



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 8094



Offered by:

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To: House Bill No. 7009

File No. 317

Cal. No. 219

**"AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
CONNECTICUT STATE SEAL OF CIVICS EDUCATION AND  
ENGAGEMENT."**

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

3 "Section 1. Section 10-5 of the general statutes is amended by adding  
4 subsection (g) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

5 (NEW) (g) The Department of Education shall establish criteria by  
6 which a local or regional board of education, or the governing board of  
7 any other school that awards diplomas, may affix the Connecticut State  
8 Seal of Civics Education and Engagement on a diploma awarded to a  
9 student who has achieved a high level of proficiency in civics education  
10 and engagement. Such criteria shall include, but need not be limited to,  
11 (1) successful completion of history or social science courses for at least  
12 two school years, one of which shall be a course on the United States  
13 government or civics, (2) participation in at least one civic engagement

14 project, such as community service, participation in student  
15 government, internship with an elected official or involvement in a civic  
16 organization, and (3) demonstrated proficiency in civics knowledge  
17 through a standardized assessment, portfolio of work that includes  
18 essays, projects or presentations related to civics or other mastery-based  
19 assessment or process.

20 Sec. 2. Section 10-221a of the general statutes is amended by adding  
21 subsection (m) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

22 (NEW) (m) Commencing with classes graduating in 2026, and for  
23 each graduating class thereafter, a local or regional board of education  
24 may affix the Connecticut State Seal of Civics Education and  
25 Engagement, as described in subsection (g) of section 10-5, as amended  
26 by this act, to a diploma awarded to a student who has achieved a high  
27 level of proficiency in civics education and engagement. The local or  
28 regional board of education shall include on such student's transcript a  
29 designation that the student received the Connecticut State Seal of  
30 Civics Education and Engagement.

31 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 10-10a of the general statutes is  
32 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
33 *1, 2026*):

34 (c) The state-wide public school information system shall:

35 (1) Track and report data relating to student, teacher and school and  
36 district performance growth and make such information available to  
37 local and regional boards of education for use in evaluating educational  
38 performance and growth of teachers and students enrolled in public  
39 schools in the state. Such information shall be collected or calculated  
40 based on information received from local and regional boards of  
41 education and other relevant sources. Such information shall include,  
42 but not be limited to:

43 (A) In addition to performance on state-wide mastery examinations  
44 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, data relating to students shall

45 include, but not be limited to, (i) the primary language spoken at the  
46 home of a student, (ii) student transcripts, (iii) student attendance and  
47 student mobility, (iv) reliable, valid assessments of a student's readiness  
48 to enter public school at the kindergarten level, [and] (v) data collected,  
49 if any, from the preschool experience survey, described in section 10-  
50 515, and (vi) data required pursuant to section 10-17m concerning the  
51 academic progress of students in bilingual education programs;

52 (B) Data relating to teachers shall include, but not be limited to, (i)  
53 teacher credentials, such as master's degrees, teacher preparation  
54 programs completed and certification levels and endorsement areas, (ii)  
55 teacher assessments, such as whether a teacher is deemed highly  
56 qualified pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, or  
57 deemed to meet such other designations as may be established by  
58 federal law or regulations for the purposes of tracking the equitable  
59 distribution of instructional staff, (iii) the presence of substitute teachers  
60 in a teacher's classroom, (iv) class size, (v) numbers relating to  
61 absenteeism in a teacher's classroom, and (vi) the presence of a teacher's  
62 aide. The department shall assign a unique teacher identifier to each  
63 teacher prior to collecting such data in the public school information  
64 system;

65 (C) Data relating to schools and districts shall include, but not be  
66 limited to, (i) school population, (ii) annual student graduation rates,  
67 (iii) annual teacher retention rates, (iv) school disciplinary records, such  
68 as data relating to suspensions, expulsions and other disciplinary  
69 actions, (v) the percentage of students whose primary language is not  
70 English, (vi) the number of and professional credentials of support  
71 personnel, (vii) information relating to instructional technology, such as  
72 access to computers, [and] (viii) disaggregated measures of school-  
73 based arrests pursuant to section 10-233n, and (ix) the measures and  
74 data required pursuant to section 10-17g for the evaluation of bilingual  
75 education programs.

76 (2) Collect data relating to student enrollment in and graduation from  
77 institutions of higher education for any student who had been assigned

78 a unique student identifier pursuant to subsection (b) of this section,  
79 provided such data is available.

80 (3) Develop means for access to and data sharing with the data  
81 systems of public institutions of higher education in the state.

82 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-17o of the general statutes is  
83 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
84 *1, 2026*):

85 (a) The State Board of Education shall draft a written bill of rights for  
86 parents or guardians of students who are multilingual learners to  
87 guarantee that the rights of such parents and students are adequately  
88 safeguarded and protected in the provision of bilingual education under  
89 chapter 164. Such bill of rights shall include, but need not be limited to,  
90 the following declarations:

91 (1) The right of a multilingual learner student to attend a public  
92 school in the state regardless of such student's immigration status or the  
93 immigration status of such student's parent or guardian;

94 (2) The right of a parent or guardian of a multilingual learner student  
95 to enroll such student in a public school without being required to  
96 submit immigration documentation, including, but not limited to, a  
97 Social Security number, visa documentation or proof of citizenship;

98 (3) The right of a multilingual learner student to have translation  
99 services provided (A) by an interpreter who is present in person or  
100 available by telephone or through an online technology platform, or (B)  
101 through an Internet web site or other electronic application approved  
102 by the State Board of Education, during critical interactions with  
103 teachers and administrators, including, but not limited to, parent-  
104 teacher conferences, meetings with administrators of the school in  
105 which such student is attending, and at properly noticed regular or  
106 special meetings of the board of education or scheduled meetings with  
107 a member or members of the board of education responsible for  
108 educating such student, in accordance with section 10-218b;

109       (4) The right of a multilingual learner student to participate in a  
110       program of bilingual education offered by the local or regional board of  
111       education when there are twenty or more eligible students classified as  
112       dominant in a language, other than English, as such student, in  
113       accordance with the provisions of section 10-17f;

114       (5) The right of a parent or guardian of a multilingual learner student  
115       to receive written notice, in both English and the dominant language of  
116       such parent or guardian, that such student is eligible to participate in a  
117       program of bilingual education or English as a new language program  
118       offered by the local or regional board of education;

119       (6) The right of a multilingual learner student and the parent or  
120       guardian of such student to receive a high-quality orientation session,  
121       in the dominant language of such student and parent or guardian, from  
122       the local or regional board of education that provides information  
123       relating to state standards, tests and expectations at the school for  
124       multilingual learner students, as well as the goals and requirements for  
125       programs of bilingual education and English as a new language, prior  
126       to participation in such program of bilingual education or English as a  
127       new language;

