably be expected to complete the requirements in the 90-day temporary certification law (see *Background – Temporary 90-Day Certificate*);
4. received a satisfactory score on the appropriate educator subject area assessment or exam in another state, provided SBE approves the assessments or exams as being at least equivalent with Connecticut's;
5. taught in a state that participates in the enhanced educator reciprocity agreement with Connecticut; or
6. holds a military spouse permit.

The ARC pathway can be successfully completed by one of four types of ARC program authorized in law:

1. for school administrators (CGS § 10-145p);
2. for school support staff (CGS § 10-145t);
3. for persons from alternate professions (e.g., paraeducators,

veterans, professors employed or previously employed at a higher education institution) (CGS § 10-145w); and

4. summer and weekend and evening ARC program (for target groups including teachers in shortage areas and former teachers with expired certification who want to return to the profession) (CGS § 10-155d).

Current law permits teacher certification through ARC programs, but requires these candidates to also satisfy the requirements of a temporary 90-day certificate or a resident teacher certificate (see *Background – Temporary 90-Day Certificate*). The bill eliminates this requirement.

### ***SBE Authority to Waive Requirements***

The bill grants SBE the authority to waive the requirements of (1) completing an educator preparation program, (2) completing an ARC program, or (3) being a certified educator from another state who meets certain Connecticut requirements. Under the bill, SBE may waive these requirements to issue an initial educator certificate to any person who presents a combination of education and experience that the state board determines is the equivalent of the education and experience required under the bill.

### ***Initial Certifications Valid for 10 Years***

The bill makes an initial educator certification valid for 10 years, rather than three as under the current law.

The bill extends existing initial educator certificates that have not expired on July 1, 2025, for a period of 10 years from their issue date, and makes any new certificates issued on or after July 1, 2025, valid for 10 years.

By law, the commissioner may extend initial certifications for an additional year at a superintendent's or local assessment team's request. The bill prohibits the commissioner from granting this extension more than three times to any person.

***Repealing the Provisional Educator Certification and New Criteria for Professional Certification***

Under current law Connecticut has three levels of teacher certification: initial, provisional, and professional.

The bill eliminates SBE's and the education commissioner's authority to issue and reissue provisional certificates effective July 1, 2025. Under the bill, anyone holding a provisional certificate who is not eligible to advance to the professional certificate is eligible for an initial certificate.

Beginning July 1, 2025, the bill allows those holding initial certificates (or those with existing provisional certificates) to apply for a professional certificate rather than a provisional certificate. To qualify for a professional certification a candidate must:

1. have completed at least 50 school months (five years) of successful teaching for one or more boards of education or approved nonpublic schools in Connecticut while holding an initial educator or provisional educator certificate;
2. have satisfactorily completed the teacher education and mentoring program, as required under state law; and
3. either (a) hold a master's degree or higher in an appropriate subject matter area or (b) complete an alternate pathway to professional licensure jointly approved by SBE and the Educator Preparation and Certification Board (see § 10).

Beginning July 1, 2025, upon receipt of a proper application, SBE must issue a professional educator certificate to any person who satisfies these qualifications. For good cause, SBE may waive the requirement for a master's degree or completion of an alternative pathway to professional licensure.

Under current law, to qualify for a professional certificate a candidate must hold or have held a provisional educator certificate and must have a master's degree in an appropriate subject matter area, as determined

by SBE, related to the teacher's certification endorsement area.

Under current law, to qualify for a provisional certificate a candidate must either (1) have taught for one year in a public school and completed the beginning educator program or (2) have taught for at least three years within the last 10 years in a public school in another state or for a private school in any state, including Connecticut, approved by the appropriate governing body for that state, and whose superintendent or supervising agent attests the educator meets the preparation and eligibility requirements of a Connecticut initial certification. Additionally, under current law, an educator who holds a provisional certificate can apply to renew it.

Under the bill, the provisional holder may apply for a professional certificate when the provisional one expires.

The bill eliminates language that permits granting provisional certifications for certain teachers who have taught in another state or in private schools in Connecticut and meet certain conditions.

The bill makes other minor and conforming changes including removing obsolete provisions.

### ***Background — Temporary 90-Day Certificate***

Those seeking a temporary 90-day certificate must (1) hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a major either in, or closely related to, the teacher endorsement area being sought, or in the case of a secondary or special subject endorsement, possess at least the minimum number of credit hours in the subject area required by law; (2) have passed the appropriate teacher assessment; and (3) have successfully completed a state-approved ARC program.

The following are additional requirements for the 90-day certificate: (1) the local board must make a written request for the 90-day certificate to the State Department of Education (SDE) that includes an attestation of a special plan to supervise the 90-day certificate holder and (2) the applicant must possess an overall college GPA of at least a B and present

supporting evidence of appropriate experience working with children. The law permits the education commissioner to waive the last two requirements for good cause.

