



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

***Raised Bill No. 7076***

LCO No. 5441



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT PROVIDING EDUCATION MANDATE RELIEF.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-15c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) The public schools shall be open to all children five years of age  
4 and over who reach age five on or before the first day of September of  
5 any school year, and each such child shall have, and shall be so advised  
6 by the appropriate school authorities, an equal opportunity to  
7 participate in the activities, programs and courses of study offered in  
8 such public schools, at such time as the child becomes eligible to  
9 participate in such activities, programs and courses of study, without  
10 discrimination on account of race, as defined in section 46a-51, color,  
11 sex, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin, sexual  
12 orientation or disability; provided a child who has not reached the age  
13 of five on or before the first day of September of the school year may be  
14 admitted if the local or regional board of education adopts an early  
15 admission policy that permits such child to be admitted (1) upon a  
16 written request by the parent or guardian of such child to the principal

17 of the school in which such child would be enrolled, and (2) following  
18 an assessment of such child, conducted by such principal and an  
19 appropriate certified staff member of the school, to ensure that  
20 admitting such child is developmentally appropriate.

21 (b) Nothing in subsection (a) of this section shall be deemed to amend  
22 other provisions of the general statutes with respect to curricula,  
23 facilities or extracurricular activities.

24 Sec. 2. Subdivision (2) of section 10-76a of the general statutes is  
25 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
26 *2026*):

27 (2) "Child" means any person twenty-two years of age or younger.  
28 [or, for children requiring special education, until such child is  
29 graduated from high school or at the end of the school year during  
30 which such child reaches age twenty-two, whichever occurs first.]

31 Sec. 3. Subparagraph (C) of subdivision (9) of subsection (a) of section  
32 10-76d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
33 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

34 (C) Not later than the planning and placement team meeting that  
35 occurs approximately two years prior to a child's anticipated graduation  
36 from high school or the end of the school year in which a child will reach  
37 [twenty-two] twenty-one years of age, whichever is expected to occur  
38 first based on such child's individualized education program, the  
39 planning and placement team shall (i) upon the approval of the parent  
40 or guardian of such child, or a surrogate parent of such child appointed  
41 pursuant to section 10-94g or such child if such child is an emancipated  
42 minor or eighteen years of age or older, (I) notify any state agency that  
43 provides a program for adults for which such child may be eligible  
44 about the potential eligibility of such child, (II) invite a representative  
45 from each such agency to attend the planning and placement team  
46 meeting for the purpose of establishing contact with and counseling the  
47 parent, guardian, surrogate parent or child on the process for the

48 anticipated transfer of services upon such child graduating from high  
 49 school or upon [the end of the school year in which] such child [reaches]  
 50 reaching twenty-two years of age, whichever is sooner, and (III) permit  
 51 and facilitate contact and coordination between each such agency and  
 52 such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or child for the purpose of  
 53 easing the process for the transfer of services, (ii) provide such parent,  
 54 guardian, surrogate parent or child a listing of each program for adults  
 55 for which such child may be eligible that includes, but is not limited to,  
 56 (I) a plain language description of such program, (II) eligibility  
 57 requirements for such program, and (III) deadlines and instructions for  
 58 applications to such programs, and (iii) assist such parent, guardian,  
 59 surrogate parent or child in completing an application to any such  
 60 programs.

61 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 10-76d of the general statutes is  
 62 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
 63 *2026*):

64 (b) In accordance with the regulations of the State Board of Education,  
 65 each local and regional board of education shall: (1) Provide special  
 66 education for school-age children requiring special education who are  
 67 described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (5) of section 10-76a. The  
 68 obligation of the school district under this subsection shall terminate  
 69 when such child is graduated from high school or [at the end of the  
 70 school year during which] upon such child [reaches] reaching age  
 71 twenty-two, whichever occurs first; and (2) provide special education  
 72 for children requiring special education who are described in  
 73 subparagraph (A) or (C) of subdivision (5) of section 10-76a. The State  
 74 Board of Education shall define the criteria by which each local or  
 75 regional board of education shall determine whether a given child is  
 76 eligible for special education pursuant to this subdivision, and such  
 77 determination shall be made by the board of education when requested  
 78 by a parent or guardian, or upon referral by a physician, clinic or social  
 79 worker, provided the parent or guardian so permits. To meet its  
 80 obligations under this subdivision, each local or regional board of