128       (7) The right of the parent or guardian of a multilingual learner  
129       student to receive information about the progress of such student's  
130       English language development and acquisition;

131       (8) The right of a multilingual learner student and the parent or  
132       guardian of such student to meet with school personnel to discuss such  
133       student's English language development and acquisition;

134       (9) The right of a multilingual learner student to be placed in a  
135       program of bilingual education or English as a new language, if offered  
136       by the local or regional board of education;

137       (10) The right of a multilingual learner student to have equal access  
138       to all grade-level school programming;

139 (11) The right of a multilingual learner student to have equal access  
140 to all core grade-level subject matter;

141 (12) The right of a multilingual learner student to receive annual  
142 language proficiency testing;

143 (13) The right of a multilingual learner student to receive support  
144 services aligned with any intervention plan that the school or school  
145 district provides to all students;

146 (14) The right of a multilingual learner student to be continuously  
147 and annually enrolled in a program of bilingual education or English as  
148 a new language while such student remains an eligible student, as  
149 defined in section 10-17e; [and]

150 (15) The right of a parent or guardian of a multilingual learner  
151 student to contact the Department of Education with any questions or  
152 concerns regarding such student's right to receive multilingual learner  
153 services or accommodations available to such student or parent or  
154 guardian, including information regarding any recourse for failure of  
155 the board of education to provide or ensure such services or  
156 accommodations; and

157 (16) The right of a multilingual learner student and a parent or  
158 guardian of a multilingual learner student to access publicly available  
159 data related to the academic progress of students in bilingual education  
160 programs and the quality of bilingual education programs on the state-  
161 wide public school information system implemented pursuant to  
162 section 10-10a, as amended by this act.

163 Sec. 5. Section 10-233j of the general statutes is repealed and the  
164 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

165 (a) No student in a public school in the state shall possess or use a  
166 remotely activated paging device unless such student obtains the  
167 written permission of the school principal for such possession and use.  
168 The principal shall grant such permission only if the student or his

169 parent or guardian establishes to the satisfaction of the principal that a  
170 reasonable basis exists for the possession and use of the device.

171 (b) A local or regional board of education may restrict the student  
172 possession or use of cellular mobile telephones in the schools under its  
173 jurisdiction. In determining whether to restrict such possession or use,  
174 the local or regional board of education shall consider the special needs  
175 of parents and students.

176 (c) For the school year commencing July 1, 2026, and each school year  
177 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall adopt a  
178 policy, in addition to any restrictions pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
179 section, limiting the use of smart devices in the schools governed by  
180 such board of education using the policy guidance developed by the  
181 Department of Education. As used in this subsection, "smart device"  
182 means a cellular mobile telephone or other wearable or portable  
183 technology that can connect to the Internet, collect, process and transmit  
184 data and communicate with other devices and networks.

185 Sec. 6. Subsection (d) of section 10-16b of the general statutes, as  
186 amended by section 32 of public act 22-80, section 3 of public act 23-21,  
187 section 7 of public act 23-150 and section 19 of public act 23-160, is  
188 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
189 *2025*):

190 (d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum  
191 materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional  
192 boards of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to  
193 this section. The State Board of Education, within available  
194 appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist  
195 and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (1)  
196 Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; (2) the historical  
197 events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (3) African-American  
198 and black studies; (4) Puerto Rican and Latino studies; (5) Native  
199 American studies; (6) Asian American and Pacific Islander studies; (7)  
200 personal financial management, including, but not limited to, financial

201 literacy as developed in the plan provided under section 10-16pp; (8)  
202 training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automatic  
203 external defibrillators; (9) labor history and law, including organized  
204 labor, the collective bargaining process, existing legal protections in the  
205 workplace, the history and economics of free market capitalism and  
206 entrepreneurialism, and the role of labor and capitalism in the  
207 development of the American and world economies; (10) climate change  
208 consistent with the Next Generation Science Standards; (11) topics  
209 approved by the state board upon the request of local or regional boards  
210 of education as part of the program of instruction offered pursuant to  
211 subsection (a) of this section; [and] (12) instruction relating to the Safe  
212 Haven Act, sections 17a-57 to 17a-61, inclusive; and (13) Islamic and  
213 Arab studies. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
214 shall be available to each local and regional board of education for the  
215 development of curriculum on climate change as described in this  
216 subsection.

217       Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) There is established a working  
218 group to address antisemitism in public schools. The working group  
219 shall provide assistance and resources to the Department of Education,  
220 local and regional boards of education and other education stakeholders  
221 and associations, to address issues relating to antisemitism that affect  
222 students, families, educators and school personnel. Such assistance and  
223 resources may include, but need not be limited to, (1) working with  
224 boards of education to amend school district policies to ensure that all  
225 students, educators and school personnel feel safe inside and outside of  
226 the school setting, (2) offering training relating to antisemitism for  
227 educators and administrators, and (3) assisting in the creation or  
228 provision of curriculum materials and resources relating to  
229 antisemitism and Jewish heritage and Holocaust and genocide  
230 education and awareness, in accordance with the provisions of section  
231 10-18f of the general statutes.

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

233       (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,



234 one of whom shall be a representative from a national organization with  
235 expertise in the study of global antisemitism and an interdisciplinary  
236 study of antisemitism, and one of whom shall be a representative of the  
237 Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut;

238 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of  
239 whom shall have knowledge and national and local expertise and  
240 experience in developing innovative and collaborative resources to  
241 address antisemitism in elementary and secondary schools, and one of  
242 whom shall be a representative of the Jewish Federation Association of  
243 Connecticut;

244 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
245 Representatives, who shall be a teacher with professional knowledge  
246 and proven experience in addressing and combatting antisemitism in a  
247 public school in the state;

248 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall  
249 have experience in teaching and school administration and expertise in  
250 addressing and combatting antisemitism and teaching Jewish heritage;

251 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
252 Representatives, one of whom shall be a current or former faculty  
253 member of an institution of higher education with expertise in  
254 curriculum development and knowledge and proven experience in  
255 addressing antisemitism and teaching Jewish heritage, and one of  
256 whom shall have professional experience addressing antisemitism in  
257 the state;

258 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom  
259 shall be a leader at an institution of higher education in the state with  
260 knowledge and expertise in program development addressing  
261 antisemitism curriculum, and one of whom shall have professional  
262 experience addressing antisemitism in the state; and

263 (7) One appointed by the Governor, who shall be a school  
264 administrator with expertise and knowledge in developing and

265 implementing curricula in public schools in the state.

266 (c) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not  
267 later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy  
268 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

269 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
270 pro tempore of the Senate shall each select a cochairperson of the  
271 working group from among the members of the working group. Such  
272 cochairpersons shall jointly schedule the first meeting of the working  
273 group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective  
274 date of this section.