## **§§ 2 & 4 — BROADENING GRADES COVERED BY CERTAIN TEACHING ENDORSEMENTS**

*Broadens grades covered by certain teaching endorsements*

The bill retroactively allows an educator endorsement to teach elementary grades one to six, inclusive, or grades kindergarten to six, inclusive, issued prior to July 1, 2025, to be valid for grades prekindergarten to six, inclusive. Also, any new elementary endorsement issued on or after July 1, 2025, will also be valid for grades prekindergarten to six, inclusive.

Under current law, certain elementary endorsements are allowed to be valid for kindergarten through grade six, inclusive, depending on various factors including when they were issued.

The bill also makes the following endorsements for grades 7 to 12 valid for grades 4 to 12, regardless of when they were issued: biology, business, chemistry, earth science, English, French, German, general science, history and social studies, Italian, Latin and classical humanities, Mandarin Chinese, mathematics, Portuguese, physics, Russian, Spanish, and any other world language.

### ***Revised Endorsements Do Not Require Applications (§ 4)***

On and after July 1, 2024, any person who holds an initial, provisional, or professional educator certificate, and whose endorsement has been revised according to the changes described above (§ 2), will not be required to apply for a revised endorsement. The educator will be allowed to provide instruction in any course in which the subject matter content of the course corresponds with the revised endorsement.

Beginning July 1, 2026, SBE will assign the revised endorsement upon an educator's certificate being issued or reissued, as appropriate.

### **§ 3 — ELEMENTARY EDUCATION TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS**

*Requires, beginning July 1, 2025, that elementary education teacher preparation programs be aligned with NAEYC standards and competencies for early childhood educators*

The bill requires, beginning July 1, 2025, that any elementary education teacher preparation program be aligned with any professional standards and competencies for early childhood educators developed by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

### **§ 5 — SUBJECT AREA ASSESSMENTS AND CROSS ENDORSEMENTS**

*Simplifies the process for certified teachers to gain an additional endorsement (i.e., "cross endorsement")*

On and after July 1, 2024, the bill allows any person who holds an initial, provisional, or professional educator certificate and scores a satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate SBE-approved subject area assessment to be issued a cross endorsement in the relevant certification endorsement area. The bill specifies that this provision does not apply to the endorsement areas of special education, teaching English to speakers of other languages, bilingual, remedial reading and remedial language arts, or school library media specialist.

### **§ 7 — ARC PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF**

*Allows SDE to approve ARC programs that partner with an accredited university to provide a dual degree-plus-certification program for participants who hold an associate degree*

As part of the existing law authorizing approval of ARC programs for people employed as school support staff, the bill allows SDE to approve programs that partner with an institution of higher education that is regionally accredited or has an equivalent accreditation, to provide a dual degree-plus-certification program for participants who hold an associate degree. Under current law, these programs are required to be open only to those who already have a bachelor's degree.

When making decisions on whether to approve these programs, the bill also requires SDE to give priority to the programs that provide

participants flexibility in remaining in their school support staff positions while pursuing an initial educator certificate, other than in the period when the participants are completing the one-year residency requirement.

Under the law, the programs must have each participant complete a one-year residency that requires participants to serve in a full-time position requiring professional certification for 10 school months for a school board under a certified administrator's or teacher's supervision.

By law, school support staff are people employed by a school board as a behavior analyst, an assistant behavior analyst, an athletic coach, or a paraeducator.

### **§ 8 — ARC PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY EXPANDED**

*Expands who may participate in an existing ARC program for people in alternate professions to include someone with at least five years of work experience requiring discretion and independent judgment in the field related to the teaching endorsement area*

The bill expands the definition of who may participate in an existing ARC program for people in alternate professions. By law, all participants must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and be a person from an alternate profession, which means a person who:

1. is a paraeducator,
2. is a veteran,
3. holds an SBE-issued charter school educator permit, or
4. is or was employed as a professor at an accredited institution of higher education.

The bill expands the definition to include someone with at least five years of work experience requiring the consistent exercise of discretion and independent judgment in the field related to the person's chosen teaching endorsement area.

**§ 9 — ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR TEACHER PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

*Requires the council to advise the SDE commissioner, rather than the governor and SBE; adds to the subjects for which the council must provide advice (e.g., equitable distribution of teachers); eliminates a requirement that the council advise on teacher preparation and certification and review and comment on certain regulations and standards*

The bill makes several changes affecting the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards. It eliminates a requirement that the council advise and report annually to the governor and SBE and instead requires it to do so for the SDE commissioner. Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, it must also advise and report annually to the Education Committee.

