



House of Representatives

File No. 732

General Assembly

February Session, 2026

(Reprint of File No. 380)

Substitute House Bill No. 5323
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 28, 2026

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-244a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

3 (a) For the school year commencing July 1, 2013, and each school year
4 thereafter, no municipality or local or regional board of education may
5 employ or enter into an agreement, as described in subdivision (2) of
6 subsection (b) of section 53a-217b, with any person, other than a sworn
7 member of an organized local police department or a retired [police]
8 officer as provided in subsection (b) of this section, to provide security
9 services in a public school if such person will possess a firearm, as
10 defined in section 53a-3, while in the performance of his or her duties.

11 (b) A municipality or a local or regional board of education may
12 employ or enter into an agreement with a retired [police] officer to

13 provide security services in a public school if such retired [police] officer
14 is a (1) qualified retired law enforcement officer, as defined in 18 USC
15 926C, as amended from time to time, or (2) parole officer who meets the
16 qualifications specified for a qualified retired law enforcement officer
17 under 18 USC 926C, as applicable to a parole officer. Such retired
18 [police] officer shall receive annual training pursuant to section 7-294x
19 and shall successfully complete annual firearms training provided by a
20 certified firearms instructor that meets or exceeds the standards of the
21 Police Officer Standards and Training Council or 18 USC 926C, as
22 amended from time to time. Such retired [police] officer shall not be
23 subject to the licensing requirements of part II of chapter 534.

24 (c) For the purposes of subsection (b) of this section, ["retired police
25 officer"] (1) "retired officer" means [(1)] (A) a sworn member of an
26 organized local police department who was certified by the Police
27 Officer Standards and Training Council, [and] retired or separated in
28 good standing from such department [or] and is not prohibited from
29 being hired by a law enforcement unit pursuant to section 7-291c, (B) a
30 sworn member of the Division of State Police within the Department of
31 Emergency Services and Public Protection who retired or separated in
32 good standing from said division [, (2)] and is not prohibited from being
33 hired by a law enforcement unit pursuant to section 7-291c, (C) a sworn
34 federal law enforcement agent who retired or separated in good
35 standing from such federal law enforcement service, is not prohibited
36 from being hired by a law enforcement unit pursuant to section 7-291c
37 and [who] meets or exceeds the standards of the Police Officer
38 Standards and Training Council for certification in this state, [or (3)] (D)
39 a sworn officer of an organized police department in another state who
40 was certified under standards that meet or exceed the standards of the
41 Police Officer Standards and Training Council for certification in this
42 state, [and who] retired or separated in good standing from such
43 department and is not prohibited from being hired by a law
44 enforcement unit pursuant to section 7-291c, or (E) a parole officer who
45 retired or separated in good standing from the Department of
46 Correction, and (2) "good standing" means the status of a police officer

47 whose employment in a law enforcement unit, as defined in section 7-
48 294a, or a parole officer whose employment with the Department of
49 Correction, was not terminated as a result of disciplinary action or
50 during a period when such police officer or parole officer was under
51 investigation or disciplinary action was pending.

52 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) The Connecticut Advisory Council for
53 School Administrator Professional Standards, established pursuant to
54 section 10-144e of the general statutes, in consultation with the
55 Connecticut Association of Schools, shall establish a pilot program for a
56 new school administrator mentorship program. Such pilot program
57 shall include, but need not be limited to, supports, training and
58 professional development for new school administrators. Not later than
59 July 1, 2027, the council shall report the plan for implementation of the
60 pilot program to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
61 having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with
62 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

63 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2027, the Connecticut
64 Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards shall
65 implement the pilot program in school districts identified in the plan
66 developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Not later than
67 January 1, 2029, the council shall report on the results of the pilot
68 program, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
69 general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
70 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education. Such
71 report shall include, but need not be limited to, recommendations for
72 improvement to and requirements for the further implementation of the
73 pilot program.

74 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Not later than July 1, 2027, no
75 local or regional board of education shall require students in grades nine
76 to twelve, inclusive, who participate in any interscholastic athletics to
77 meet or exceed academic eligibility standards that are higher than the
78 academic eligibility standards established by the Connecticut
79 Interscholastic Athletic Conference.