275 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
276 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education  
277 shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

278 (f) Not later than February 1, 2026, the working group shall submit a  
279 report on its activities, and any recommendations for legislation, to the  
280 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
281 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of  
282 section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group may submit  
283 additional reports as needed.

284 Sec. 8. Section 10-15c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
285 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

286 (a) The public schools shall be open to all children five years of age  
287 and over who reach age five on or before the first day of September of  
288 any school year, and each such child shall have, and shall be so advised  
289 by the appropriate school authorities, an equal opportunity to  
290 participate in the activities, programs and courses of study offered in  
291 such public schools, at such time as the child becomes eligible to  
292 participate in such activities, programs and courses of study, without  
293 discrimination on account of race, as defined in section 46a-51, color,  
294 sex, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin, sexual  
295 orientation or disability; provided a child who has not reached the age

296 of five on or before the first day of September of the school year may be  
297 admitted if the local or regional board of education adopts an early  
298 admission policy that permits such child to be admitted (1) upon a  
299 written request by the parent or guardian of such child to the principal  
300 of the school in which such child would be enrolled, and (2) following  
301 an assessment of such child, conducted by such principal and an  
302 appropriate certified staff member of the school, to ensure that  
303 admitting such child is developmentally appropriate.

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

307 Sec. 9. Section 10-15c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
308 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2027*):

309 (a) The public schools shall be open to all children five years of age  
310 and over who reach age five on or before the first day of September of  
311 any school year, and each such child shall have, and shall be so advised  
312 by the appropriate school authorities, an equal opportunity to  
313 participate in the activities, programs and courses of study offered in  
314 such public schools, at such time as the child becomes eligible to  
315 participate in such activities, programs and courses of study, without  
316 discrimination on account of race, as defined in section 46a-51, color,  
317 sex, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin, sexual  
318 orientation or disability. ] provided a child who has not reached the age  
319 of five on or before the first day of September of the school year may be  
320 admitted (1) upon a written request by the parent or guardian of such  
321 child to the principal of the school in which such child would be  
322 enrolled, and (2) following an assessment of such child, conducted by  
323 such principal and an appropriate certified staff member of the school,  
324 to ensure that admitting such child is developmentally appropriate.]

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

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

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

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

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

343 (a) Any board of education receiving notification of the existence of  
344 racial imbalance as specified in section 10-226b, as amended by this act,  
345 shall forthwith prepare a plan to correct such imbalance and file a copy  
346 of said plan with the State Board of Education, except such board of  
347 education shall not be required to prepare and file said plan until July  
348 1, [2025] 2029. Said plan may be limited to addressing the imbalance  
349 existing at any school and need not result in a district-wide plan or  
350 district-wide pupil reassignment. A school district may request an  
351 extension of time in cases in which the number of students causing said  
352 imbalance is fewer than five students at a school.

353 (b) Any plan submitted by the board of education of any town under  
354 sections 10-226a to 10-226e, inclusive, shall include any proposed  
355 changes in existing school attendance districts, the location of proposed  
356 school building sites as related to the problem, any proposed additions  
357 to existing school buildings and all other means proposed for the  
358 correction of said racial imbalance. The plan shall include projections of

359 the expected racial composition of all public schools in the district. The  
360 plan may include provision for cooperation with other school districts  
361 to assist in the correction of racial imbalance.

362 Sec. 12. Section 10-226d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
363 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

364 Upon receipt of any plan required under the provisions of subsection  
365 (b) of section 10-226c, as amended by this act, the State Board of  
366 Education shall review said plan. If it determines that the plan is  
367 satisfactory, it shall approve the plan and shall provide to the board of  
368 education such assistance and services as may be available. The board  
369 of education shall submit annual reports on the implementation of the  
370 approved plan, as the State Board of Education may require. The State  
371 Board of Education shall not take action on any plan received on or after  
372 July 1, 2024, until July 1, [2025] 2029.

373 Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) For the fiscal year ending June  
374 30, 2027, and each fiscal year thereafter, during the preparation of the  
375 itemized estimate of the cost of maintenance of public schools for the  
376 ensuing year pursuant to section 10-222 of the general statutes, as  
377 amended by this act, the superintendent of schools shall provide the  
378 members of the local board of education the original amount and actual  
379 amount of each line item for the two fiscal years immediately preceding  
380 the fiscal year in which such itemized estimate is being prepared and  
381 the original amount and current amount of each line item for the fiscal  
382 year in which such itemized estimate is being prepared. As used in this  
383 section, "itemized estimate" means an estimate in which broad  
384 budgetary categories including, but not limited to, salaries, fringe  
385 benefits, utilities, supplies and grounds maintenance are divided into  
386 one or more line items, "original amount" means the amount of a line  
387 item that was appropriated to such line item at the start of the fiscal year,  
388 and "actual amount" means the amount of a line item at the conclusion  
389 of the fiscal year.

390 Sec. 14. Section 10-222 of the general statutes is repealed and the

391 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

392 Each local board of education shall prepare an itemized estimate of  
393 the cost of maintenance of public schools for the ensuing year and shall  
394 submit such estimate to the board of finance in each town or city having  
395 a board of finance, to the board of selectmen in each town having no  
396 board of finance or otherwise to the authority making appropriations  
397 for the school district, not later than two months preceding the annual  
398 meeting at which appropriations are to be made. Such estimate shall  
399 include the original amount and actual amount of each line item for the  
400 two fiscal years immediately preceding the fiscal year in which such  
401 estimate is being prepared and the original amount and current amount  
402 of each line item for the fiscal year in which such estimate is being  
403 prepared. The board or authority that receives such estimate shall, not  
404 later than ten days after the date the board of education submits such  
405 estimate, make spending recommendations and suggestions to such  
406 board of education as to how such board of education may consolidate  
407 noneducational services and realize financial efficiencies. Such board of  
408 education may accept or reject the suggestions of the board of finance,  
409 board of selectmen or appropriating authority and shall provide the  
410 board of finance, board of selectmen or appropriating authority with a  
411 written explanation of the reason for any rejection. The money  
412 appropriated by any municipality for the maintenance of public schools  
413 shall be expended by and in the discretion of the board of education.  
414 Except as provided in this subsection, any such board may transfer any  
415 unexpended or uncontracted-for portion of any appropriation for  
416 school purposes to any other item of such itemized estimate. Boards  
417 may, by adopting policies and procedures, authorize designated  
418 personnel to make limited transfers under emergency circumstances if  
419 the urgent need for the transfer prevents the board from meeting in a  
420 timely fashion to consider such transfer. All transfers made in such  
421 instances shall be announced at the next regularly scheduled meeting of  
422 the board and a written explanation of such transfer shall be provided  
423 to the legislative body of the municipality or, in a municipality where  
424 the legislative body is a town meeting, to the board of selectmen.