Under existing law, the council must advise on teacher recruitment, retention, professional development, assessment and evaluation, and professional discipline. The bill additionally requires it to advise on the equitable distribution of teachers, diversity of the teaching workforce, special education, testing and assessment of students, school safety, and social-emotional learning. It eliminates requirements that the council (1) advise on teacher preparation and certification and (2) review and comment on regulations and other standards on approving teacher preparation programs and teacher certification.

The bill also requires the council to (1) share perspectives on the impact of proposed policies and initiatives on classroom practice with the commissioner and Education Committee and (2) provide suggestions and feedback on guidance to be sent to school districts related to implementing these policies and initiatives with the commissioner.

**§ 10 — CREATION OF THE CONNECTICUT EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION BOARD (CEPCB)**

*Creates the new 16-member CEPCB and charges it with modernizing and aligning educator preparation and certification to attract and retain diverse professionals into teaching, and developing proposals for regulations or legislation relating to educator preparation and certification; requires the board to submit its first annual report to the Education Committee by January 1, 2026*

The bill creates the Connecticut Educator Preparation and



Certification Board (CEPCB), which it deems responsible for modernizing and aligning educator preparation and certification to ensure that policies attract and retain effective and diverse professionals to work in Connecticut's public schools.

The board must develop standards and proposals for regulations or legislation relating to educator preparation and certification that reflect the teaching profession and respond to emerging understandings of effective, evidence-based practices.

Additionally, the standards and proposals must address the following objectives:

1. building streamlined, flexible pathways in the educator profession that are grounded in a commitment to educator effectiveness;
2. enabling educators to broaden their scope of practice to meet more students' needs;
3. ensuring educator preparation programs are accountable for both the quality training experiences and outcomes for candidates;
4. creating a system to help educators continuously improve their practice that supports and rewards educators who demonstrate mastery;
5. supporting improved data transparency regarding the state's distribution of educators and educator vacancies and accountability for remedying observed inequities; and
6. treating educators as professionals and lifelong learners who need access to high-quality professional learning and mentorships throughout their careers.

### ***Board Members and Appointing Authorities***

The board has 16 members. In addition to the appointed members

(see table below), the board includes the following officials or their designees: the education commissioner, the early childhood commissioner, and the Technical Education and Career System superintendent.

**Table: Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board  
Appointed Members**

<b><i>Appointing Authority</i></b>	<b><i>Members</i></b>
<b><i>Four public school classroom teachers who are classroom teachers throughout their term</i></b>	
Connecticut Education Association	Two: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• one kindergarten through grade six teacher, and</li> <li>• one high school teacher</li> </ul>
American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut	One appointee who is a special education teacher
Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council	One appointee
<b><i>Three representatives from an SBE-approved educator preparation program</i></b>	
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Connecticut Chapter	One who represents an educator preparation program of a public institution of higher education
Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges	One appointee
Education commissioner	One representative of an ARC program
<b><i>Three administrators employed by a local or regional school board</i></b>	
Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents	One who is a school superintendent for an urban district
Connecticut Association of Schools	One who represents a rural district
Connecticut Federation of School Administrators	One who represents a suburban district
<b><i>Additional appointees</i></b>	
Connecticut Association of Boards of Education	One appointee
Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA)	One representative of the CBIA education and workforce affiliation
Increasing Educator Diversity Policy Oversight Council	One representative from the Increasing Educator Diversity Policy Oversight Council

***Initial Appointments, Vacancies, Bylaws, Board Chair, and Staff***

All initial board appointments must be made by August 1, 2024. The appropriate appointing authority must fill any vacancy by 10 days following the vacancy. Members serve three-year terms. The board must establish bylaws for its own operation and management.

The chairperson and vice chairperson of the board must be elected from among the voting members of the board. The bill requires the education commissioner to designate an SDE employee to serve as the board's administrator (see § 19 below).

***Annual Report to the Education Committee***

The board must develop, by January 1, 2026, and annually after that, an annual report that includes a detailed summary of the substance and disposition of any standards and proposals for regulations or legislation the board or SBE develops under the bill (see § 11). The board must submit the annual report to the Education Committee.

**§ 11 — CEPCB AND SBE CONSIDER AND APPROVE OR REJECT EACH OTHER'S PROPOSALS**

*Gives CEPCB and SBE each the authority to develop standards and proposals (i.e., "proposals") for regulations and legislation relating to educator preparation and certification; requires each board to consider the proposals of the other board*

The bill gives CEPCB and SBE each the authority to develop standards and proposals (i.e., "proposals") for regulations and legislation relating to educator preparation and certification. The bill creates a process where each board sends its proposals to the other board to be either approved or rejected within 60 days after receiving them (e.g., CEPCB sends its proposals to SBE, and SBE sends its proposals to CEPCB).