80 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) The Department of Education
81 shall, within available appropriations, establish a grant program for the
82 provision of a therapeutic arts program in public schools for the school
83 year commencing July 1, 2027, and each school year thereafter. Such
84 grant shall be in an amount determined by the Commissioner of
85 Education and available to any local or regional board of education or
86 regional educational service center interested in providing a therapeutic
87 arts program, but the department shall prioritize boards of education or
88 regional educational service centers serving school districts with a high
89 rate of exclusionary discipline, lack of access to behavioral health
90 services and supports and an existing social-emotional learning
91 program. Not later than January 1, 2027, the department shall post in a
92 conspicuous location on its Internet web site information about the
93 grant program, including, but not limited to, eligibility criteria,
94 application forms and the amount of grant funds available to applicants.

95 (b) Not later than July 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, the
96 Department of Education shall submit a report, in accordance with the
97 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
98 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
99 relating to education. Such report shall include the number of grants
100 awarded and recipients of such grants.

101 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of
102 section 10-264l of the general statutes, the Commissioner of Education
103 may authorize, for a period not to exceed two years, the temporary
104 placement of students enrolled in the Bridgeport Military Academy in
105 available classroom space at the Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet
106 Campus for the purpose of facilitating construction of a permanent
107 facility for the Bridgeport Military Academy.

108 (b) The temporary placement of students authorized under this
109 section shall be limited to the grades and programs of the Bridgeport
110 Military Academy approved by the Department of Education and shall
111 not be deemed to alter the interdistrict magnet school status of the
112 Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet Campus or the eligibility of

113 Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet Campus for operating grant
114 funding under section 10-264l of the general statutes.

115 (c) The Department of Education shall assign a separate facility code
116 to the Bridgeport Military Academy during such temporary placement
117 and shall continue to maintain separate enrollment, performance and
118 accountability metrics for both the Bridgeport Military Academy and
119 the Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet Campus.

120 (d) The Department of Education shall establish guidelines to ensure
121 that such temporary placement of students does not result in the
122 commingling of students in core academic courses or programs, except
123 as expressly approved by the Commissioner of Education for purposes
124 consistent with each school's educational program.

125 (e) Upon completion of the new permanent facility, the Bridgeport
126 Military Academy shall vacate the temporary location and temporary
127 placement of students at the Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet
128 Campus and resume operations in the new permanent facility.

129 Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) Section 51 of public act 24-41 shall take
130 effect July 1, 2027.

131 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section, "broad
132 assessment" means an assessment that measures what students should
133 have learned during a semester or during a school year. "Broad
134 assessment" does not include the state-wide mastery examinations
135 under section 10-14n of the general statutes or any other student
136 assessments required by state or federal law.

137 (b) Not later than July 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Education shall
138 establish, within available appropriations, an incentive program for
139 school districts that (1) reduces or limits the amount of time students
140 spend on taking broad assessments during the school year, (2) integrates
141 state-provided interim and formative assessment tools into the local
142 curriculum in a manner that supports ongoing instructional
143 improvement, and (3) increases teacher competency in the formative

144 assessment process. The incentive program may include public
145 recognition, financial awards and enhanced autonomy or operational
146 flexibility for school districts.

147 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Not later than June 1, 2027, the
148 Department of Education shall develop and provide guidance to local
149 and regional boards of education on effective strategies for reducing the
150 amount of discretionary local student assessments. Such guidance may
151 include the elimination of the fall and spring administration of broad
152 assessments, as defined in section 7 of this act, or substituting, where
153 appropriate, certain end-of-unit classroom summative assessments with
154 state-provided interim and formative assessment tools.

155 Sec. 9. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Education may,
156 after consultation with the working group established pursuant to
157 section 28 of public act 24-45, submit a request to the United States
158 Secretary of Education to amend the state's approved plan submitted
159 pursuant to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, 20
160 USC 6301, et seq., as amended from time to time, and reauthorized by
161 the Every Student Succeeds Act, P.L. 114-95. Such request may include
162 a waiver from federal accountability requirements under said act that
163 allows the Department of Education to modify the state's high school
164 accountability model by reducing the weight assigned to the academic
165 achievement indicator and increasing the weight for other relevant
166 indicators, such as college and career-oriented measures.