425 Expenditures by the board of education shall not exceed the  
426 appropriation made by the municipality, with such money as may be  
427 received from other sources for school purposes. If any occasion arises  
428 whereby additional funds are needed by such board, the chairman of  
429 such board shall notify the board of finance, board of selectmen or  
430 appropriating authority, as the case may be, and shall submit a request  
431 for additional funds in the same manner as is provided for departments,  
432 boards or agencies of the municipality and no additional funds shall be  
433 expended unless such supplemental appropriation shall be granted and  
434 no supplemental expenditures shall be made in excess of those granted  
435 through the appropriating authority. The annual report of the board of  
436 education shall, in accordance with section 10-224, include a summary  
437 showing (1) the total cost of the maintenance of schools, (2) the amount  
438 received from the state and other sources for the maintenance of schools,  
439 and (3) the net cost to the municipality of the maintenance of schools.  
440 For purposes of this [subsection] section, "meeting" means a meeting, as  
441 defined in section 1-200, [and] "itemized estimate" means an estimate in  
442 which broad budgetary categories including, but not limited to, salaries,  
443 fringe benefits, utilities, supplies and grounds maintenance are divided  
444 into one or more line items, "original amount" means the amount of a  
445 line item that was appropriated to such line item at the start of the fiscal  
446 year, and "actual amount" means the amount of a line item at the  
447 conclusion of the fiscal year.

448 Sec. 15. Subsection (a) of section 10-51 of the general statutes is  
449 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
450 *2025*):

451 (a) The fiscal year of a regional school district shall be July first to June  
452 thirtieth. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, not less than  
453 two weeks before the annual meeting held pursuant to section 10-47, the  
454 board shall hold a public district meeting to present a proposed budget  
455 for the next fiscal year. Any public district meeting held pursuant to this  
456 section may be accessible to the public by means of electronic equipment  
457 or by means of electronic equipment in conjunction with an in-person

458 meeting, in accordance with the provisions of section 1-225a. Such  
459 proposed budget shall include the original amount and actual amount  
460 of each line item in the budget for the two fiscal years immediately  
461 preceding the fiscal year in which such proposed budget is being  
462 presented and the original amount and current amount of each line item  
463 for the budget of the fiscal year in which such proposed budget is being  
464 presented. Any person may recommend the inclusion or deletion of  
465 expenditures at such time. After the public hearing, the board shall  
466 prepare an annual budget for the next fiscal year, make available on  
467 request copies thereof and deliver a reasonable number to the town  
468 clerk of each of the towns in the district at least five days before the  
469 annual meeting. At the annual meeting on the first Monday in May, the  
470 board shall present a budget which includes a statement of (1) estimated  
471 receipts and expenditures for the next fiscal year, (2) estimated receipts  
472 and expenditures for the current fiscal year, (3) estimated surplus or  
473 deficit in operating funds at the end of the current fiscal year, (4) bonded  
474 or other debt, (5) estimated per pupil expenditure for the current and  
475 for the next fiscal year, (6) the original amount and actual amount of  
476 each line item in the budget for the two fiscal years immediately  
477 preceding the fiscal year in which such budget is being presented and  
478 the original amount and current amount of each line item for the budget  
479 of the fiscal year in which such budget is being presented, and ~~[(6)]~~ (7)  
480 such other information as is necessary in the opinion of the board.  
481 Persons present and eligible to vote under section 7-6 may accept or  
482 reject the proposed budget except as provided below. No person who is  
483 eligible to vote in more than one town in the regional school district is  
484 eligible to cast more than one vote on any issue considered at a regional  
485 school district meeting or referendum held pursuant to this section. Any  
486 person who violates this section by fraudulently casting more than one  
487 vote or ballot per issue shall be fined not more than three thousand five  
488 hundred dollars and shall be imprisoned not more than two years and  
489 shall be disenfranchised. The regional board of education may, in the  
490 call to the meeting, designate that the vote on the motion to adopt the  
491 budget shall be by paper ballots at the district meeting held on the  
492 budget or by a "yes" or "no" vote on the voting tabulators in each of the



493 member towns on the day following the district meeting. If submitted  
494 to a vote by voting tabulator, questions may be included on the ballot  
495 for persons voting "no" to indicate whether the budget is too high or too  
496 low, provided the vote on such questions shall be for advisory purposes  
497 only and not binding upon the board. Two hundred or more persons  
498 qualified to vote in any regional district meeting called to adopt a  
499 budget may petition the regional board, in writing, at least three days  
500 prior to such meeting, requesting that any item or items on the call of  
501 such meeting be submitted to the persons qualified to vote in the  
502 meeting for a vote by paper ballot or on the voting tabulators in each of  
503 the member towns on the day following the district meeting and in  
504 accordance with the appropriate procedures provided in section 7-7. If  
505 a majority of such persons voting reject the budget, the board shall,  
506 within four weeks thereafter and upon notice of not less than one week,  
507 call a district meeting to consider the same or an amended budget. Such  
508 meetings shall be convened at such intervals until a budget is approved.  
509 If the budget is not approved before the beginning of a fiscal year, the  
510 disbursing officer for each member town, or the designee of such officer,  
511 shall make necessary expenditures to such district in amounts equal to  
512 the total of the town's appropriation to the district for the previous year  
513 and the town's proportionate share in any increment in debt service over  
514 the previous fiscal year, pursuant to section 7-405 until the budget is  
515 approved. The town shall receive credit for such expenditures once the  
516 budget is approved for the fiscal year. After the budget is approved, the  
517 board shall estimate the share of the net expenses to be paid by each  
518 member town in accordance with subsection (b) of this section and  
519 notify the treasurer thereof. With respect to adoption of a budget for the  
520 period from the organization of the board to the beginning of the first  
521 full fiscal year, the board may use the above procedure at any time  
522 within such period. If the board needs to submit a supplementary  
523 budget, the general procedure specified in this section shall be used. As  
524 used in this section, "original amount" and "actual amount" have the  
525 same meanings as provided in section 10-222, as amended by this act.