If either board approves the proposals, then for proposals that (1) require regulations, SBE must adopt regulations consistent with the approved proposal and (2) require legislation, the proposal will be submitted to the Education Committee for consideration.

**§ 12 — CEPCB DUTIES**

*Requires CEPCB to develop proposals for regulations and legislation by July 1, 2025*

The bill requires CEPCB to develop proposals for regulations and legislation by July 1, 2025, regarding the following:

1. criteria for assessing proposals from school boards, regional educational service centers, and educator preparation programs for alternative pathways for educators to (a) progress from initial certificate to professional certificate or (b) be issued a cross endorsement that will allow educators to teach in content areas or grades beyond their initial certification areas;
2. how well degrees from SBE-approved educator preparation programs will align with the revised endorsement areas under § 2;
3. the adequacy and relevance of existing certification subject endorsement areas;
4. implementation of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation standards for educator preparation programs;
5. the necessity of the temporary 90-day certificate; and
6. the design and development of a state-wide data dashboard that enables longitudinal monitoring of educator workforce data.

***Collecting, Reviewing, and Evaluating Data***

Additionally, the bill requires, annually, beginning July 1, 2026, the board to:

1. collect and review (a) state-specific data, including, at least, qualitative data on stakeholders' experiences and quantitative data from SDE on educator vacancies, shortage areas, and the educator preparation program dashboard, and (b) data on applicable national policy developments on educator preparation, certification, and employment;

2. evaluate whether any changes are needed to the educator preparation and certification frameworks; and
3. develop, as necessary, evidence-based standards and proposals for regulations and legislation to strengthen existing systems.

### **§ 13 — CEPCB REVIEW OF EDUCATOR REGULATIONS AND STATUTES AND CONTENT KNOWLEDGE AND ENDORSEMENT AREAS**

*Requires CEPCB to review (1) educator preparation and certification regulations and statutes for obsolete or conflicting provisions and (2) how SDE assesses certification candidates' content knowledge within their endorsement area*

The bill also requires CEPCB to:

1. review educator preparation and certification regulations and statutes for obsolete or conflicting provisions,
2. review how the state assesses whether educator certification candidates demonstrate minimum content knowledge within their endorsement areas as required by state law, and
3. develop recommendations for alternatives for certification candidates to demonstrate content knowledge.

By January 31, 2025, the board must submit its findings, as well as any legislative recommendations, to SBE and the Education Committee.

Also, the bill requires CEPCB to:

1. review certification endorsement areas to develop endorsement area adequacy and relevance standards, including whether to expand grade ranges for endorsement areas;
2. explore alternative pathways for cross endorsements; and
3. consider whether ARC program providers should have candidate admission criteria authority for their programs.

By July 1, 2025, the board must submit a report on its findings, as well

as any legislative recommendations, to SBE and the Education Committee.

#### **§ 14 — CEPCB TO DEVELOP STANDARDS FOR REVIEWING EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS**

*Requires CEPCB to develop review criteria for educator preparation and ARC programs*

The bill requires the CEPCB to develop review criteria standards for new or continuing educator preparation programs and ARC programs. The standards must require that (1) these programs obtain continuing program approval every seven years, and (2) the methodology for continuing program approval be (a) based on final accreditation decisions of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and (b) classified in these categories: approval, provisional, probationary, or denial of approval. The board must complete the standards by July 1, 2026.

#### **§ 15 — EDTPA**

*Beginning July 1, 2024, bans SBE from requiring teacher preparation programs to use edTPA for certain purposes; as of the same date, bans teacher preparation programs from using edTPA scores to prevent a student from completing their program*

Beginning July 1, 2024, the bill prohibits SBE from requiring an SDE-approved teacher preparation program in Connecticut to use edTPA, a preservice performance assessment, as a (1) requirement for students to complete their programs and (2) program preservice performance assessment. In 2016, SBE approved a resolution that required all teacher preparation programs in the state to require satisfactory completion of edTPA (see *Background – edTPA*) by all teacher candidates in order to complete a teacher preparation program.

Also, beginning July 1, 2024, the bill bans teacher preparation programs at higher education institutions from using the results of edTPA to deny a candidate completion of their program. But the bill permits these institutions to use the results as a diagnostic tool to provide necessary remedial instruction to a candidate while enrolled in the teacher preparation program.

#### ***Background — edTPA***

The Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning, and Equity created edTPA, and Pearson Assessments, Inc., scores and administers it across the country.

## **§§ 16 & 17 — TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL AND TRADE OCCUPATIONS EDUCATOR CERTIFICATIONS**

*Creates and specifies requirements for new occupational subject and trade and industrial occupations educator certifications; allows for interim certifications under certain conditions*

The bill creates two new occupational initial educator certifications in statute (similar versions of these certifications exist in regulations). One enables the holder to teach an occupational subject in the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) (formerly known as the technical high schools) and the other to teach trade and industrial occupations in comprehensive high schools.