167 Sec. 10. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2027, the
168 Commissioner of Education shall redesign Connecticut's high school
169 mathematics pathways to prepare students for relevant postsecondary
170 careers. Such mathematics pathways shall include, but need not be
171 limited to, (1) science, technology, engineering and mathematics, (2)
172 data science and statistics, (3) quantitative reasoning, and (4) workforce
173 and applied mathematics. The commissioner may consult with relevant
174 stakeholders to implement the provisions of this subsection.

175 (b) The commissioner, in consultation with the Connecticut Educator

176 Preparation and Certification Board established pursuant to section 10-
177 150b of the general statutes, shall develop guidelines for the role of
178 mathematics specialists in supporting mathematics interventions in
179 schools.

180 (c) Not later than January 1, 2027, the commissioner shall (1) develop
181 a list of professional development providers to support the
182 implementation of high-quality mathematics instruction, and (2)
183 explore the feasibility of launching MathConn, a professional learning
184 series for educators. The commissioner may consult with relevant
185 stakeholders to implement the provisions of this subsection.

186 Sec. 11. Section 10-222c of the general statutes is repealed and the
187 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

188 (a) No local or regional board of education, governing council of a
189 state or local charter school, interdistrict magnet school operator or
190 supervisory agent of a nonpublic school shall offer employment to an
191 applicant for a position, including any position which is contracted for,
192 if such applicant would have direct student contact, prior to such board,
193 council, operator or supervisory agent:

194 (1) Requiring of such applicant:

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

200 (B) A written authorization that (i) consents to and authorizes
201 disclosure by the employers listed under subparagraph (A) of this
202 subdivision of the information requested under subdivision (2) of this
203 subsection and the release of related records by such employers, (ii)
204 consents to and authorizes disclosure by the Department of Education
205 of the information requested under subdivision (3) of this subsection
206 and the release of related records by the department, and (iii) releases

207 those employers and the department from liability that may arise from
208 such disclosure or release of records pursuant to subdivision (2) or (3)
209 of this subsection; and

210 (C) A written statement of whether the applicant (i) has been or is the
211 subject of an abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct investigation, or any
212 investigation involving the injury or risk of injury to, or impairing the
213 morals of, a minor under section 53-21, by any employer, state agency
214 or municipal police department, [unless the investigation resulted in a
215 finding that all allegations were unsubstantiated,] (ii) has ever been
216 disciplined or asked to resign from employment or resigned from or
217 otherwise separated from any employment while an allegation of abuse
218 or neglect was pending or under investigation by the Department of
219 Children and Families or such employer, state agency or municipal
220 police department, or an allegation of sexual misconduct was pending
221 or under investigation by such employer, state agency or municipal
222 police department, or an allegation involving the injury or risk of injury
223 to, or impairing the morals of, a minor under section 53-21, was pending
224 or under investigation, or due to an allegation substantiated pursuant
225 to section 17a-101g of abuse or neglect, or of sexual misconduct or a
226 conviction for abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct, or (iii) has ever
227 had a professional or occupational license or certificate suspended or
228 revoked or has ever surrendered such a license or certificate while an
229 allegation of abuse or neglect was pending or under investigation by the
230 department or an investigation of sexual misconduct was pending or
231 under investigation, or an allegation involving the injury or risk of
232 injury to, or impairing the morals of, a minor under section 53-21, was
233 pending or under investigation, or due to an allegation substantiated by
234 the department of abuse or neglect or of sexual misconduct or a
235 conviction for abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct;

236 (2) Conducting a review of the employment history of the applicant
237 by contacting those employers listed by the applicant under subdivision
238 (1) of this subsection. Such review shall be conducted using a form
239 developed by the Department of Education in accordance with section
240 3 of public act 16-67 that shall request (A) the dates of employment of

