



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 10734



Offered by:

REP. RITTER, 1st Dist.

REP. LEEPER, 132nd Dist.

To: House Bill No. 6924

File No. 351

Cal. No. 233

"AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE STATE."

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

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Not later than April 1,
4 2026, the Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis Prevention at
5 Western Connecticut State University, in collaboration with the
6 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, shall (1)
7 develop a clear definition for crisis response drills for purposes of
8 section 10-231 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (2) develop
9 standardized terminology for the administration and review of crisis
10 response drills, (3) develop guidance on (A) standardized responses to
11 crises, and (B) standardized debriefing protocols following a crisis, and
12 (4) develop an evaluation template for crisis response drills that allows
13 school districts to use feedback from participants of the crisis response
14 drill to assess the efficacy of the crisis response drill and make
15 adjustments to subsequent crisis response drills to improve

16 preparedness while preventing emotional harm and supporting
17 psychological safety.

18 (b) The Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis Prevention at
19 Western Connecticut State University, in collaboration with the
20 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, shall conduct
21 a study of the impact of crisis response drills on the school community.

22 (c) Not later than July 1, 2028, the Connecticut Center for School
23 Safety and Crisis Prevention at Western Connecticut State University
24 shall submit (1) the guidance developed pursuant to subdivision (3) of
25 subsection (a) of this section, and (2) a report on the study conducted
26 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, including any
27 recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the General
28 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in
29 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

30 Sec. 2. Section 10-231 of the general statutes is repealed and the
31 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

32 (a) Each local and regional board of education shall provide for a fire
33 drill to be held in the schools of such board not later than thirty days
34 after the first day of each school year and at least once each month
35 thereafter, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

36 (b) Each such board shall substitute a crisis response drill for a fire
37 drill once every three months and shall develop the format of such crisis
38 response drill [in consultation] in accordance with the crisis response
39 protocols described in section 3 of this act and with the appropriate local
40 law enforcement agency. A representative of such agency may
41 supervise and participate in any such crisis response drill.

42 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) For the school year commencing
43 July 1, 2026, and each school year thereafter, each crisis response drill
44 conducted pursuant to section 10-231 of the general statutes, as
45 amended by this act, shall be conducted as follows: (1) Utilize the (A)
46 definition for crisis response drills, (B) standardized terminology for the

47 administration and review of crisis response drills, and (C) guidance on
48 standardized responses to crises and debriefing protocols following a
49 crisis, developed by the Department of Emergency Services and Public
50 Protection pursuant to section 1 of this act, (2) the school security and
51 safety committee, as described in section 10-222m of the general statutes,
52 shall collaborate with the school climate committee, as described in
53 section 10-222ff of the general statutes, to plan crisis response drills that
54 prioritize the physical and psychological safety of students and school
55 personnel, (3) crisis drills shall be trauma-informed, including utilizing
56 an approach that takes into account prior traumatic experiences and
57 designed to prevent emotional harm to and support the psychological
58 safety of students and school personnel, with mental health
59 professionals' participation integrated throughout the crisis response
60 drill, (4) prior to conducting a crisis response drill, school personnel
61 shall provide age-appropriate education for students and training for
62 school personnel to build knowledge and skills to reduce the potential
63 for confusion or emotional distress, including a review of the purpose
64 and procedures for crisis response drills prior to the first crisis response
65 drill of the school year and notification to students, school personnel
66 and parents and guardians one week in advance of conducting a crisis
67 response drill, (5) school personnel shall communicate, in a clear
68 manner to ensure understanding, the nature and purpose of crisis
69 response drills to the parents and guardians of students at the school
70 prior to conducting a crisis response drill, (6) at the commencement of
71 the crisis response drill, students and school personnel shall be
72 informed that they are participating in a crisis response drill to avoid
73 confusion when an actual emergency situation is occurring, (7)
74 accommodations for students with cognitive, physical or sensory
75 disability shall be provided, to the extent practicable, during a crisis
76 response drill to ensure the safety and participation of such students, (8)
77 crisis response drills conducted with students shall not include an active
78 assailant simulation or simulated violence with highly sensorial
79 elements such as fake assailants, firearms, gunfire sounds, blood or
80 injuries, and a crisis response drill that is conducted outside of the
81 regular school day and exclusively for school personnel, first responders

82 and other school volunteers may include an active assailant simulation
83 or such simulated violence, and (9) evaluate each crisis response drill
84 using the evaluation template developed pursuant to section 1 of this
85 act.

86 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of
87 the general statutes or any public or special act, any regional board of
88 education (1) that has been dissolved pursuant to section 10-46a of the
89 general statutes, and (2) for which the regional school district of such
90 regional board of education had a total of three member towns, each
91 with a population, as defined in subdivision (27) of section 10-262f of
92 the general statutes, of at least one thousand and not more than four
93 thousand, and a combined total population for such member towns of
94 at least six thousand, but fewer than ten thousand, the Auditors of
95 Public Accounts shall conduct an audit of the financial operations of
96 such regional board of education for the school year ending June 30,
97 2024, and for any expenses that may have been incurred by or in the
98 name of such regional board of education thereafter. Not later than
99 October 1, 2026, the Auditors of Public Accounts shall submit such audit
100 report to the chief executive officer of each of the three member towns
101 of such regional board of education.

102 (b) The chief executive officer of each member town of the regional
103 board of education described in subsection (a) of this section is
104 authorized to pay any outstanding expenses owed by such regional
105 board of education, and such expenses shall be allocated to the three
106 member towns in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of
107 subsection (b) of section 10-51 of the general statutes, except the chief
108 executive officers of such three member towns may unanimously agree
109 to divide any such expenses in an alternative manner.

110 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2025, the chief
111 executive officer of a municipality that has been a distressed
112 municipality, as defined in section 32-9p of the general statutes, for
113 fifteen or more consecutive years and has a population of greater than
114 fifteen thousand but less than twenty thousand, as determined by the

115 most recent decennial census, shall appear before the Secretary of the
 116 Office of Policy and Management to discuss actions such municipality
 117 may take to mitigate such municipality's reliance on state funding in
 118 subsequent fiscal years. Such actions may include, but need not be
 119 limited to, (1) cost containment policies that may be adopted by such
 120 municipality, (2) fiscal policy adjustments concerning the revenue and
 121 expenditures of such municipality, (3) collaboration with one or more
 122 other municipalities to obtain shared municipal services, (4) the
 123 identification of possible efficiencies in the provision of municipal
 124 services, and (5) the prioritization of core municipal services identified
 125 by such municipality. The secretary may require such officer to submit
 126 a written plan to implement the actions described in this subsection.

127 Sec. 6. Sections 131 and 132 of house bill 7287 of the current session,
 128 as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A", are repealed. (*Effective*
 129 *from passage*)"

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-231
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section