526 Sec. 16. Section 10-233m of the general statutes is repealed and the

527 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

528       Each local or regional board of education that assigns a school  
529 resource officer to any school under the jurisdiction of such board shall  
530 enter into a memorandum of understanding with a local law  
531 enforcement agency regarding the role and responsibility of such school  
532 resource officer. [Such] Not later than January 1, 2026, such  
533 memorandum of understanding shall (1) be maintained in a central  
534 location in the school district and posted on the Internet web site of the  
535 school district and each school in which such school resource officer is  
536 assigned, (2) include provisions addressing daily interactions between  
537 students and school personnel with school resource officers, and (3)  
538 include a graduated response model for student discipline. Any such  
539 memorandum of understanding entered into, extended, updated or  
540 amended [(A)] on or after July 1, 2021, shall include a provision that  
541 requires all school resource officers to complete, while in the  
542 performance of their duties as school resource officers and during  
543 periods when such school resource officers are assigned to be at the  
544 school, any separate training specifically related to social-emotional  
545 learning and restorative practices provided to certified employees of the  
546 school pursuant to section 10-148a. [, and (B)] Any such memorandum  
547 of understanding entered into, extended, updated or amended on or  
548 after July 1, 2023, shall include provisions specifying a school resource  
549 officer's duties concerning, and procedures for, the restraint of students,  
550 use of firearms, school-based arrests and reporting of any investigations  
551 and behavioral interventions of challenging behavior or conflict that  
552 escalates to violence or constitutes a crime, pursuant to the provisions  
553 of section 10-233p, provided such provisions are in accordance with any  
554 laws or policies concerning the duties of police officers. Each such  
555 memorandum of understanding shall be updated not less frequently  
556 than every three years. For the purposes of this section, "school resource  
557 officer" means a sworn police officer of a local law enforcement agency  
558 who has been assigned to a school pursuant to an agreement between  
559 the local or regional board of education and the chief of police of a local  
560 law enforcement agency.

561 Sec. 17. Subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 10-51 of the  
562 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
563 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

564 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year  
565 thereafter, a regional board of education, by a majority vote of its  
566 members, may create a reserve fund for educational expenditures. Such  
567 fund shall thereafter be termed "reserve fund for educational  
568 expenditures". The aggregate amount of annual and supplemental  
569 appropriations by a district to such fund shall not exceed two per cent  
570 of the annual district budget for such fiscal year. Annual appropriations  
571 to such fund shall be included in the share of net expenses to be paid by  
572 each member town. Supplemental appropriations to such fund may be  
573 made from estimated fiscal year end surplus in operating funds. Interest  
574 and investment earnings received with respect to amounts held in the  
575 fund shall be credited to such fund. The board shall annually submit a  
576 complete and detailed report of the condition of such fund to the  
577 member towns. Upon the recommendation and approval by the  
578 regional board of education, any part or the whole of such fund may be  
579 used for educational expenditures. Upon the approval of any such  
580 expenditure an appropriation shall be set up, plainly designated for the  
581 educational expenditure for which it has been authorized. Any  
582 unexpended portion of such appropriation remaining shall revert to  
583 [said] such fund. If any authorized appropriation is set up pursuant to  
584 the provisions of this subsection and through unforeseen circumstances  
585 the board is unable to expend the total amount of such appropriation,  
586 the board, by a majority vote of its members, may terminate such  
587 appropriation which then shall no longer be in effect. Such fund may be  
588 discontinued, after the recommendation and approval by the regional  
589 board of education, and any amounts held in the fund shall be  
590 transferred to the general fund of the district. For the fiscal year ending  
591 June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, a regional board of  
592 education may deposit any funds previously appropriated to and  
593 currently in a separate reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring  
594 expenditures under the control of such board in the reserve fund for

595 educational expenditures.

596 Sec. 18. Subsection (a) of section 10-214 of the general statutes is  
597 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
598 *2025*):

599 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide annually  
600 to each pupil in kindergarten and grades one and three to five, inclusive,  
601 a vision screening and may additionally provide such vision screening  
602 annually to each pupil in preschool and grade two. Such vision  
603 screening may be performed using a Snellen chart or an equivalent  
604 screening device, or an automated vision screening device. The  
605 superintendent of schools shall give written notice to the parent or  
606 guardian of each pupil (1) who is found to have any defect of vision or  
607 disease of the eyes, with a brief statement describing such defect or  
608 disease and a recommendation for the pupil to be examined by an  
609 optometrist licensed under chapter 380 or an ophthalmologist licensed  
610 under chapter 370, and (2) who did not receive such vision screening,  
611 with a brief statement explaining why such pupil did not receive such  
612 vision screening.

613 Sec. 19. Subsection (c) of section 10-266aa of the general statutes is  
614 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
615 *2025*):

616 (c) The program shall be phased in as provided in this subsection. (1)  
617 For the school year commencing in 1998, and for each school year  
618 thereafter, the program shall be in operation in the Hartford, New  
619 Haven and Bridgeport regions. The Hartford program shall operate as  
620 a continuation of the program described in section 10-266j. Students  
621 who reside in Hartford, New Haven or Bridgeport may attend school in  
622 another school district in the region and students who reside in such  
623 other school districts may attend school in Hartford, New Haven or  
624 Bridgeport, provided, beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, the  
625 proportion of students who are not minority students to the total  
626 number of students leaving Hartford, Bridgeport or New Haven to

627 participate in the program shall not be greater than the proportion of  
628 students who were not minority students in the prior school year to the  
629 total number of students enrolled in Hartford, Bridgeport or New  
630 Haven in the prior school year. The regional educational service center  
631 operating the program shall make program participation decisions in  
632 accordance with the requirements of this subdivision. (2) For the school  
633 year commencing in 2000, and for each school year thereafter, the  
634 program shall be in operation in New London, provided beginning with  
635 the 2001-2002 school year, the proportion of students who are not  
636 minority students to the total number of students leaving New London  
637 to participate in the program shall not be greater than the proportion of  
638 students who were not minority students in the prior year to the total  
639 number of students enrolled in New London in the prior school year.  
640 The regional educational service center operating the program shall  
641 make program participation decisions in accordance with this  
642 subdivision. (3) The Department of Education may provide, within  
643 available appropriations, grants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003,  
644 to the remaining regional educational service centers to assist school  
645 districts in planning for a voluntary program of student enrollment in  
646 every priority school district, pursuant to section 10-266p, which is  
647 interested in participating in accordance with this subdivision. For the  
648 school year commencing in 2003, and for each school year thereafter, the  
649 voluntary enrollment program may be in operation in every priority  
650 school district in the state. Students from other school districts in the  
651 area of a priority school district, as determined by the regional  
652 educational service center pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, may  
653 attend school in the priority school district, provided such students  
654 bring racial, ethnic and economic diversity to the priority school district  
655 and do not increase the racial, ethnic and economic isolation in the  
656 priority school district. (4) For the school year commencing July 1, 2024,  
657 and each school year thereafter, there shall be a pilot program in  
658 operation in Danbury and Norwalk. The pilot program shall serve (A)  
659 up to fifty students who reside in Danbury, and such students may  
660 attend school in the school districts for the towns of New Fairfield,  
661 Brookfield, Bethel, Ridgefield and Redding, and (B) up to fifty students

662 who (i) reside in Norwalk, and such students may attend school in the  
663 school districts for the towns of Darien, New Canaan, Wilton, Weston  
664 and Westport, and (ii) reside in Darien, New Canaan, Wilton, Weston  
665 and Westport, and such students may attend school in the school district  
666 for the town of Norwalk. School districts which receive students under  
667 this subdivision as part of the pilot program shall allow such students  
668 to attend school in the district until they graduate from high school. (5)  
669 For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year  
670 thereafter, the town of Guilford shall be eligible to participate in the  
671 program as a receiving district and a sending district with New Haven.  
672 (6) For the school year commencing July 1, 2025, and each school year  
673 thereafter, the town of Madison shall be eligible to participate in the  
674 program as a receiving district and a sending district with New Haven.

