



House of Representatives

+General
Assembly

File No. 648

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7217

House of Representatives, April 10, 2025

The Committee on Education reported through REP. LEEPER of the 132nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) For the fiscal year ending June
2 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, during the preparation of the
3 itemized estimate of the cost of maintenance of public schools for the
4 ensuing year pursuant to section 10-222 of the general statutes, as
5 amended by this act, the superintendent of schools shall provide the
6 members of the local board of education the original amount and actual
7 amount of each line item for the two fiscal years immediately preceding
8 the fiscal year in which such itemized estimate is being prepared and
9 the original amount and current amount of each line item for the fiscal
10 year in which such itemized estimate is being prepared. As used in this
11 section, "itemized estimate" means an estimate in which broad
12 budgetary categories including, but not limited to, salaries, fringe
13 benefits, utilities, supplies and grounds maintenance are divided into
14 one or more line items, "original amount" means the amount of a line

15 item that was appropriated to such line item at the start of the fiscal year,
16 and "actual amount" means the amount of a line item at the conclusion
17 of the fiscal year.

18 Sec. 2. Section 10-222 of the general statutes is repealed and the
19 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

20 Each local board of education shall prepare an itemized estimate of
21 the cost of maintenance of public schools for the ensuing year and shall
22 submit such estimate to the board of finance in each town or city having
23 a board of finance, to the board of selectmen in each town having no
24 board of finance or otherwise to the authority making appropriations
25 for the school district, not later than two months preceding the annual
26 meeting at which appropriations are to be made. Such estimate shall
27 include the original amount and actual amount of each line item for the
28 two fiscal years immediately preceding the fiscal year in which such
29 estimate is being prepared and the original amount and current amount
30 of each line item for the fiscal year in which such estimate is being
31 prepared. The board or authority that receives such estimate shall, not
32 later than ten days after the date the board of education submits such
33 estimate, make spending recommendations and suggestions to such
34 board of education as to how such board of education may consolidate
35 noneducational services and realize financial efficiencies. Such board of
36 education may accept or reject the suggestions of the board of finance,
37 board of selectmen or appropriating authority and shall provide the
38 board of finance, board of selectmen or appropriating authority with a
39 written explanation of the reason for any rejection. The money
40 appropriated by any municipality for the maintenance of public schools
41 shall be expended by and in the discretion of the board of education.
42 Except as provided in this subsection, any such board may transfer any
43 unexpended or uncontracted-for portion of any appropriation for
44 school purposes to any other item of such itemized estimate. Boards
45 may, by adopting policies and procedures, authorize designated
46 personnel to make limited transfers under emergency circumstances if
47 the urgent need for the transfer prevents the board from meeting in a
48 timely fashion to consider such transfer. All transfers made in such

49 instances shall be announced at the next regularly scheduled meeting of
50 the board and a written explanation of such transfer shall be provided
51 to the legislative body of the municipality or, in a municipality where
52 the legislative body is a town meeting, to the board of selectmen.
53 Expenditures by the board of education shall not exceed the
54 appropriation made by the municipality, with such money as may be
55 received from other sources for school purposes. If any occasion arises
56 whereby additional funds are needed by such board, the chairman of
57 such board shall notify the board of finance, board of selectmen or
58 appropriating authority, as the case may be, and shall submit a request
59 for additional funds in the same manner as is provided for departments,
60 boards or agencies of the municipality and no additional funds shall be
61 expended unless such supplemental appropriation shall be granted and
62 no supplemental expenditures shall be made in excess of those granted
63 through the appropriating authority. The annual report of the board of
64 education shall, in accordance with section 10-224, include a summary
65 showing (1) the total cost of the maintenance of schools, (2) the amount
66 received from the state and other sources for the maintenance of schools,
67 and (3) the net cost to the municipality of the maintenance of schools.
68 For purposes of this [subsection] section, "meeting" means a meeting, as
69 defined in section 1-200, [and] "itemized estimate" means an estimate in
70 which broad budgetary categories including, but not limited to, salaries,
71 fringe benefits, utilities, supplies and grounds maintenance are divided
72 into one or more line items, "original amount" means the amount of a
73 line item that was appropriated to such line item at the start of the fiscal
74 year, and "actual amount" means the amount of a line item at the
75 conclusion of the fiscal year.

76 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-51 of the general statutes is
77 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
78 *2025*):

79 (a) The fiscal year of a regional school district shall be July first to June
80 thirtieth. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, not less than
81 two weeks before the annual meeting held pursuant to section 10-47, the
82 board shall hold a public district meeting to present a proposed budget