81 education may, with the approval of the State Board of Education, make  
 82 agreements with any private school, agency or institution to provide the  
 83 necessary preschool special education program, provided such private  
 84 facility has an existing program which adequately meets the special  
 85 education needs, according to standards established by the State Board  
 86 of Education, of the preschool children for whom such local or regional  
 87 board of education is required to provide such an education and  
 88 provided such district does not have such an existing program in its  
 89 public schools. Such private school, agency or institution may be a  
 90 facility which has not been approved by the Commissioner of Education  
 91 for special education, provided such private facility is approved by the  
 92 commissioner as an independent school or licensed by the Office of  
 93 Early Childhood as a child care center, group child care home or family  
 94 child care home, as described in section 19a-77, or be both approved and  
 95 licensed. The State Board of Education shall adopt or update  
 96 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions  
 97 of this subsection.

98 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 10-76ll of the general statutes is  
 99 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
 100 *2026*):

101 (b) On or before July 1, 2015, the State Board of Education shall draft  
 102 a written bill of rights for parents of children receiving special education  
 103 services to guarantee that the rights of such parents and children are  
 104 adequately safeguarded and protected during the provision of special  
 105 education and related services until such children have graduated from  
 106 high school or [at the end of the school year during which] upon such  
 107 children [reach] reaching age twenty-two, whichever occurs first, under  
 108 this chapter. Such bill of rights shall inform parents of: (1) The right to  
 109 request consideration of the provision of transition services for a child  
 110 receiving special education services who is eighteen years of age until  
 111 such child has graduated from high school or [at the end of the school  
 112 year during which] upon such child [reaches] reaching age twenty-two,  
 113 whichever occurs first, (2) the right to receive transition resources and

114 materials from the department and the local or regional board of  
115 education responsible for such child, (3) the requirement that the local  
116 or regional board of education responsible for such child shall create a  
117 student success plan for each student enrolled in a public school,  
118 beginning in grade six, pursuant to subsection (k) of section 10-221a,  
119 [and] (4) the right of such child to receive realistic and specific  
120 postgraduation goals as part of such child's individualized education  
121 program, and (5) the right to an opportunity to establish contact with  
122 and receive information about and assistance with applying for  
123 programs provided by any state agency that provides services in  
124 attaining the postgraduation goals in a child's individualized education  
125 program, pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (9) of subsection  
126 (a) of section 10-76d, as amended by this act.

127 Sec. 6. Section 10-95p of the general statutes is repealed and the  
128 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

129 (a) There is established a division of postsecondary educational  
130 programs within the Technical Education and Career System. The  
131 division shall administer any postsecondary educational program that  
132 (1) was offered at a technical education and career school during the  
133 school year commencing July 1, 2016, or (2) is approved by the Technical  
134 Education and Career System board.

135 (b) Any student admitted for enrollment in a postsecondary  
136 educational program administered by the division shall have a high  
137 school diploma or its equivalent, or have [completed the school year in  
138 which such student reaches] reached twenty-two years of age.

139 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 10-253 of the general statutes is  
140 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
141 *2026*):

142 (a) Children placed out by the Commissioner of Children and  
143 Families or by other agencies or persons, including offices of a  
144 government of a federally recognized Native American tribe, private

145 child-caring or child-placing agencies licensed by the Department of  
146 Children and Families, and eligible residents of facilities operated by the  
147 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services or by the  
148 Department of Public Health who are eighteen to twenty-one years of  
149 age or, for children requiring special education, when such child is  
150 graduated from high school or [at the end of the school year during  
151 which] upon such child [reaches] reaching age twenty-two, whichever  
152 occurs first, shall be entitled to all free school privileges of the school  
153 district where they then reside as a result of such placement, except as  
154 provided in subdivision (4) of subsection (e) of section 10-76d. Except as  
155 provided in subsection (d) of this section and subdivision (4) of  
156 subsection (e) of section 10-76d, payment for such education shall be  
157 made by the board of education of the school district under whose  
158 jurisdiction such child would otherwise be attending school where such  
159 a school district is identified.