241 the applicant, and (B) a statement as to whether the employer has
242 knowledge that the applicant (i) was or is the subject of an allegation of
243 abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct for which there is an investigation
244 pending with any employer, state agency or municipal police
245 department or which has been substantiated, unless such substantiation
246 has been reversed as a result of an appeal conducted pursuant to section
247 17a-101k; (ii) was disciplined or asked to resign from employment or
248 resigned from or otherwise separated from any employment while an
249 allegation of abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct was or is pending or
250 under investigation, or due to a substantiation of abuse or neglect or
251 sexual misconduct, unless such substantiation has been reversed as a
252 result of an appeal conducted pursuant to section 17a-101k; or (iii) has
253 ever had a professional or occupational license, certificate, authorization
254 or permit suspended or revoked or has ever surrendered such a license,
255 certificate, authorization or permit while an allegation of abuse or
256 neglect or sexual misconduct was pending or under investigation, or
257 due to a substantiation of abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct, unless
258 such substantiation has been reversed as a result of an appeal conducted
259 pursuant to section 17a-101k. Such review may be conducted
260 telephonically or through written communication. Notwithstanding the
261 provisions of subsection (g) of section 31-51i, not later than five business
262 days after any such current or former employer of the applicant receives
263 a request for such information, such employer shall respond with and is
264 authorized to disclose such information. A local or regional board of
265 education, council, operator or supervisory agent may request more
266 information concerning any response made by a current or former
267 employer, and, notwithstanding the provisions of said subsection (g),
268 such employer shall respond not later than five business days after
269 receiving such request; and

270 (3) Requesting information from the Department of Education
271 concerning (A) the eligibility status for employment of any applicant for
272 a position requiring a certificate, authorization or permit issued
273 pursuant to chapter 166, (B) whether the department has knowledge
274 that an investigation is pending or a finding has been substantiated by

275 the Department of Children and Families pursuant to section 17a-101g
276 of abuse or neglect or of sexual misconduct against the applicant and
277 any information concerning such [a] investigation or finding, and (C)
278 whether the department has received notification that the applicant has
279 been convicted of a crime or of criminal charges pending against the
280 applicant and any information concerning such charges.

281 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (g) of section 31-51i,
282 any local or regional board of education, council, operator or
283 supervisory agent that receives information that an applicant for a
284 position with or an employee of the board is under investigation or has
285 been disciplined for a finding of abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct
286 shall notify the Department of Education of such information.

287 (c) No local or regional board of education, council, operator or
288 supervisory agent shall employ an applicant for a position involving
289 direct student contact who does not comply with the provisions of
290 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section.

291 (d) A local or regional board of education, council, operator or
292 supervisory agent may employ or contract with an applicant on a
293 temporary basis for a period not to exceed ninety days, pending the
294 review of information received under this section by such board,
295 council, operator or supervisory agent, provided:

296 (1) The applicant complied with subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of
297 this section;

298 (2) The board, council, operator or supervisory agent has no
299 knowledge of information pertaining to the applicant that would
300 disqualify the applicant from employment with the board, council,
301 operator or supervisory agent; and

302 (3) The applicant affirms that the applicant is not disqualified from
303 employment with such board, council, operator or supervisory agent.

304 (e) No local or regional board of education, council, operator or

305 supervisory agent shall enter into a collective bargaining agreement, an
306 employment contract, an agreement for resignation or termination, a
307 severance agreement or any other contract or agreement or take any
308 action that:

309 (1) Has the effect of suppressing or requiring the nondisclosure of
310 information relating to [an] a pending investigation of a report of
311 suspected abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct by a current or former
312 employee;

313 (2) Affects the ability of the local or regional board of education,
314 council, operator or supervisory agent to report suspected abuse or
315 neglect or sexual misconduct to appropriate authorities; or

316 (3) Requires the local or regional board of education, council,
317 operator or supervisory agent to expunge information about an
318 allegation or a finding of suspected abuse or neglect or sexual
319 misconduct from any documents maintained by the board, unless after
320 investigation such allegation is [dismissed or] found to be false.