83 for the next fiscal year. Any public district meeting held pursuant to this
84 section may be accessible to the public by means of electronic equipment
85 or by means of electronic equipment in conjunction with an in-person
86 meeting, in accordance with the provisions of section 1-225a. Such
87 proposed budget shall include the original amount and actual amount
88 of each line item in the budget for the two fiscal years immediately
89 preceding the fiscal year in which such proposed budget is being
90 presented and the original amount and current amount of each line item
91 for the budget of the fiscal year in which such proposed budget is being
92 presented. Any person may recommend the inclusion or deletion of
93 expenditures at such time. After the public hearing, the board shall
94 prepare an annual budget for the next fiscal year, make available on
95 request copies thereof and deliver a reasonable number to the town
96 clerk of each of the towns in the district at least five days before the
97 annual meeting. At the annual meeting on the first Monday in May, the
98 board shall present a budget which includes a statement of (1) estimated
99 receipts and expenditures for the next fiscal year, (2) estimated receipts
100 and expenditures for the current fiscal year, (3) estimated surplus or
101 deficit in operating funds at the end of the current fiscal year, (4) bonded
102 or other debt, (5) estimated per pupil expenditure for the current and
103 for the next fiscal year, (6) the original amount and actual amount of
104 each line item in the budget for the two fiscal years immediately
105 preceding the fiscal year in which such budget is being presented and
106 the original amount and current amount of each line item for the budget
107 of the fiscal year in which such budget is being presented, and [(6)] (7)
108 such other information as is necessary in the opinion of the board.
109 Persons present and eligible to vote under section 7-6 may accept or
110 reject the proposed budget except as provided below. No person who is
111 eligible to vote in more than one town in the regional school district is
112 eligible to cast more than one vote on any issue considered at a regional
113 school district meeting or referendum held pursuant to this section. Any
114 person who violates this section by fraudulently casting more than one
115 vote or ballot per issue shall be fined not more than three thousand five
116 hundred dollars and shall be imprisoned not more than two years and
117 shall be disenfranchised. The regional board of education may, in the

118 call to the meeting, designate that the vote on the motion to adopt the
119 budget shall be by paper ballots at the district meeting held on the
120 budget or by a "yes" or "no" vote on the voting tabulators in each of the
121 member towns on the day following the district meeting. If submitted
122 to a vote by voting tabulator, questions may be included on the ballot
123 for persons voting "no" to indicate whether the budget is too high or too
124 low, provided the vote on such questions shall be for advisory purposes
125 only and not binding upon the board. Two hundred or more persons
126 qualified to vote in any regional district meeting called to adopt a
127 budget may petition the regional board, in writing, at least three days
128 prior to such meeting, requesting that any item or items on the call of
129 such meeting be submitted to the persons qualified to vote in the
130 meeting for a vote by paper ballot or on the voting tabulators in each of
131 the member towns on the day following the district meeting and in
132 accordance with the appropriate procedures provided in section 7-7. If
133 a majority of such persons voting reject the budget, the board shall,
134 within four weeks thereafter and upon notice of not less than one week,
135 call a district meeting to consider the same or an amended budget. Such
136 meetings shall be convened at such intervals until a budget is approved.
137 If the budget is not approved before the beginning of a fiscal year, the
138 disbursing officer for each member town, or the designee of such officer,
139 shall make necessary expenditures to such district in amounts equal to
140 the total of the town's appropriation to the district for the previous year
141 and the town's proportionate share in any increment in debt service over
142 the previous fiscal year, pursuant to section 7-405 until the budget is
143 approved. The town shall receive credit for such expenditures once the
144 budget is approved for the fiscal year. After the budget is approved, the
145 board shall estimate the share of the net expenses to be paid by each
146 member town in accordance with subsection (b) of this section and
147 notify the treasurer thereof. With respect to adoption of a budget for the
148 period from the organization of the board to the beginning of the first
149 full fiscal year, the board may use the above procedure at any time
150 within such period. If the board needs to submit a supplementary
151 budget, the general procedure specified in this section shall be used. As
152 used in this section, "original amount" and "actual amount" have the

153 same meanings as provided in section 10-222, as amended by this act.

154 Sec. 4. Section 10-233m of the general statutes is repealed and the
155 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

156 Each local or regional board of education that assigns a school
157 resource officer to any school under the jurisdiction of such board shall
158 enter into a memorandum of understanding with a local law
159 enforcement agency regarding the role and responsibility of such school
160 resource officer. [Such] Not later than January 1, 2026, such
161 memorandum of understanding shall (1) be maintained in a central
162 location in the school district and posted on the Internet web site of the
163 school district and each school in which such school resource officer is
164 assigned, (2) include provisions addressing daily interactions between
165 students and school personnel with school resource officers, and (3)
166 include a graduated response model for student discipline. Any such
167 memorandum of understanding entered into, extended, updated or
168 amended [(A)] on or after July 1, 2021, shall include a provision that
169 requires all school resource officers to complete, while in the
170 performance of their duties as school resource officers and during
171 periods when such school resource officers are assigned to be at the
172 school, any separate training specifically related to social-emotional
173 learning and restorative practices provided to certified employees of the
174 school pursuant to section 10-148a, [, and (B)] Any such memorandum
175 of understanding entered into, extended, updated or amended on or
176 after July 1, 2023, shall include provisions specifying a school resource
177 officer's duties concerning, and procedures for, the restraint of students,
178 use of firearms, school-based arrests and reporting of any investigations
179 and behavioral interventions of challenging behavior or conflict that
180 escalates to violence or constitutes a crime, pursuant to the provisions
181 of section 10-233p, provided such provisions are in accordance with any
182 laws or policies concerning the duties of police officers. Each such
183 memorandum of understanding shall be updated not less frequently
184 than every three years. For the purposes of this section, "school resource
185 officer" means a sworn police officer of a local law enforcement agency
186 who has been assigned to a school pursuant to an agreement between

187 the local or regional board of education and the chief of police of a local
188 law enforcement agency.

189 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 1-231 of the general statutes is
190 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
191 *2025*):

192 (a) At an executive session of a public agency, attendance shall be
193 limited to (1) members of [said] such body, [and] (2) in the case of a local
194 or regional board of education and upon invitation by such board, the
195 superintendent of schools in the superintendent's capacity as chief
196 executive officer of the board, and (3) persons invited by [said] such
197 body to present testimony or opinion pertinent to matters before [said]
198 such body, provided [that] such persons' attendance shall be limited to
199 the period for which their presence is necessary to present such
200 testimony or opinion and, provided further, [that] the minutes of such
201 executive session shall disclose all persons who are in attendance except
202 job applicants who attend for the purpose of being interviewed by such
203 agency.