160       Sec. 8. Subdivision (3) of subsection (h) of section 10-253 of the general  
161 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
162 (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

163       (3) In each district, the liaison shall assist the school district, the Court  
164 Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch and any relevant  
165 educational service providers in ensuring that:

166       (A) All persons twenty-two years of age or younger in justice system  
167 custody are promptly evaluated for eligibility for special education  
168 services to be provided until such child is graduated from high school  
169 or [at the end of the school year during which] upon such child [reaches]  
170 reaching age twenty-two, whichever occurs first, pursuant to section  
171 17a-65 and any other applicable law;

172       (B) Students in justice system custody and returning to the  
173 community from justice system custody are promptly enrolled in school  
174 pursuant to this section and section 10-186;

175       (C) Students in justice system custody and returning to the

176 community from justice system custody receive appropriate credit for  
177 school work completed in custody, pursuant to this section or section  
178 10-220h;

179 (D) All relevant school records for students who enter justice system  
180 custody and who return to the community from justice system custody  
181 are promptly transferred to the appropriate school district or  
182 educational service provider, pursuant to section 10-220h.

183 Sec. 9. Section 10-226b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
184 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

185 (a) Whenever the State Board of Education finds that racial imbalance  
186 exists in a public school, it shall notify in writing the board of education  
187 having jurisdiction over said school that such finding has been made,  
188 except the State Board of Education shall not notify a board of education  
189 of such finding until July 1, [2025] 2029.

190 (b) As used in sections 10-226a to 10-226e, inclusive, "racial  
191 imbalance" means a condition wherein the proportion of pupils of racial  
192 minorities in all of the grades of a public school of the secondary level  
193 or below taken together substantially exceeds or falls substantially short  
194 of the proportion of such public school pupils in all of the same grades  
195 of the school district in which said school is situated taken together.

196 Sec. 10. Section 10-226c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
197 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

198 (a) Any board of education receiving notification of the existence of  
199 racial imbalance as specified in section 10-226b, as amended by this act,  
200 shall forthwith prepare a plan to correct such imbalance and file a copy  
201 of said plan with the State Board of Education, except such board of  
202 education shall not be required to prepare and file said plan until July  
203 1, [2025] 2029. Said plan may be limited to addressing the imbalance  
204 existing at any school and need not result in a district-wide plan or  
205 district-wide pupil reassignment. A school district may request an

206 extension of time in cases in which the number of students causing said  
207 imbalance is fewer than five students at a school.

208 (b) Any plan submitted by the board of education of any town under  
209 sections 10-226a to 10-226e, inclusive, shall include any proposed  
210 changes in existing school attendance districts, the location of proposed  
211 school building sites as related to the problem, any proposed additions  
212 to existing school buildings and all other means proposed for the  
213 correction of said racial imbalance. The plan shall include projections of  
214 the expected racial composition of all public schools in the district. The  
215 plan may include provision for cooperation with other school districts  
216 to assist in the correction of racial imbalance.

217 Sec. 11. Section 10-226d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
218 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

219 Upon receipt of any plan required under the provisions of subsection  
220 (b) of section 10-226c, the State Board of Education shall review said  
221 plan. If it determines that the plan is satisfactory, it shall approve the  
222 plan and shall provide to the board of education such assistance and  
223 services as may be available. The board of education shall submit annual  
224 reports on the implementation of the approved plan, as the State Board  
225 of Education may require. The State Board of Education shall not take  
226 action on any plan received on or after July 1, 2024, until July 1, [2025]  
227 2029.

228 Sec. 12. Section 10-234gg of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*  
229 *from passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	July 1, 2025	10-15c
Sec. 2	July 1, 2026	10-76a(2)
Sec. 3	July 1, 2026	10-76d(a)(9)(C)
Sec. 4	July 1, 2026	10-76d(b)
Sec. 5	July 1, 2026	10-76ll(b)



Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-95p
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-253(a)
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-253(h)(3)
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-226b
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-226c
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-226d
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To provide local and regional boards of education relief from certain education mandates.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*