### ***Occupational Subject Certification (§ 16)***

Under the bill, CTECS “occupational subject” includes, but is not limited to, automobile servicing, carpentry, plumbing, culinary arts, electronics, cosmetology, and public safety. (CTECS high schools offer a wide range of occupational programs that, in addition to the areas mentioned above, also include architecture; information technology; manufacturing; marketing and sales; and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning.)

The bill authorizes SBE to issue an initial educator certificate for occupational subjects to an applicant who has:

1. a high school diploma or its equivalent;
2. five years of experience in the field for which the certificate is sought, which may include up to two years of registered apprenticeship, work-based learning program, or specialized schooling;
3. completed a minimum of six semester hours of credit teaching vocational and industrial education; and

4. completed a course of special education study of at least three semester hours, which includes (a) study in understanding the growth and development of exceptional children, including children with a disability, gifted and talented children, and children who may require special education, and (b) methods for identifying, planning for, and working effectively with special needs children in the regular classroom.

An initial educator certificate for occupational subjects at CTECS authorizes the holder to teach an occupational subject at CTECS.

***Trade and Industrial Occupations Certification (§ 17)***

For the comprehensive high schools, "trade and industrial occupations" includes, but is not limited to, food service, automotive servicing, machine tool and operation, building maintenance and repairs, welding, appliance repair, and public safety.

The bill authorizes SBE to issue an initial educator certificate for trade and industrial occupations in comprehensive high schools to an applicant who has:

1. provided a written request from a school board;
2. a high school diploma or its equivalent;
3. completed at least three years of approved successful work experience appropriate to the field for which the certificate is sought, which may include up to two years of specialized appropriate schooling;
4. completed a minimum of six semester hours of credit in professional education in areas such as (a) teaching vocational and industrial education, or (b) foundations of education, educational or adolescent psychology, psychology of learning, curriculum and methods of teaching, classroom instruction and management, multicultural diversity, or equity issues in education; and



5. completed a course of special education study of at least three semester hours, which includes (a) study in understanding the growth and development of exceptional children, including children with a disability, gifted and talented children, and children who may require special education, and (b) methods for identifying, planning for, and working effectively with special needs children in the regular classroom.

The holder of an initial educator certificate for trade and industrial occupations is authorized to teach in a comprehensive high school trade and industrial program in grades six to 12, except this initial educator trade and industrial occupations certificate is not valid to teach at CTECS.

#### ***Interim Educator Certificates***

The bill offers a way for applicants to receive an interim educator certificate for either an occupational subject at CTECS or trade and industrial occupations at comprehensive high schools when they do not meet all the requirements.

An applicant who is otherwise eligible for either of these initial educator certificates, but is deficient in the course requirements for six semester credit hours and the course of study in special education, may be issued an interim educator certificate, valid for one year, which the education commissioner can reissue for a second year.

#### ***Extensions for Interim Educator Certificates***

If the holder of such an interim educator certificate fails to meet the course requirements when the interim certificate expires, the commissioner must prevent the holder from serving, as appropriate, in the employ of a board of education in a position covered by the initial educator certificate for occupational subjects at CTECS or for trade and industrial occupations at comprehensive high schools. However, the bill allows that the applicant's deficient course work may be deferred for one additional year for good cause. (Presumably this additional delay of the course work means the interim certificate is valid for an additional

year.)

## **§ 18 — FMLA FOR NONCERTIFIED SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEES**

*Reduces the number of work hours, from 1,250 to 950, that noncertified school employees need to qualify for unpaid family and medical leave benefits*

The bill reduces the number of work hours noncertified school employees need to qualify for unpaid family and medical leave benefits.

Under federal law, all municipal employees, including all public school employees, qualify for unpaid leave and job reinstatement under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) if they have been employed by the municipality or school district for at least 12 months and worked at least 1,250 hours in the previous 12 months. The bill requires boards of education to provide benefits equal to those provided by the federal FMLA to noncertified employees who have (1) been employed by the board for at least 12 months and (2) worked at least 950 hours for the board during the 12 months before taking the benefit (see *Background — Federal FMLA Provisions*). (Connecticut's FMLA law does not cover municipal employees.)

The bill similarly reduces the work requirement, from 1,250 to 950 hours in the previous 12 months, for noncertified employees to request leave to serve as an organ or bone marrow donor.

Noncertified employees are board of education employees, such as cafeteria workers, janitorial staff, administrative support staff, and security staff, who do not need to hold a professional education certificate like other school professions (e.g., teachers or school social workers). Existing law already allows school paraprofessionals (who are also noncertified employees) to qualify for the leave, including for organ or bone marrow donation, after working 950 hours. The bill also changes the term "school paraprofessional" to "paraeducator" to be consistent with other education law.