204 Sec. 6. Subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 10-51 of the general
205 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
206 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

207 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year
208 thereafter, a regional board of education, by a majority vote of its
209 members, may create a reserve fund for educational expenditures. Such
210 fund shall thereafter be termed "reserve fund for educational
211 expenditures". The aggregate amount of annual and supplemental
212 appropriations by a district to such fund shall not exceed two per cent
213 of the annual district budget for such fiscal year. Annual appropriations
214 to such fund shall be included in the share of net expenses to be paid by
215 each member town. Supplemental appropriations to such fund may be
216 made from estimated fiscal year end surplus in operating funds. Interest
217 and investment earnings received with respect to amounts held in the
218 fund shall be credited to such fund. The board shall annually submit a
219 complete and detailed report of the condition of such fund to the

220 member towns. Upon the recommendation and approval by the
221 regional board of education, any part or the whole of such fund may be
222 used for educational expenditures. Upon the approval of any such
223 expenditure an appropriation shall be set up, plainly designated for the
224 educational expenditure for which it has been authorized. Any
225 unexpended portion of such appropriation remaining shall revert to
226 [said] such fund. If any authorized appropriation is set up pursuant to
227 the provisions of this subsection and through unforeseen circumstances
228 the board is unable to expend the total amount of such appropriation,
229 the board, by a majority vote of its members, may terminate such
230 appropriation which then shall no longer be in effect. Such fund may be
231 discontinued, after the recommendation and approval by the regional
232 board of education, and any amounts held in the fund shall be
233 transferred to the general fund of the district. For the fiscal year ending
234 June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, a regional board of
235 education may deposit any funds previously appropriated to and
236 currently in a separate reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring
237 expenditures under the control of such board in the reserve fund for
238 educational expenditures.

239 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 10-214 of the general statutes is
240 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
241 *2025*):

242 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide annually
243 to each pupil in kindergarten and grades one and three to five, inclusive,
244 a vision screening and may additionally provide such vision screening
245 annually to each pupil in preschool and grade two. Such vision
246 screening may be performed using a Snellen chart or an equivalent
247 screening device, or an automated vision screening device. The
248 superintendent of schools shall give written notice to the parent or
249 guardian of each pupil (1) who is found to have any defect of vision or
250 disease of the eyes, with a brief statement describing such defect or
251 disease and a recommendation for the pupil to be examined by an
252 optometrist licensed under chapter 380 or an ophthalmologist licensed
253 under chapter 370, and (2) who did not receive such vision screening,

254 with a brief statement explaining why such pupil did not receive such
255 vision screening.

256 Sec. 8. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-287 of the general
257 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
258 (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

259 (b) (1) All orders and contracts for school building construction
260 receiving state assistance under this chapter, except as provided in
261 subdivisions (2) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection, shall be awarded to
262 the lowest responsible qualified bidder only after a public invitation to
263 bid, except for (A) school building projects for which the town or
264 regional school district is using a state contract pursuant to subsection
265 (d) of section 10-292 or a cooperative purchasing contract offered
266 through a regional education service center, and (B) change orders,
267 those contracts or orders costing less than ten thousand dollars and
268 those of an emergency nature, as determined by the Commissioner of
269 Administrative Services, in which cases the contractor or vendor may be
270 selected by negotiation, provided no local fiscal regulations, ordinances
271 or charter provisions conflict. [Any of the qualified bidders under this
272 subdivision may be a cooperative purchasing contract offered through
273 a regional educational service center or a council of government.]

274 Sec. 9. Subsection (c) of section 10-266aa of the general statutes is
275 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
276 *2025*):

277 (c) The program shall be phased in as provided in this subsection. (1)
278 For the school year commencing in 1998, and for each school year
279 thereafter, the program shall be in operation in the Hartford, New
280 Haven and Bridgeport regions. The Hartford program shall operate as
281 a continuation of the program described in section 10-266j. Students
282 who reside in Hartford, New Haven or Bridgeport may attend school in
283 another school district in the region and students who reside in such
284 other school districts may attend school in Hartford, New Haven or
285 Bridgeport, provided, beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, the
286 proportion of students who are not minority students to the total

287 number of students leaving Hartford, Bridgeport or New Haven to
288 participate in the program shall not be greater than the proportion of
289 students who were not minority students in the prior school year to the
290 total number of students enrolled in Hartford, Bridgeport or New
291 Haven in the prior school year. The regional educational service center
292 operating the program shall make program participation decisions in
293 accordance with the requirements of this subdivision. (2) For the school
294 year commencing in 2000, and for each school year thereafter, the
295 program shall be in operation in New London, provided beginning with
296 the 2001-2002 school year, the proportion of students who are not
297 minority students to the total number of students leaving New London
298 to participate in the program shall not be greater than the proportion of
299 students who were not minority students in the prior year to the total
300 number of students enrolled in New London in the prior school year.
301 The regional educational service center operating the program shall
302 make program participation decisions in accordance with this
303 subdivision. (3) The Department of Education may provide, within
304 available appropriations, grants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003,
305 to the remaining regional educational service centers to assist school
306 districts in planning for a voluntary program of student enrollment in
307 every priority school district, pursuant to section 10-266p, which is
308 interested in participating in accordance with this subdivision. For the
309 school year commencing in 2003, and for each school year thereafter, the
310 voluntary enrollment program may be in operation in every priority
311 school district in the state. Students from other school districts in the
312 area of a priority school district, as determined by the regional
313 educational service center pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, may
314 attend school in the priority school district, provided such students
315 bring racial, ethnic and economic diversity to the priority school district
316 and do not increase the racial, ethnic and economic isolation in the
317 priority school district. (4) For the school year commencing July 1, 2024,
318 and each school year thereafter, there shall be a pilot program in
319 operation in Danbury and Norwalk. The pilot program shall serve (A)
320 up to fifty students who reside in Danbury, and such students may
321 attend school in the school districts for the towns of New Fairfield,