675 Sec. 20. Subsection (a) of section 10-153d of the general statutes is  
676 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
677 *2025*):

678 (a) (1) Within thirty days prior to the date on which the local or  
679 regional board of education is to commence negotiations pursuant to  
680 this section, such board of education shall meet and confer with the  
681 board of finance in each town or city having a board of finance, with the  
682 board of selectmen in each town having no board of finance and  
683 otherwise with the authority making appropriations therein. A member  
684 of such board of finance, such board of selectmen, or such other  
685 authority making appropriations, shall be permitted to be present  
686 during negotiations pursuant to this section and shall provide such  
687 fiscal information as may be requested by the board of education.

688 (2) On or after July 1, 2025, at least one member of the local or regional  
689 board of education shall be present during negotiations pursuant to this  
690 section, except no member of the local or regional board of education  
691 who is also a member of the organization which has been designated or  
692 elected as the exclusive representative of an administrators' unit or a  
693 teachers' unit may be present during negotiations pursuant to this  
694 section.

695 Sec. 21. Section 10-206 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
696 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

697 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall require each pupil  
698 enrolled in the public schools to have health assessments pursuant to  
699 the provisions of this section. Such assessments shall be conducted by  
700 (1) a legally qualified practitioner of medicine, (2) an advanced practice  
701 registered nurse or registered nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378,  
702 (3) a physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter 370, (4) a school  
703 medical advisor, or (5) a legally qualified practitioner of medicine, an  
704 advanced practice registered nurse or a physician assistant stationed at  
705 any military base, to ascertain whether such pupil is suffering from any  
706 physical disability tending to prevent such pupil from receiving the full  
707 benefit of school work and to ascertain whether such school work  
708 should be modified in order to prevent injury to the pupil or to secure  
709 for the pupil a suitable program of education. No health assessment  
710 shall be made of any [child] pupil enrolled in the public schools unless  
711 such examination is made in the presence of the parent or guardian or  
712 in the presence of another school employee. The parent or guardian of  
713 such [child] pupil shall receive prior written notice and shall have a  
714 reasonable opportunity to be present at such assessment or to provide  
715 for such assessment himself or herself. A local or regional board of  
716 education may deny continued attendance in public school to any  
717 [child] pupil who fails to obtain the health assessments required under  
718 this section.

719 (b) Each local or regional board of education shall require each [child]  
720 pupil to have a health assessment prior to public school enrollment. The  
721 assessment shall include: (1) A physical examination which shall  
722 include hematocrit or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, blood pressure,  
723 a medical risk assessment for lead poisoning and, when indicated by  
724 such assessment, a test of the [child's] pupil's blood lead level, and,  
725 beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, a chronic disease assessment  
726 which shall include, but not be limited to, asthma. The assessment form  
727 shall include (A) a check box for the provider conducting the

728 assessment, as provided in subsection (a) of this section, to indicate an  
729 asthma diagnosis, (B) screening questions relating to appropriate public  
730 health concerns to be answered by the parent or guardian, and (C)  
731 screening questions to be answered by such provider; (2) an updating  
732 of immunizations as required under section 10-204a, provided a  
733 registered nurse may only update said immunizations pursuant to a  
734 written order by a physician or physician assistant, licensed pursuant to  
735 chapter 370, or an advanced practice registered nurse, licensed pursuant  
736 to chapter 378; (3) vision, hearing, speech and gross dental screenings;  
737 and (4) such other information, including health and developmental  
738 history, as the physician feels is necessary and appropriate. The  
739 assessment shall also include tests for tuberculosis, sickle cell anemia  
740 and Cooley's anemia where the local or regional board of education  
741 determines after consultation with the school medical advisor and the  
742 local health department, or in the case of a regional board of education,  
743 each local health department, that such tests are necessary, provided a  
744 registered nurse may only perform said tests pursuant to the written  
745 order of a physician or physician assistant, licensed pursuant to chapter  
746 370, or an advanced practice registered nurse, licensed pursuant to  
747 chapter 378.

748 (c) Each local or regional board of education shall require each pupil  
749 enrolled in the public schools to have health assessments in either grade  
750 six or grade seven and in either grade nine or grade ten. The assessment  
751 shall include: (1) A physical examination which shall include hematocrit  
752 or hemoglobin tests, height, weight, blood pressure, and, beginning  
753 with the 2003-2004 school year, a chronic disease assessment which shall  
754 include, but not be limited to, asthma as defined by the Commissioner  
755 of Public Health pursuant to subsection (c) of section 19a-62a. The  
756 assessment form shall include (A) a check box for the provider  
757 conducting the assessment, as provided in subsection (a) of this section,  
758 to indicate an asthma diagnosis, (B) screening questions relating to  
759 appropriate public health concerns to be answered by the parent or  
760 guardian, and (C) screening questions to be answered by such provider;  
761 (2) an updating of immunizations as required under section 10-204a,



762 provided a registered nurse may only update said immunizations  
763 pursuant to a written order of a physician or physician assistant,  
764 licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or an advanced practice registered  
765 nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378; (3) vision, hearing, postural and  
766 gross dental screenings; and (4) such other information including a  
767 health history as the physician feels is necessary and appropriate. The  
768 assessment shall also include tests for tuberculosis and sickle cell  
769 anemia or Cooley's anemia where the local or regional board of  
770 education, in consultation with the school medical advisor and the local  
771 health department, or in the case of a regional board of education, each  
772 local health department, determines that said screening or test is  
773 necessary, provided a registered nurse may only perform said tests  
774 pursuant to the written order of a physician or physician assistant,  
775 licensed pursuant to chapter 370, or an advanced practice registered  
776 nurse, licensed pursuant to chapter 378.