The bill also makes technical changes.

### ***Background — Federal FMLA Provisions***

The federal FMLA provides up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to employees of all political subdivisions, including towns, cities, boroughs, and school districts. The table below shows the law's provisions.

**Table: Federal FMLA Provisions**

<i>Provision</i>	<i>Brief Description</i>
<b>Political subdivisions covered</b>	All
<b>Employees eligible</b>	Those who have worked at least (1) 12 months for the employer and (2) 1,250 hours in the previous 12 months
<b>Leave amount</b>	Up to 12 weeks in one year
<b>Types of leave</b>	For birth, adoption, or foster care; to care for employee's own parent, child, or spouse with a serious health condition; for employee's own serious health condition; or for qualifying exigency because the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent is a military member on covered active duty or notified of impending call or order to covered active duty
<b>Serious health condition or illness</b>	Illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition involving incapacity or treatment connected with inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical-care facility; or continuing treatment by a health care provider
<b>Health benefits during leave</b>	Employee health insurance must be continued under same conditions as prior to leave, including any required employee contribution
<b>Job reinstatement rights</b>	Must be restored to same position or equivalent in all benefits and other terms and conditions of employment

## **§ 19 — CEPCB ADMINISTRATOR**

*Requires, for FY 25, OPM to reclassify one unfilled, authorized SDE position in order to hire an administrator for CEPCB*

The bill requires, for FY 25, the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary, in consultation with the education commissioner, to reclassify one unfilled, authorized position at SDE for the purpose of hiring an administrator of CEPCB. SDE must use funds appropriated to the department's personal services account to fill the reclassified position.

## **§§ 20-38 — CHANGES TERM TO "PARAEDUCATOR"**

*Changes the terms "school paraprofessional," "paraprofessional," and "paraprofessional teacher aide" to "paraeducator" in various education-related statutes*

The bill changes the terms "school paraprofessional," "paraprofessional," and "paraprofessional teacher aide" to "paraeducator" in various education-related statutes to conform with other sections of education law.

### **§ 23 — NOTICE REQUIREMENTS BEFORE SPECIAL EDUCATION PLANNING AND PLACEMENT MEETINGS**

*Requires the notice school boards must give parents, guardians, or students before a special education planning and placement team meeting to include the rights the law provides them at these meetings*

By law, school boards must give a parent or guardian (or student if he or she is emancipated or over 18 years old) at least five days' notice before any planning and placement meeting for students eligible or being evaluated for special education and related services. The bill requires this notice to include the specific rights the law provides parents, guardians, and students at these meetings. These include the right to (1) be present at and participate in all portions of the meeting where an educational program for the student is developed, reviewed, or revised; and (2) have advisors of the person's own choosing, the paraeducator assigned to the student, the birth-to-three coordinator, if any, and a language interpreter, if needed.

### **§ 39 — GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE COUNCIL**

*Adds a certified teacher to the council's membership*

The bill adds a certified teacher to the Governor's Workforce Council's membership. The teacher must be appointed by the governor and employed by a local or regional board of education.

By law, the council consists of stakeholders, legislators, and government agency representatives that advise the governor on workforce development matters. Its statutory duties include, among other things, convening state agencies, educational institutions, business leaders, and others to (1) inform state workforce development policy, (2) help state agencies and educational institutions align with employers' needs, and (3) help businesses understand how to contribute

to the state's workforce efforts (CGS § 31-3h).

### **§§ 40 & 48 — PRELIMINARY INQUIRIES BY MANDATED REPORTERS**

*Specifies that (1) the mandated reporter law does not prohibit mandated reporters from making a preliminary inquiry to determine if reasonable cause exists for a report and (2) this inquiry is not an abuse or neglect investigation by a school board*

The law designates certain professionals (e.g., school employees, health professionals, and coaches) as mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and neglect. Generally, they must report to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) or law enforcement within prescribed timeframes when, in the ordinary course of their employment or profession, they have reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child (1) has been abused or neglected, (2) has an injury that is at variance with its given history, or (3) is at imminent risk of physical harm.

Under existing law, a mandated reporter's suspicion or belief does not require certainty or probable cause and may be based on, among other things, allegations, observations, facts, or statements by a child, victim, or third party. The bill specifies that (1) the mandated reporter law does not prohibit mandated reporters from making a preliminary inquiry to determine if reasonable cause exists for a report and (2) this inquiry is not an abuse or neglect investigation by a school board. (Generally, the law requires school boards to investigate abuse and neglect allegations but requires them to allow and give priority to any investigation by DCF or a law enforcement agency.) The bill also requires DCF to develop training on how to conduct preliminary inquiries (see § 49 – DCF TRAINING below).