322 Brookfield, Bethel, Ridgefield and Redding, and (B) up to fifty students
323 who (i) reside in Norwalk, and such students may attend school in the
324 school districts for the towns of Darien, New Canaan, Wilton, Weston
325 and Westport, and (ii) reside in Darien, New Canaan, Wilton, Weston
326 and Westport, and such students may attend school in the school district
327 for the town of Norwalk. School districts which receive students under
328 this subdivision as part of the pilot program shall allow such students
329 to attend school in the district until they graduate from high school. (5)
330 For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year
331 thereafter, the town of Guilford shall be eligible to participate in the
332 program as a receiving district and a sending district with New Haven.
333 (6) For the school year commencing July 1, 2025, and each school year
334 thereafter, the town of Madison shall be eligible to participate in the
335 program as a receiving district and a sending district with New Haven.

336 Sec. 10. Section 10-153b of the general statutes is amended by adding
337 subsection (g) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

338 (NEW) (g) For any negotiation with respect to salaries, hours and
339 other conditions of employment with an organization which has been
340 designated or elected the exclusive representative of an administrators'
341 unit or a teachers' unit occurring on or after July 1, 2025, at least one
342 member of the local or regional board of education which employs such
343 unit shall be present for such negotiations.

344 Sec. 11. Section 10-206 of the general statutes is repealed and the
345 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

346 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall require each pupil
347 enrolled in the public schools to have health assessments pursuant to
348 the provisions of this section. Such assessments shall be conducted by
349 (1) a legally qualified practitioner of medicine, (2) an advanced practice
350 registered nurse or registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378,
351 (3) a physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, (4) a school
352 medical advisor, or (5) a legally qualified practitioner of medicine, an
353 advanced practice registered nurse or a physician assistant stationed at
354 any military base, to ascertain whether such pupil is suffering from any

355 physical disability tending to prevent such pupil from receiving the full
356 benefit of school work and to ascertain whether such school work
357 should be modified in order to prevent injury to the pupil or to secure
358 for the pupil a suitable program of education. No health assessment
359 shall be made of any [child] pupil enrolled in the public schools unless
360 such examination is made in the presence of the parent or guardian or
361 in the presence of another school employee. The parent or guardian of
362 such [child] pupil shall receive prior written notice and shall have a
363 reasonable opportunity to be present at such assessment or to provide
364 for such assessment himself or herself. A local or regional board of
365 education may deny continued attendance in public school to any
366 [child] pupil who fails to obtain the health assessments required under
367 this section.

368 (b) Each local or regional board of education shall require each [child]
369 pupil to have a health assessment prior to public school enrollment. The
370 assessment shall include: (1) A physical examination which shall
371 include hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, blood pressure,
372 a medical risk assessment for lead poisoning and, when indicated by
373 such assessment, a test of the [child's] pupil's blood lead level, and,
374 beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, a chronic disease assessment
375 which shall include, but not be limited to, asthma. The assessment form
376 shall include (A) a check box for the provider conducting the
377 assessment, as provided in subsection (a) of this section, to indicate an
378 asthma diagnosis, (B) screening questions relating to appropriate public
379 health concerns to be answered by the parent or guardian, and (C)
380 screening questions to be answered by such provider; (2) an updating
381 of immunizations as required under section 10-204a, provided a
382 registered nurse may only update said immunizations pursuant to a
383 written order by a physician or physician assistant, licensed pursuant to
384 chapter 370, or an advanced practice registered nurse, licensed pursuant
385 to chapter 378; (3) vision, hearing, speech and gross dental screenings;
386 and (4) such other information, including health and developmental
387 history, as the physician feels is necessary and appropriate. The
388 assessment shall also include tests for tuberculosis, sickle cell anemia
389 and Cooley's anemia where the local or regional board of education

390 determines after consultation with the school medical advisor and the
391 local health department, or in the case of a regional board of education,
392 each local health department, that such tests are necessary, provided a
393 registered nurse may only perform said tests pursuant to the written
394 order of a physician or physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter
395 370, or an advanced practice registered nurse, licensed pursuant to
396 chapter 378.