321 (f) No local or regional board of education, council, operator or
322 supervisory agent shall offer employment to a person as a substitute
323 teacher, unless such person and such board, council, operator or
324 supervisory agent comply with the provisions of subsection (a) of this
325 section. The board, council, operator or supervisory agent shall
326 determine which such persons are employable as substitute teachers
327 and maintain a list of such persons. No board, council, operator or
328 supervisory agent shall hire any person as a substitute teacher who is
329 not on such list. Such person shall remain on such list as long as such
330 person is continuously employed by the board, council, operator or
331 supervisory agent as a substitute teacher, as described in subsection (c)
332 of section 10-221d, provided the board, council, operator or supervisory
333 agent does not have any knowledge of a reason that such person should
334 be removed from such list.

335 (g) In the case of an applicant who is a contractor, the contractor shall
336 require any employee with such contractor who would be in a position

337 involving direct student contact to supply to such contractor all
338 information required of an applicant under subparagraphs (A) and (C)
339 of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section and a written
340 authorization under subparagraph (B) of said subdivision. Such
341 contractor shall contact any current or former employer of such
342 employee that was a local or regional board of education, council,
343 operator or supervisory agent or if such employment caused the
344 employee to have contact with children, and request, either
345 telephonically or through written communication, any information
346 concerning whether there is a pending or open investigation or was a
347 finding of abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct against such employee.
348 Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (g) of section 31-51i, such
349 employer shall report to the contractor any such investigation or
350 finding, either telephonically or through written communication. If the
351 contractor receives any information indicating such [a] investigation or
352 finding or otherwise has knowledge of such [a] investigation or finding,
353 the contractor shall, notwithstanding the provisions of said subsection
354 (g), immediately forward such information to any local or regional
355 board of education, council, operator or supervisory agent with which
356 the contractor is under contract, either telephonically or through written
357 communication. Any local or regional board of education, council,
358 operator or supervisory agent that receives such information shall
359 determine whether such employee may work in a position involving
360 direct student contact at any school under the jurisdiction or control of
361 such board, council, operator or supervisory agent. No determination
362 by a local or regional board of education, council, operator or
363 supervisory agent that any such employee shall not work under any
364 such contract in any such position shall constitute a breach of such
365 contract.

366 (h) Any applicant who knowingly provides false information or
367 knowingly fails to disclose information required in subdivision (1) of
368 subsection (a) of this section shall be subject to discipline by the
369 employing local or regional board of education, council, operator or
370 supervisory agent that may include (1) denial of employment, or (2)

371 termination of the contract of a certified employee, in accordance with
372 the provisions of section 10-151.

373 (i) Any employer who provides information in accordance with
374 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section or subsection (g) of this
375 section and the Department of Education for the provision of
376 information requested in accordance with subdivision (3) of said
377 subsection (a) shall be immune from criminal and civil liability,
378 provided the employer or department did not knowingly supply false
379 information.

380 (j) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-151c and subsection
381 (g) of section 31-51i, a local or regional board of education, council,
382 operator or supervisory agent shall provide upon request by any other
383 local or regional board of education, council, operator or supervisory
384 agent for the purposes of an inquiry pursuant to subdivision (2) of
385 subsection (a) of this section or subsection (g) of this section or to the
386 Commissioner of Education pursuant to subsection (b) of this section
387 any information that the board, council, operator or supervisory agent
388 has concerning [a] an investigation or finding of abuse or neglect or
389 sexual misconduct by a subject of any such inquiry.

390 (k) For purposes of this section and section 10-221d, as amended by
391 this act, (1) "sexual misconduct" means any verbal, nonverbal, written
392 or electronic communication, or any other act directed toward or with a
393 student that is designed to establish a sexual relationship with the
394 student, including a sexual invitation, dating or soliciting a date,
395 engaging in sexual dialog, making sexually suggestive comments, self-
396 disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual or erotic nature and any
397 other sexual, indecent or erotic contact with a student; (2) "abuse or
398 neglect" means abuse or neglect as described in section 46b-120, and
399 includes any violation of section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-
400 72b or 53a-73a; and (3) "former employer" means any local or regional
401 board of education, governing council of a state or local charter school
402 or interdistrict magnet school operator, person, firm, business,
403 educational institution, nonprofit agency, corporation, limited liability

404 company, the state, any political subdivision of the state, any
405 governmental agency, or any other entity that such applicant was
406 employed by during any of the previous twenty years prior to applying
407 for a position with a local or regional board of education, governing
408 council of a state or local charter school or interdistrict magnet school
409 operator.