### **§§ 40, 42-45 & 47 — MANDATED REPORTERS MINOR AND TECHNICAL CHANGES**

*Adds students in nonpublic schools to the list of students for whom the school employee-specific mandated reporter provisions apply; reorganizes certain provisions on penalties for failing to make a report so that they appear in one statute rather than in two separate statutes*

The law requires a school employee (see *Background – School Employees*) to report to DCF if he or she, in the ordinary course of his or her employment or profession, has reasonable cause to suspect or

believe that a student enrolled in a technical high school or a school under the local or regional board of education's jurisdiction (other than an adult education program) is a victim of any of the following crimes committed by a school employee: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th degree sexual assault; 1st degree aggravated sexual assault; or 3rd degree sexual assault with a firearm.

The bill extends this requirement to situations where the alleged victim is a student in a nonpublic school. (Private school employees are mandated reporters under existing law.)

The bill also reorganizes certain provisions on penalties for failing to make a report so that they appear in one statute rather than in two separate statutes. It also makes conforming changes. Under current law and the bill, failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect is a class A misdemeanor if a mandated reporter fails to report within the prescribed time period. It is a class E felony if the (1) violation is a subsequent violation; (2) violation is willful, intentional, or due to gross negligence; or (3) mandated reporter had actual knowledge that a child was abused or neglected, or a student was the victim of sexual assault.

### ***Background — School Employees***

The law defines a "school employee" as follows:

1. a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, school counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional, or coach (a) employed by a board of education or a private elementary, middle, or high school or (b) working in a public or private elementary, middle, or high school; or
2. anyone who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in a public or private elementary, middle, or high school under a contract with the board of education or private school's supervisory agent (CGS § 53a-65).

**§ 41 — IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY**

*Extends immunity from criminal or civil liability to persons, institutions, and agencies that, in good faith, do not make a report*

Existing law grants immunity from civil or criminal liability to persons, institutions, and agencies that, in good faith, report suspected child abuse or neglect or alleged sexual assault of a student to DCF or law enforcement as required or permitted by law. The bill extends this immunity to persons, institutions, and agencies that, in good faith, do not make such a report.

**§ 43 — FAILURE TO REPORT**

*Requires the DCF commissioner to assess mandated reporters' failure to report within timeframes required by law, rather than investigate delayed reports as current law requires*

Current law requires the DCF commissioner to investigate delayed reports by mandated reporters following a policy the department must develop. The bill instead requires the commissioner, following the department's policy, to assess mandated reporters' failure to make reports within the time period prescribed by law. It also makes conforming changes (e.g., the department's policy must cover assessments instead of investigations).

Relatedly, the bill requires DCF to make a record of mandated reporters' failure to report within the required timeframe, rather than a record of a delayed report as current law requires. It also expands this requirement to cover all mandated reporters, rather than only those employed by a school board as current law requires.

By law, mandated reporters must make oral or electronic reports to DCF or a law enforcement agency as soon as practicable but no later than 12 hours after the reporter has reasonable cause to suspect abuse or neglect and, for oral reports, must follow up with a written report within 48 hours (CGS §§ 17a-101b & -101c).

**§ 46 — EMPLOYMENT HISTORY REVIEWS**

*Excludes, from the information that must be disclosed by school employment applicants' previous employers, information about a substantiated abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct allegation if the substantiation was reversed in an appeal to DCF*

The law requires school boards, charter school governing councils, magnet school operators, and supervisory agents of nonpublic schools to review an applicant's employment history before offering employment (including contract employment) if the applicant would have direct student contact. As part of this review, these entities must send the applicants' previous employers an SDE-developed form that asks, among other things, if the employer has knowledge of the following:

1. a substantiated allegation against the applicant of abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct;
2. whether the applicant resigned, was asked to resign, otherwise separated from employment, or was disciplined because of a substantiated allegation of these acts; or
3. whether the applicant surrendered a professional or occupational license, certificate, authorization, or permit, or had it suspended or revoked, because of a substantiated allegation of these acts.

The bill narrows the scope of this review to exclude substantiated allegations that were reversed in an appeal to DCF (i.e., appeals of a DCF determination that an individual should be placed on the state's child abuse and neglect registry).

#### **§ 49 — DCF TRAINING**

*Requires DCF to update its training program and refresher training for school employees*

The law requires DCF to develop a training program and refresher training for mandated reporters on accurately and promptly identifying and reporting suspected child abuse and neglect. The bill requires DCF, by October 1, 2024, to update the training and refresher programs to include training for school employees on (1) properly conducting a preliminary inquiry (see above) and (2) DCF's Careline and investigations by the department and school boards.