397 (c) Each local or regional board of education shall require each pupil
398 enrolled in the public schools to have health assessments in either grade
399 six or grade seven and in either grade nine or grade ten. The assessment
400 shall include: (1) A physical examination which shall include hematocrit
401 or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, blood pressure, and, beginning
402 with the 2003-2004 school year, a chronic disease assessment which shall
403 include, but not be limited to, asthma as defined by the Commissioner
404 of Public Health pursuant to subsection (c) of section 19a-62a. The
405 assessment form shall include (A) a check box for the provider
406 conducting the assessment, as provided in subsection (a) of this section,
407 to indicate an asthma diagnosis, (B) screening questions relating to
408 appropriate public health concerns to be answered by the parent or
409 guardian, and (C) screening questions to be answered by such provider;
410 (2) an updating of immunizations as required under section 10-204a,
411 provided a registered nurse may only update said immunizations
412 pursuant to a written order of a physician or physician assistant,
413 licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or an advanced practice registered
414 nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378; (3) vision, hearing, postural and
415 gross dental screenings; and (4) such other information including a
416 health history as the physician feels is necessary and appropriate. The
417 assessment shall also include tests for tuberculosis and sickle cell
418 anemia or Cooley's anemia where the local or regional board of
419 education, in consultation with the school medical advisor and the local
420 health department, or in the case of a regional board of education, each
421 local health department, determines that said screening or test is
422 necessary, provided a registered nurse may only perform said tests
423 pursuant to the written order of a physician or physician assistant,
424 licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or an advanced practice registered

425 nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378.

426 (d) The results of each assessment done pursuant to this section and
427 the results of screenings done pursuant to section 10-214, as amended
428 by this act, shall be recorded on forms supplied by the State Board of
429 Education. Each school nurse may reject such results submitted on
430 forms other than the forms supplied by the State Board of Education and
431 require the resubmission of such results on such forms supplied by the
432 State Board of Education. An asthma action plan shall be included with
433 the assessment form of each pupil that indicates an asthma diagnosis
434 pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section. Such information shall
435 be included in the cumulative health record of each pupil and shall be
436 kept on file in the school such pupil attends. If a pupil permanently
437 leaves the jurisdiction of the board of education, the pupil's original
438 cumulative health record shall be sent to the chief administrative officer
439 of the school district to which such student moves. The board of
440 education transmitting such health record shall retain a true copy. Each
441 physician, advanced practice registered nurse, registered nurse, or
442 physician assistant performing health assessments and screenings
443 pursuant to this section and section 10-214, as amended by this act, shall
444 completely fill out and sign each form and any recommendations
445 concerning the pupil shall be in writing.

446 (e) Appropriate school health personnel shall review the results of
447 each assessment and screening as recorded pursuant to subsection (d)
448 of this section. When, in the judgment of such health personnel, a pupil,
449 as defined in section 10-206a, is in need of further testing or treatment,
450 the superintendent of schools shall give written notice to the parent or
451 guardian of such pupil and shall make reasonable efforts to assure that
452 such further testing or treatment is provided. Such reasonable efforts
453 shall include a determination of whether or not the parent or guardian
454 has obtained the necessary testing or treatment for the pupil, and, if not,
455 advising the parent or guardian on how such testing or treatment may
456 be obtained. The results of such further testing or treatment shall be
457 recorded pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, and shall be
458 reviewed by school health personnel pursuant to this subsection.

459 (f) On and after October 1, 2017, each local or regional board of
460 education shall report to the local health department and the
461 Department of Public Health, on an triennial basis, the total number of
462 pupils per school and per school district having a diagnosis of asthma
463 (1) at the time of public school enrollment, (2) in grade six or seven, and
464 (3) in grade nine or ten. The report shall contain the asthma information
465 collected as required under subsections (b) and (c) of this section and
466 shall include pupil age, gender, race, ethnicity and school. Beginning on
467 October 1, 2021, and every three years thereafter, the Department of
468 Public Health shall review the asthma screening information reported
469 pursuant to this section and shall submit a report to the joint standing
470 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
471 relating to public health and education concerning asthma trends and
472 distributions among pupils enrolled in the public schools. The report
473 shall be submitted in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
474 and shall include, but not be limited to, (A) trends and findings based
475 on pupil age, gender, race, ethnicity, school and the education reference
476 group, as determined by the Department of Education for the town or
477 regional school district in which such school is located, and (B) activities
478 of the asthma screening monitoring system maintained under section
479 19a-62a.

480 Sec. 12. Subsection (g) of section 10-233c of the general statutes is
481 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
482 *2025*):

483 (g) On and after July 1, 2015, all suspensions pursuant to this section
484 shall be in-school suspensions, except a local or regional board of
485 education may authorize the administration of schools under its
486 direction to impose an out-of-school suspension on any pupil in (1)
487 grades three to twelve, inclusive, if, during the hearing held pursuant to
488 subsection (a) of this section, (A) the administration determines that the
489 pupil being suspended poses such a danger to persons or property or
490 such a disruption of the educational process that the pupil shall be
491 excluded from school during the period of suspension, or (B) the
492 administration determines that an out-of-school suspension is

493 appropriate for such pupil based on evidence of (i) previous disciplinary
494 problems that have led to suspensions or expulsion of such pupil, and
495 (ii) efforts by the administration to address such disciplinary problems
496 through means other than out-of-school suspension or expulsion,
497 including positive behavioral support strategies, or (2) grades preschool
498 to two, inclusive, if during the hearing held pursuant to subsection (a)
499 of this section, the administration (A) determines that an out-of-school
500 suspension is appropriate for such pupil based on evidence that such
501 pupil's conduct on school grounds is behavior that causes serious
502 physical harm, (B) requires that such pupil receives services that are
503 trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate and align with any
504 behavioral intervention plan, individualized education program or plan
505 pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended
506 from time to time, for such pupil upon such pupil's return to school
507 immediately following the out-of-school suspension, and (C) [considers
508 whether to convene a planning and placement team meeting for the
509 purposes of conducting] conducts an evaluation pursuant to the
510 procedures set forth in section 10-76ff to determine whether such pupil
511 may require special education or related services. An out-of-school
512 suspension imposed under subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not
513 exceed ten school days, and an out-of-school suspension imposed under
514 subdivision (2) of this subsection shall not exceed [five] two school days.
515 An in-school suspension may be served in the school that the pupil
516 attends, or in any school building under the jurisdiction of the local or
517 regional board of education, as determined by such board. Nothing in
518 this section shall limit a person's duty as a mandated reporter pursuant
519 to section 17-101a to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