410 (l) Prior to offering employment to an applicant, a local or regional
411 board of education, council, operator or supervisory agent shall make a
412 documented good faith effort to contact each current and any former
413 employer that was a local or regional board of education, council,
414 operator or supervisory agent or if such employment otherwise caused
415 the applicant to have contact with children of the applicant in order to
416 obtain information and recommendations which may be relevant to the
417 applicant's fitness for employment, including whether there is a
418 pending investigation of the applicant for allegations of abuse or neglect
419 or sexual misconduct, provided such effort shall not be construed to
420 require more than three telephonic requests made on three separate
421 days.

422 (m) No local or regional board of education, council, operator or
423 supervisory agent shall offer employment to any applicant who had any
424 previous employment contract terminated by a board, council, operator
425 or supervisory agent or who resigned from such employment, if such
426 [person] applicant (1) has been convicted of a violation of section 17a-
427 101o, [when] or (2) has had an allegation of abuse or neglect or sexual
428 [assault has been] misconduct substantiated.

429 Sec. 12. Subsection (f) of section 10-221d of the general statutes is
430 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
431 *2026*):

432 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (g) of section 31-51i,
433 and to the extent permissible under state and federal laws regarding the
434 dissemination of criminal history records, the State Board of Education
435 shall, upon request of an eligible school operator, make available to such

436 eligible school operator requesting information concerning an applicant
437 for a position with such eligible school operator (1) any information
438 concerning the applicant's eligibility for employment in a position with
439 such eligible school operator requiring a certificate, authorization or
440 permit issued pursuant to chapter 166, (2) whether the department has
441 knowledge that the applicant has been disciplined for a finding of abuse
442 or neglect or sexual misconduct, as defined in section 10-222c, as
443 amended by this act, and any information concerning such a finding,
444 [and] (3) whether the department has received notification that the
445 applicant has been convicted of a crime or of criminal charges pending
446 against the applicant and any information concerning such charges, and
447 (4) whether the department has been notified pursuant to subsection (b)
448 of section 10-222c, as amended by this act, that the applicant is under
449 investigation or has been disciplined for a finding of abuse or neglect or
450 sexual misconduct by a former employer, as defined in section 10-222c,
451 as amended by this act, unless the investigation resulted in a finding
452 that all allegations were false. The provisions of this subsection shall not
453 be construed to cause the state board to investigate any such request or
454 disseminate the results of any national criminal history records check.

455 Sec. 13. Subsection (f) of section 10-232a of the 2026 supplement to the
456 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
457 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

458 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (g) of section 31-51i,
459 and to the extent permissible under state and federal laws regarding the
460 dissemination of criminal history records, the State Board of Education
461 shall, upon request of a nongovernmental school operator, make
462 available to such nongovernmental school operator requesting
463 information concerning an applicant for a position with such
464 nongovernmental school operator, (1) any information concerning the
465 applicant's eligibility for employment in a position with such
466 nongovernmental school operator requiring a certificate, authorization
467 or permit issued pursuant to chapter 166, (2) whether the department
468 has knowledge that the applicant has been disciplined for a finding of
469 abuse or neglect or sexual misconduct, as defined in section 10-222c, as

470 amended by this act, and any information concerning such a finding,
 471 [and] (3) whether the department has received notification that the
 472 applicant has been convicted of a crime or of criminal charges pending
 473 against the applicant and any information concerning such charges, and
 474 (4) whether the department has been notified pursuant to subsection (b)
 475 of section 10-222c, as amended by this act, that the applicant is under
 476 investigation or has been disciplined for a finding of abuse or neglect or
 477 sexual misconduct by a former employer, as defined in section 10-222c,
 478 as amended by this act, unless the investigation resulted in a finding
 479 that all allegations were false. The provisions of this subsection shall not
 480 be construed to cause the state board to investigate any such request or
 481 disseminate the results of any national criminal history records check.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-244a
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-222c
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-221d(f)
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-232a(f)

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

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	None	See Below
Education, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	None	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Various Local and Regional School Districts	Revenue Gain	None	See Below
Various Regional Education Service Centers (RESCs)	Revenue Gain	None	See Below

Explanation

The bill makes various changes to education statutes, resulting in the fiscal impacts described by section below.