777 (d) The results of each assessment done pursuant to this section and  
778 the results of screenings done pursuant to section 10-214, as amended  
779 by this act, shall be recorded on forms supplied by the State Board of  
780 Education. Each school nurse may reject such results submitted on  
781 forms other than the forms supplied by the State Board of Education and  
782 require the resubmission of such results on such forms supplied by the  
783 State Board of Education. An asthma action plan shall be included with  
784 the assessment form of each pupil that indicates an asthma diagnosis  
785 pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section. Such information shall  
786 be included in the cumulative health record of each pupil and shall be  
787 kept on file in the school such pupil attends. If a pupil permanently  
788 leaves the jurisdiction of the board of education, the pupil's original  
789 cumulative health record shall be sent to the chief administrative officer  
790 of the school district to which such student moves. The board of  
791 education transmitting such health record shall retain a true copy. Each  
792 physician, advanced practice registered nurse, registered nurse, or  
793 physician assistant performing health assessments and screenings  
794 pursuant to this section and section 10-214, as amended by this act, shall  
795 completely fill out and sign each form and any recommendations

796 concerning the pupil shall be in writing.

797 (e) Appropriate school health personnel shall review the results of  
798 each assessment and screening as recorded pursuant to subsection (d)  
799 of this section. When, in the judgment of such health personnel, a pupil,  
800 as defined in section 10-206a, is in need of further testing or treatment,  
801 the superintendent of schools shall give written notice to the parent or  
802 guardian of such pupil and shall make reasonable efforts to assure that  
803 such further testing or treatment is provided. Such reasonable efforts  
804 shall include a determination of whether or not the parent or guardian  
805 has obtained the necessary testing or treatment for the pupil, and, if not,  
806 advising the parent or guardian on how such testing or treatment may  
807 be obtained. The results of such further testing or treatment shall be  
808 recorded pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, and shall be  
809 reviewed by school health personnel pursuant to this subsection.

810 (f) On and after October 1, 2017, each local or regional board of  
811 education shall report to the local health department and the  
812 Department of Public Health, on an triennial basis, the total number of  
813 pupils per school and per school district having a diagnosis of asthma  
814 (1) at the time of public school enrollment, (2) in grade six or seven, and  
815 (3) in grade nine or ten. The report shall contain the asthma information  
816 collected as required under subsections (b) and (c) of this section and  
817 shall include pupil age, gender, race, ethnicity and school. Beginning on  
818 October 1, 2021, and every three years thereafter, the Department of  
819 Public Health shall review the asthma screening information reported  
820 pursuant to this section and shall submit a report to the joint standing  
821 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
822 relating to public health and education concerning asthma trends and  
823 distributions among pupils enrolled in the public schools. The report  
824 shall be submitted in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
825 and shall include, but not be limited to, (A) trends and findings based  
826 on pupil age, gender, race, ethnicity, school and the education reference  
827 group, as determined by the Department of Education for the town or  
828 regional school district in which such school is located, and (B) activities

829 of the asthma screening monitoring system maintained under section  
830 19a-62a.

831 Sec. 22. Subsection (g) of section 10-233c of the general statutes is  
832 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
833 *2025*):

834 (g) On and after July 1, 2015, all suspensions pursuant to this section  
835 shall be in-school suspensions, except a local or regional board of  
836 education may authorize the administration of schools under its  
837 direction to impose an out-of-school suspension on any pupil in (1)  
838 grades three to twelve, inclusive, if, during the hearing held pursuant to  
839 subsection (a) of this section, (A) the administration determines that the  
840 pupil being suspended poses such a danger to persons or property or  
841 such a disruption of the educational process that the pupil shall be  
842 excluded from school during the period of suspension, or (B) the  
843 administration determines that an out-of-school suspension is  
844 appropriate for such pupil based on evidence of (i) previous disciplinary  
845 problems that have led to suspensions or expulsion of such pupil, and  
846 (ii) efforts by the administration to address such disciplinary problems  
847 through means other than out-of-school suspension or expulsion,  
848 including positive behavioral support strategies, or (2) grades preschool  
849 to two, inclusive, if during the hearing held pursuant to subsection (a)  
850 of this section, the administration (A) determines that an out-of-school  
851 suspension is appropriate for such pupil based on evidence that such  
852 pupil's conduct on school grounds is behavior that causes serious  
853 physical harm, (B) requires that such pupil receives services that are  
854 trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate and align with any  
855 behavioral intervention plan, individualized education program or plan  
856 pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended  
857 from time to time, for such pupil upon such pupil's return to school  
858 immediately following the out-of-school suspension, and (C) considers  
859 whether to convene a planning and placement team meeting for the  
860 purposes of conducting an evaluation to determine whether such pupil  
861 may require special education or related services. An out-of-school

suspension imposed under subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not exceed ten school days, and an out-of-school suspension imposed under subdivision (2) of this subsection shall not exceed five school days. An in-school suspension may be served in the school that the pupil attends, or in any school building under the jurisdiction of the local or regional board of education, as determined by such board. Nothing in this section shall limit a person's duty as a mandated reporter pursuant to section 17-101a to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

Sec. 23. Subsection (d) of section 10-233d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

(d) No local or regional board of education is required to offer an alternative educational opportunity, except in accordance with this section. Any pupil under sixteen years of age who is expelled shall be offered an alternative educational opportunity, which shall be (1) alternative education, as defined by section 10-74j, with an individualized learning plan, if such board provides such alternative education, or (2) in accordance with the standards adopted by the State Board of Education, pursuant to section 10-233o, during the period of expulsion, provided any parent or guardian of such pupil who does not choose to have such parent's or guardian's child enrolled in an alternative educational opportunity shall not be subject to the provisions of section 10-184. Any pupil expelled for the first time and the second time, who is between the ages of sixteen and eighteen, and who wishes to continue such pupil's education shall be offered such an alternative educational opportunity if such pupil complies with conditions established by such pupil's local or regional board of education. Such alternative educational opportunity may include, but shall not be limited to, the placement of a pupil who is at least seventeen years of age in an adult education program pursuant to section 10-69. Any pupil participating in any such adult education program during a period of expulsion shall not be required to withdraw from school under section 10-184. A local or regional board of education shall count the

895 expulsion of a pupil when the pupil was under sixteen years of age for  
896 purposes of determining whether an alternative educational  
897 opportunity is required for such pupil when such pupil is between the  
898 ages of sixteen and eighteen. A local or regional board of education may  
899 offer an alternative educational opportunity to a pupil for whom such  
900 alternative educational opportunity is not required pursuant to this  
901 section.