520 Sec. 13. Subsection (d) of section 10-233d of the general statutes is
521 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
522 *2025*):

523 (d) No local or regional board of education is required to offer an
524 alternative educational opportunity, except in accordance with this
525 section. Any pupil under sixteen years of age who is expelled shall be
526 offered an alternative educational opportunity, which shall be (1)

527 alternative education, as defined by section 10-74j, with an
528 individualized learning plan, if such board provides such alternative
529 education, or (2) in accordance with the standards adopted by the State
530 Board of Education, pursuant to section 10-233o, during the period of
531 expulsion, provided any parent or guardian of such pupil who does not
532 choose to have such parent's or guardian's child enrolled in an
533 alternative educational opportunity shall not be subject to the
534 provisions of section 10-184. Any pupil expelled for the first time and
535 the second time, who is between the ages of sixteen and eighteen, and
536 who wishes to continue such pupil's education shall be offered such an
537 alternative educational opportunity if such pupil complies with
538 conditions established by such pupil's local or regional board of
539 education. Such alternative educational opportunity may include, but
540 shall not be limited to, the placement of a pupil who is at least seventeen
541 years of age in an adult education program pursuant to section 10-69.
542 Any pupil participating in any such adult education program during a
543 period of expulsion shall not be required to withdraw from school under
544 section 10-184. A local or regional board of education shall count the
545 expulsion of a pupil when the pupil was under sixteen years of age for
546 purposes of determining whether an alternative educational
547 opportunity is required for such pupil when such pupil is between the
548 ages of sixteen and eighteen. A local or regional board of education may
549 offer an alternative educational opportunity to a pupil for whom such
550 alternative educational opportunity is not required pursuant to this
551 section.

552 Sec. 14. Subsection (h) of section 10-236b of the general statutes is
553 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
554 *2025*):

555 (h) Each local or regional board of education shall notify a parent or
556 guardian of a student who is placed in physical restraint or seclusion
557 [not later than twenty-four hours after] on the day the student was
558 placed in physical restraint or seclusion and shall make a reasonable
559 effort to provide such notification immediately after such physical
560 restraint or seclusion is initiated.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2025	10-222
Sec. 3	July 1, 2025	10-51(a)
Sec. 4	July 1, 2025	10-233m
Sec. 5	July 1, 2025	1-231(a)
Sec. 6	July 1, 2025	10-51(d)(2)
Sec. 7	July 1, 2025	10-214(a)
Sec. 8	July 1, 2025	10-287(b)(1)
Sec. 9	July 1, 2025	10-266aa(c)
Sec. 10	July 1, 2025	10-153b(g)
Sec. 11	July 1, 2025	10-206
Sec. 12	July 1, 2025	10-233c(g)
Sec. 13	July 1, 2025	10-233d(d)
Sec. 14	July 1, 2025	10-236b(h)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 3, the definitions for "original amount" and "actual amount" were changed to "have the same meanings as provided in section 10-222, as amended by this act" for consistency with standard drafting conventions; Sections 4 and 12 were merged and redesignated as Section 11 as both Sections 4 and 12 amended the same statutory section, the original Section 4 was consequently deleted to avoid redundancy and the remaining sections and internal references were renumbered accordingly; and in Section 10, "a unit defined in this section" was changed to "an administrators' unit or a teachers' unit" for clarity.

ED

Joint Favorable Subst.

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 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	Potential Cost	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal
Madison	Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill makes various changes relating to the State Department of Education and local and regional school districts. The impact of these changes is described by section below.

Section 6 changes the potential uses of regional school districts' reserve funds. It allows districts to move funds previously appropriated to and currently in a reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures, to a reserve fund for educational expenditures starting in FY 26.

Section 9 makes Madison eligible to participate in the Open Choice Program, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. This results in a cost to the state and a corresponding revenue gain to Madison of \$3,000 per student annually starting in FY 26. The total impact will depend on the number of students that participate in the Open Choice Program in

Madison.

Section 12 requires districts to conduct a special education evaluation for students who receive out of school suspension in preschool through second grade, which results in a potential minimal cost to districts beginning in FY 26. The cost is dependent on: (1) the number of students for whom evaluations are required; (2) the cost of an evaluation; and (3) the cost of necessary special education services to the student as a result of the evaluation.

Sections 1 - 5, 7 - 8, 10 - 11, & 13 - 14 make various clarifying and procedural changes that do not result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

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

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7217****AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

[SUMMARY](#)[§§ 1-3 — INFORMATION ON PRIOR AND CURRENT YEAR ORIGINAL AND ACTUAL EXPENDITURES IN SCHOOL BUDGET PROCESS](#)

Requires information on prior and current fiscal year line items to be included in the itemized estimates prepared during the local and regional school budget processes

[§ 4 — SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER MOU](#)

Sets a deadline for when certain information must start being incorporated into SRO MOUs and requires these MOUs to be updated at least every three years

[§ 5 — SUPERINTENDENT ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL BOARD EXECUTIVE SESSIONS UNDER FOIA](#)

Broadens the circumstances under which superintendents can attend school board executive sessions under FOIA