Section 1 has no fiscal impact. It allows retired parole officers who meet specific conditions to provide armed security services in public schools and is not expected to change security costs incurred by school districts or municipalities.

Section 2 requires the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards to: (1) create a plan by July 1, 2027 for implementing a pilot program for a new school administrator mentorship program; and (2) implement the pilot program in school districts in FY 28. This results in a potential cost in FY 28 to the State Department of Education (SDE) that is dependent on the provisions of the pilot program upon implementation.

Section 3 has no fiscal impact. It prohibits school districts from setting higher academic standards than those set by the Connecticut Association of Schools and the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) for high school students to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Section 4 requires SDE to establish a grant program for schools to provide therapeutic arts programs beginning in FY 28. The cost to SDE, and corresponding revenue to school districts and Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs), depends on the funding provided and provisions of the grant program. When awarding grants, SDE is required to give priority to districts and RESCs that have a high rate of exclusionary discipline and lack access to behavioral health supports.

Section 5 has no fiscal impact. It allows the Bridgeport Military Academy to operate in the Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet Campus while a permanent facility is constructed.

Section 6 has no fiscal impact. It extends the effective date from FY 27 to FY 29 for repealing various statutes.

Section 7 requires SDE to establish an incentive program for school districts that implement various practices related to testing, beginning in FY 28. This results in a potential cost to SDE dependent on funding and the incentives provided.

Sections 8 - 10 have no fiscal impact. They: (1) require SDE to develop guidance related to assessments; (2) allow SDE to submit a waiver to the U.S. Department of Education to modify the state's high school accountability model; and (3) require SDE to redesign the high school mathematics pathways and take related steps. It is anticipated SDE can complete the requirements with existing resources.

Sections 11 - 13 have no fiscal impact. They expand various requirements related to hiring employees who would have direct contact with students which are not expected to impact existing costs to school districts or SDE associated with hiring decisions.

House "A" eliminates the original bill and its associated fiscal impact, and results in the impact described above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to funding for the: (1) pilot program for school administrator mentorships; (2) therapeutic arts program grant; and (3) incentive program to reduce testing.

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

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5323 (as amended by House "A")*****AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.**

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Establishes an incentive program for school districts that limits broad assessments, integrates formative assessment tools, and increases teacher competency in the assessment process

§ 8 — REDUCING DISCRETIONARY LOCAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

Requires SDE to develop and give guidance to school boards on reducing discretionary local student assessments

§ 9 — SDE REQUEST TO AMEND STATE PLAN UNDER ESSA

Allows SDE to submit a request to the U.S. Department of Education to amend the state's approved plan submitted pursuant to ESSA

§ 10 — MATHEMATICS PATHWAYS, INSTRUCTION, AND SPECIALIST GUIDANCE

Requires SDE to (1) redesign the state's high school mathematics pathways, (2) develop a list of professional development providers for high quality mathematics instruction, (3) explore the feasibility of launching MathConn, and (4) develop mathematics specialist guidelines

§§ 11-13 — MISCONDUCT-RELATED INFORMATION DISCLOSURE DURING PROSPECTIVE SCHOOL EMPLOYEE HIRING PROCESS

Makes various revisions to the laws on the disclosure of certain misconduct-related information during the hiring process of a prospective school employee

This bill makes several unrelated changes to education laws. A section-by-section analysis follows.

*House Amendment "A" (1) eliminates sections on a disordered eating task force and eating disorder screening tool, a holistic food education working group, audits of certain school districts, and deadline extensions for certain reports, (2) removes provisions in the underlying bill that established specific conditions under which a parole officer could be an armed school security guard, (3) modifies the academic standard provision to limit it to interscholastic athletics only and to prohibit schools from requiring students to exceed CIAC standards, and (4) adds provisions on the Bridgeport Military Academy, assessments and mathematics pathways, misconduct disclosures by prospective employees, and repealed regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, unless otherwise noted below.