902 Sec. 24. Subsection (h) of section 10-236b of the general statutes is  
903 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
904 *2025*):

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

911 Sec. 25. Section 10-357e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
912 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

913 The Commissioner of Education shall allocate funds, as specified in  
914 the annual budget of the Department of Education, to allow the State  
915 Education Resource Center, established pursuant to section 10-357a, to  
916 provide professional development services, technical assistance and  
917 evaluation activities, policy analysis and other forms of assistance to  
918 local and regional boards of education, the Department of Education,  
919 state and local charter schools, as defined in section 10-66aa, the  
920 Technical Education and Career System, established pursuant to section  
921 10-95, providers of school readiness programs, as defined in section 10-  
922 16p, and other educational entities and providers. The State Education  
923 Resource Center shall expend such funds in accordance with procedures  
924 and conditions prescribed by the commissioner.

925 Sec. 26. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Not later than April 1, 2026,

926 the Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis Prevention at  
927 Western Connecticut State University, in collaboration with the  
928 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, shall (1)  
929 develop a clear definition for crisis response drills for purposes of  
930 section 10-231 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (2) develop  
931 standardized terminology for the administration and review of crisis  
932 response drills, (3) develop guidance on (A) standardized responses to  
933 crises, and (B) standardized debriefing protocols following a crisis, and  
934 (4) develop an evaluation template for crisis response drills that allows  
935 school districts to use feedback from participants of the crisis response  
936 drill to assess the efficacy of the crisis response drill and make  
937 adjustments to subsequent crisis response drills to improve  
938 preparedness while preventing emotional harm and supporting  
939 psychological safety.

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

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

952 Sec. 27. Section 10-231 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
953 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

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

958 (b) Each such board shall substitute a crisis response drill for a fire  
959 drill once every three months and shall develop the format of such crisis  
960 response drill [in consultation] in accordance with the crisis response  
961 protocols described in section 28 of this act and with the appropriate  
962 local law enforcement agency. A representative of such agency may  
963 supervise and participate in any such crisis response drill.

964 Sec. 28. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) For the school year commencing  
965 July 1, 2026, and each school year thereafter, each crisis response drill  
966 conducted pursuant to section 10-231 of the general statutes, as  
967 amended by this act, shall be conducted as follows: (1) Utilize the (A)  
968 definition for crisis response drills, (B) standardized terminology for the  
969 administration and review of crisis response drills, and (C) guidance on  
970 standardized responses to crises and debriefing protocols following a  
971 crisis, developed by the Department of Emergency Services and Public  
972 Protection pursuant to section 26 of this act, (2) the school security and  
973 safety committee, as described in section 10-222m of the general statutes,  
974 as amended by this act, shall collaborate with the school climate  
975 committee, as described in section 10-222ff of the general statutes, to  
976 plan crisis response drills that prioritize the physical and psychological  
977 safety of students and school personnel, (3) crisis drills shall be trauma-  
978 informed, including utilizing an approach that takes into account prior  
979 traumatic experiences and designed to prevent emotional harm to and  
980 support the psychological safety of students and school personnel, with  
981 mental health professionals' participation integrated throughout the  
982 crisis response drill, (4) prior to conducting a crisis response drill, school  
983 personnel shall provide age-appropriate education for students and  
984 training for school personnel to build knowledge and skills to reduce  
985 the potential for confusion or emotional distress, including a review of  
986 the purpose and procedures for crisis response drills prior to the first  
987 crisis response drill of the school year and notification to students,  
988 school personnel and parents and guardians one week in advance of  
989 conducting a crisis response drill, (5) school personnel shall  
990 communicate, in a clear manner to ensure understanding, the nature  
991 and purpose of crisis response drills to the parents and guardians of

992 students at the school prior to conducting a crisis response drill, (6) at  
993 the commencement of the crisis response drill, students and school  
994 personnel shall be informed that they are participating in a crisis  
995 response drill to avoid confusion when an actual emergency situation is  
996 occurring, (7) accommodations for students with cognitive, physical or  
997 sensory disability shall be provided, to the extent practicable, during a  
998 crisis response drill to ensure the safety and participation of such  
999 students, (8) crisis response drills conducted with students shall not  
1000 include an active assailant simulation or simulated violence with highly  
1001 sensorial elements such as fake assailants, firearms, gunfire sounds,  
1002 blood or injuries, and a crisis response drill that is conducted outside of  
1003 the regular school day and exclusively for school personnel, first  
1004 responders and other school volunteers may include an active assailant  
1005 simulation or such simulated violence, and (9) evaluate each crisis  
1006 response drill using the evaluation template developed pursuant to  
1007 section 26 of this act.

1008 Sec. 29. Section 10-222m of the general statutes, as amended by  
1009 section 63 of public act 23-167, is repealed and the following is  
1010 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1011 (a) For the school year commencing July 1, 2014, and each school year  
1012 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall develop and  
1013 implement a school security and safety plan for each school under the  
1014 jurisdiction of such board. Such plans shall be based on the school  
1015 security and safety plan standards developed by the Department of  
1016 Emergency Services and Public Protection, pursuant to section 10-222n.  
1017 Each local and regional board of education shall annually review and  
1018 update, if necessary, such plans.

1019 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2014, and each school year  
1020 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall establish a  
1021 school security and safety committee at each school under the  
1022 jurisdiction of such board. The school security and safety committee  
1023 shall be responsible for assisting in the development of the school  
1024 security and safety plan for the school and administering such plan.



Such school security and safety committee shall consist of a local police officer, a local first responder, a teacher and an administrator employed at the school, a mental health professional, as defined in section 10-76t, a parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the school and any other person the board of education deems necessary. Any parent or guardian serving as a member of a school security and safety committee shall not have access to information reported to such committee that would result in a violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 USC 1232g, as amended from time to time.

(c) Each local and regional board of education shall (1) annually submit the school security and safety plan for each school under the jurisdiction of such board, developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, and (2) make any portion of such school security and safety plan that is not prohibited from disclosure pursuant to section 1-210 available to members of the school community upon request.

Sec. 30. Section 10-234gg of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective from passage*)"

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2025	10-5(g)
Sec. 2	July 1, 2025	10-221a(m)
Sec. 3	January 1, 2026	10-10a(c)
Sec. 4	January 1, 2026	10-17o(a)
Sec. 5	July 1, 2025	10-233j
Sec. 6	July 1, 2025	10-16b(d)
Sec. 7	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 8	July 1, 2026	10-15c
Sec. 9	July 1, 2027	10-15c
Sec. 10	July 1, 2025	10-226b
Sec. 11	July 1, 2025	10-226c
Sec. 12	July 1, 2025	10-226d
Sec. 13	July 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 14	July 1, 2025	10-222

Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-51(a)
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-233m
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-51(d)(2)
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-214(a)
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-266aa(c)
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-153d(a)
Sec. 21	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-206
Sec. 22	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-233c(g)
Sec. 23	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-233d(d)
Sec. 24	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-236b(h)
Sec. 25	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-357e
Sec. 26	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 27	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-231
Sec. 28	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 29	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-222m
Sec. 30	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section