[§ 6 — REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD RESERVE FUNDS](#)

Explicitly allows regional boards of education to deposit funds previously appropriated to and currently in a reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures into a reserve fund for educational expenditures

[§ 7 — VISION SCREENINGS FOR STUDENTS](#)

Explicitly allows school boards to offer vision screenings in preschool and second grade

[§ 8 — COOPERATIVE PURCHASING CONTRACTS FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION](#)

Creates an exception to the public bidding requirements for school construction projects that use cooperative purchasing contracts offered through a RESC

[§ 9 — OPEN CHOICE PROGRAM ADDITION](#)

Adds Madison to the Open Choice program as a receiving and sending district

[§ 10 — ATTENDANCE AT TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATOR NEGOTIATIONS](#)

Requires a school board member to attend teacher and administrator employment condition negotiations

[§ 11 — HEALTH ASSESSMENT FORMS](#)

Allows nurses to reject health assessment forms that are not the form required by SBE and requires asthma action plans to be included in these forms if a student has asthma

§ 12 — OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION FOR STUDENTS IN PRESCHOOL THROUGH GRADE TWO

Reduces, from five to two days, the maximum out-of-school suspension length for students in preschool through second grade; limits the use of out-of-school suspension for students in these grades to instances constituting serious physical harm; and requires school administrators to conduct a special education evaluation at related disciplinary hearings for students in these grades

§ 13 — TWICE-EXPELLED STUDENTS

Requires school boards to offer an alternative education opportunity for students ages 16 to 18 who are expelled for the first or second time

§ 14 — NOTIFICATION OF RESTRAINT OR SECLUSION

Requires school boards to notify parents of a student placed in physical restraint or seclusion on the day it happens

SUMMARY

This bill makes changes to various education statutes, as summarized in the following section-by-section analysis.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

§§ 1-3 — INFORMATION ON PRIOR AND CURRENT YEAR ORIGINAL AND ACTUAL EXPENDITURES IN SCHOOL BUDGET PROCESS

Requires information on prior and current fiscal year line items to be included in the itemized estimates prepared during the local and regional school budget processes

Local Boards of Education (§§ 1 & 2)

By law, local boards of education must prepare an itemized estimate of school expenses in the upcoming fiscal year and submit it to the board of finance or other authority making appropriations to the school district at least two months before the meeting at which appropriations will be made. The itemized estimate is one where broad budget categories (e.g., salaries, utilities, grounds maintenance) are divided into line items (CGS § 10-222).

The bill requires superintendents to annually give local school board members the following information:

1. the amount that was appropriated to each line item at the start of the fiscal year (“original amount”) and the amount of the line item at the end of the fiscal year (“actual amount”) for the two most recently completed fiscal years and
2. the original amount for each line item and the current amount for the fiscal year currently in progress.

Under the bill, the superintendent must provide this information during the preparation of the itemized estimate for FY 26 and each fiscal year after this. (Because most municipalities will have adopted their budgets before this bill takes effect, it appears that superintendents will not be able to comply with this requirement until they prepare their estimates for FY 27.)

The bill also requires the local board of education to include the above information on original, actual, and current amounts in the itemized estimate of school operating expenses.

Regional School Districts (§ 3)

The bill requires the proposed budget that a regional school board presents at a public district meeting to include the same information on budget line items required for the local school budgets, described above. It also requires the same information to be included in the budget presented at the annual meeting on the first Monday in May.

§ 4 — SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER MOU

Sets a deadline for when certain information must start being incorporated into SRO MOUs and requires these MOUs to be updated at least every three years

By law, each local or regional board of education that assigns a school resource officer (SRO) to its schools must have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a local law enforcement agency. The MOU must address the SRO’s role and responsibility in the school.

Under existing law, (1) school boards must post their MOU on their website and in the school where the SRO is assigned and maintain the MOU in a central location in the district, and (2) these MOUs must

include information on the officer's daily interactions with students and staff and a student discipline graduated response model. The bill requires these two requirements to be met by January 1, 2026.

The bill also requires these MOUs to be updated at least every three years.

§ 5 — SUPERINTENDENT ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL BOARD EXECUTIVE SESSIONS UNDER FOIA

Broadens the circumstances under which superintendents can attend school board executive sessions under FOIA

Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), school board meetings, like other public agency meetings, must generally be open to the public. But school boards, like other public agencies, may hold executive sessions where attendance is limited to board members and people the board invites to give testimony or opinions related to the matters before the board. Invitees' attendance is limited to the period of time during which their presence is necessary.

The bill expands the purposes for which a school board can invite a superintendent into a closed executive session. Specifically, under the bill, a school board can invite a superintendent to an executive session in his or her capacity as the board's chief executive officer, rather than just for the limited purpose of testifying specifically to matters under the board's consideration.

§ 6 — REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD RESERVE FUNDS

Explicitly allows regional boards of education to deposit funds previously appropriated to and currently in a reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures into a reserve fund for educational expenditures

PA 24-45 allows regional boards of education to create reserve funds for educational expenditures. Prior law had instead allowed boards to create reserve funds for capital and nonrecurring expenditures. Starting with FY 26, the bill explicitly allows regional boards of education to deposit funds previously appropriated to and currently in a reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures into a reserve fund for educational expenditures.

§ 7 — VISION SCREENINGS FOR STUDENTS

Explicitly allows school boards to offer vision screenings in preschool and second grade

The bill allows school boards to offer vision screenings to students in preschool and second grade. By law, vision screenings are required to be provided to all students in kindergarten, first grade, and third through fifth grade.