Under existing law, school employees hired by a school board must be required to complete the training program. They must then complete



the refresher training every three years (CGS § 17a-101i(g)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

### **§ 50 — ASPIRING EDUCATORS DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

*Makes the scholarship available to students who graduate from public high schools in alliance districts, rather than public high schools in priority school districts*

The law requires SDE to administer an aspiring educators diversity scholarship program for students who graduate from public high schools in certain school districts and are enrolled in a teacher preparation program at a four-year higher education institution. The bill broadens the scholarship's availability by making it available to students who graduate from public high schools in alliance districts, rather than public high schools in priority school districts as current law provides.

By law, a priority school district is a district that receives additional state grants based on a formula that considers high populations or concentrations of students (1) on temporary family assistance and (2) performing poorly on statewide mastery exams (CGS § 10-266p). (Connecticut has 15 priority school districts.)

An alliance district is a school district that is among the towns with the 33 lowest accountability index (AI) scores as calculated by SDE or was previously designated as an alliance district from FYs 13-22. (The AI score measures school district performance based on student standardized test scores plus additional measures such as student growth over time.) Existing law requires the education commissioner to designate 36 alliance districts (which counts the previously designated districts) for the five-year period from FYs 23-27.

### **§ 51 — REPEALED REGULATIONS**

*Repeals numerous educator preparation program and certification regulations, effective July 1, 2026*

Effective July 1, 2026, the bill repeals the numerous SBE educator preparation program and certification regulations shown in the table

below.

**Table: SBE Educator Preparation and Certification Regulations Repealed, by Citation and Topic**

<i>Regulation Citation</i>	<i>Topic</i>
10-145d-9(b) to -145d-9(e)	Procedures for educator preparation program approval
10-145d-9(g)(1), 10-145d-9(i)	SBE authority to approve or deny request for continuing approval; just cause authority to change approval status
10-145d-10(a) to -145d-10(b)(9), 10-145d-10(c) to -145d-10(g), 10-145d-11	Educator preparation program standards and approval standards, including student admission standards
10-145d-400a(a) to -145d-400a(d)	Code of professional responsibilities for teachers including to the students, the profession, and the community
10-145d-401(a), 10-145d-401(c)	Personnel required to have certification (selected provisions)
10-145d-402	Application forms
10-145d-403(b), 10-145d-403(g)	Application documentation and materials required (selected provisions)
10-145d-404 to -145d-406	Assessment requirements, exceptions; acceptability of course work
10-145d-407(a), 10-145d-407(b), 10-145d-407(d), 10-145d-407(f), 10-145d-407(h), 10-145d-407(i)	Responsibilities of employing agents of school boards (selected provisions)
10-145d-409 to -145d-415	Recommendation from an approved institution; validity of certifications issued prior to July 1, 1989; certification types; initial, interim, 90-day temporary, and provisional educator certifications
10-145d-417	Professional educator certificate
10-145d-419	Limited extended authorization for early childhood
10-145d-420(f)	Waiver of requirement that substitute teacher have a bachelor's degree
10-145d-421(b), 10-145d-422	Requirements of a durational shortage area permit; durational shortage area permit reissue

<i>Regulation Citation</i>	<i>Topic</i>
10-145d-423(a)	Coaching permits (obsolete provision)
10-145d-426	Adult education authorization
10-145d-427	Reissuance and extension of certificates
10-145d-434, 10-145d-435(b)	Validity of certificates specific to elementary grades and kindergarten
10-145d-436 to -145d-438	Elementary level: Initial, provisional, and professional educator certification requirements
10-145d-441 to -145d-443	Foreign languages pre-K through grade 8: Initial, provisional, and professional educator certification requirements
10-145d-444 to -145d-448	Middle grades (grades 4-6 or 5 & 6 depending on school grade structure): Initial, provisional, and professional educator certification requirements
10-145d-449 to -145d-453	Secondary grades (grades 7-12): Initial, provisional, and professional educator certification requirements
10-145d-472 to -145d-474	Teaching English to speakers of other languages: Initial, provisional, and professional educator certification requirements
10-145d-476 to -145d-479	Bilingual education: Initial, provisional, and professional educator certification requirements
10-145d-481, 10-145d-482(c), 10-145d-482(d), 10-145d-483, 10-145d-484	Remedial reading and remedial language arts: Validity of certificates; initial educator certification requirements (selected provisions); provisional and professional educator certification requirements
10-145d-535 to -145d-537	Special education: Blind, partially sighted, or hearing impaired: Initial, provisional, and professional educator certification requirements
10-145d-539 to -145d-542	Comprehensive special education: Validity of certificates; initial, provisional, and professional educator certification requirements
10-145d-608 and 10-145d-609	Discontinued endorsements (previously issued, but no longer available)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 12 (03/20/2024)