§ 8 — COOPERATIVE PURCHASING CONTRACTS FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

Creates an exception to the public bidding requirements for school construction projects that use cooperative purchasing contracts offered through a RESC

By law, most contracts and orders for school construction projects receiving state assistance must be awarded to the lowest possible qualified bidder following a public invitation. Existing law allows some exceptions to the public bidding requirement, including for school construction projects for which the district decides to use a Department of Administrative Services contract.

The bill creates another exception to the public bidding requirements for school construction projects that use cooperative purchasing contracts offered through a Regional Education Service Center (RESC). It also repeals a provision in current law specifying that RESC and Council of Government (COG) cooperative purchasing contracts may be qualified bidders and considered among the bids received after the public invitation.

§ 9 — OPEN CHOICE PROGRAM ADDITION

Adds Madison to the Open Choice program as a receiving and sending district

The bill adds Madison to the Open Choice program as a receiving and sending district with New Haven beginning the 2025-2026 school year. This addition allows students from Madison to attend school in the New Haven system and vice versa.

The Open Choice Program is a voluntary interdistrict attendance program that allows students from large urban districts to attend suburban schools and vice versa, on a space-available basis. Its purpose is to reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation; improve academic

achievement; and provide public school choice.

§ 10 — ATTENDANCE AT TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATOR NEGOTIATIONS

Requires a school board member to attend teacher and administrator employment condition negotiations

The bill requires that at least one local or regional board of education member be present for negotiations with teachers' and administrators' units over their salaries, hours, or other conditions of employment that occur on or after July 1, 2025.

The Teacher Negotiation Act (TNA) allows both boards of education and unions representing teachers and school administrators to negotiate with each other over matters appropriate for collective bargaining. This act also establishes the process and timetable for negotiating contracts covering teachers' wages, hours, and conditions of employment (CGS §§ 10-153a to 10-153o).

§ 11 — HEALTH ASSESSMENT FORMS

Allows nurses to reject health assessment forms that are not the form required by SBE and requires asthma action plans to be included in these forms if a student has asthma

By law, student health assessments and screenings must be recorded on specific forms provided by the State Board of Education (SBE) and included in the student's cumulative health record.

The bill explicitly allows school nurses to reject assessments or screenings submitted in a format other than the SBE-required form and require resubmission on the SBE form.

Additionally, the bill requires that an asthma action plan be included in health assessment forms for students diagnosed with asthma.

§ 12 — OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION FOR STUDENTS IN PRESCHOOL THROUGH GRADE TWO

Reduces, from five to two days, the maximum out-of-school suspension length for students in preschool through second grade; limits the use of out-of-school suspension for students in these grades to instances constituting serious physical harm; and requires school administrators to conduct a special education evaluation at related disciplinary hearings for students in these grades

The bill reduces, from five to two days, the maximum out-of-school suspension length that school administration may impose on a student in preschool through second grade. It also further limits the circumstances under which school administration may give out-of-school suspension to students in these grades.

Under current law, school administration may impose out-of-school suspension on students in these grades if an administrator finds, at the student's informal disciplinary hearing, that the suspension is appropriate due to evidence that the student's conduct on school grounds is behavior that causes physical harm. The bill instead limits these suspensions only to cases where a student's conduct constitutes behavior that causes serious physical harm.

Additionally, at these disciplinary hearings, current law requires school administrators to consider whether to convene a planning and placement team to conduct an evaluation for special education eligibility. The bill instead requires the administration to conduct the evaluation at this hearing. Federal and state special education law require these evaluations to, among other things, (1) be comprehensive enough to identify all the child's needs and cover all areas related to the suspected disability and (2) incorporate a variety of assessment tools to gather relevant functional, developmental, and academic information. (It is unclear whether these evaluations could be conducted in a disciplinary hearing in a way that complies with federal and state requirements.) Existing SDE regulations require schools to promptly refer to a planning and placement team all students who (1) have been repeatedly suspended or (2) whose behavior, attendance, or progress in school is unsatisfactory or marginally acceptable (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 10-76d-7).

§ 13 — TWICE-EXPELLED STUDENTS

Requires school boards to offer an alternative education opportunity for students ages 16 to 18 who are expelled for the first or second time

The bill requires school boards to offer an alternative education opportunity to students ages 16 to 18 who are expelled for the first or

second time and wish to continue their education. Current law requires school boards to do so only for students in this age range who are expelled for the first time. As under existing law, a student may be offered the alternative education opportunity only if he or she complies with conditions the school board sets, and an expulsion before age 16 counts when school boards determine whether an alternative education opportunity is required for students ages 16 to 18.

§ 14 — NOTIFICATION OF RESTRAINT OR SECLUSION

Requires school boards to notify parents of a student placed in physical restraint or seclusion on the day it happens

The bill requires school boards to notify the parents or guardian of a student placed in physical restraint or seclusion on the day it happens, rather than within 24 hours after it happened as current law requires. As under existing law, the school board must make a reasonable effort to notify them immediately after the restraint or seclusion begins.

By law, school employees are prohibited from physically restraining a student or placing the student in seclusion except as an emergency intervention to prevent immediate or imminent injury to the student or others (CGS § 10-236b(b) & (d)). A restraint or seclusion may exceed 15 minutes only if an administrator or certain other school personnel (e.g., health professionals) deems it necessary to prevent such an injury, and this determination must be done every 30 minutes (CGS § 10-236b(f)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 19 (03/24/2025)