§ 1 — ARMED SECURITY GUARDS

Allows retired parole officers to provide armed security services in public schools; prohibits police and parole officers who left employment during an investigation or after disciplinary action from providing armed security services in schools

Current law limits who a municipality or school board can hire or contract with for armed school security services in a public school to (1) sworn members of local police departments and (2) qualified retired police officers who left in good standing. The bill (1) additionally allows former parole officers to provide these services and (2) defines "good standing."

Parole Officers

By law, to serve as an armed school security officer, a retired police officer must be a "qualified retired law enforcement officer" under the federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA). (LEOSA permits qualified officers, both active and retired, to carry a concealed firearm across state lines if they are carrying the proper identification and meet the statutory requirements.) Under the bill, parole officers must meet this requirement to qualify to provide armed school security services.

The bill subjects these former parole officers to the same annual training requirements that other retired officers must complete in order to qualify (school security training provided by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) and firearms training provided by a certified firearms instructor who meets or exceeds the POST standards or the LEOSA standards). Under the bill, these former parole officers are also exempt from the licensing requirements for private security officers, just as current law provides for retired police officers serving as armed school security officers.

Good Standing

Under existing law, to be hired as armed school security, former officers must have retired or separated from service in good standing. Under the bill, this means that the officer's employment with a state or local law enforcement unit or the Department of Correction did not end due to disciplinary action, while under investigation, or while a disciplinary action was pending. The bill also specifies that retired police officers cannot provide security services if they are prohibited from being hired as a police officer due to being dismissed for malfeasance or other serious misconduct or resigning while under investigation.

Background — Related Bill

SB 402 (File 301), favorably reported by the Public Safety and Security Committee and passed by the Senate, disqualifies anyone who is prohibited from being hired by a law enforcement unit from being eligible to provide armed school security services as a retired police officer.

§ 2 — SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Requires the Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards to create a new school administrator mentorship pilot program

The bill requires the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards, in consultation with the Connecticut Association of Schools, to create a pilot program for a new school administrator mentorship program. The pilot program must

include supports, training, and professional development for new school administrators.

The council must submit a pilot program implementation plan to the Education Committee by July 1, 2027, and implement the program for the 2027-28 school year in the districts it identifies in the plan. By January 1, 2029, the council must report to the Education Committee on the pilot's results, including recommended improvements and requirements for further implementation.

§ 3 — ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Prohibits schools from requiring students in grades 9-12 who participate in interscholastic athletics to meet academic eligibility standards that are higher than those set by CIAC

Starting July 1, 2027, the bill prohibits school boards from requiring students in grades 9 to 12 who participate in interscholastic athletics to meet or exceed academic eligibility standards that are higher than those set by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC).

In practice, CIAC's current standards generally require students to have earned a passing grade in at least four quarter credits at the end of the most recent marking period or, for fall sports, at least four credits toward graduation during the prior school year or marking period.

§ 4 — THERAPEUTIC ARTS PROGRAM GRANTS

Requires SDE to create a grant program, within available appropriations, for a therapeutic arts program in public schools starting in the 2027-28 school year

The bill requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to establish, within available appropriations, a grant program for a therapeutic arts program in public schools starting in the 2027-28 school year. Any school board or Regional Education Service Center (RESC) is eligible for grants, but SDE must prioritize school boards and RESCs that serve school districts with high rates of exclusionary discipline (like suspensions), low access to behavioral health services, and an existing social-emotional learning program.

By January 1, 2027, SDE must determine the grant amounts and post

information on its website about the program, eligibility criteria, and available grant funds. Starting by July 1, 2028, SDE must annually report to the Education Committee on the number of grants awarded and their recipients.

§ 5 — TEMPORARY PLACEMENT OF BRIDGEPORT MILITARY ACADEMY STUDENTS

Allows the SDE commissioner to authorize the temporary placement of students enrolled in the Bridgeport Military Academy in available classroom space at the Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet Campus to facilitate construction of a permanent facility for the Bridgeport Military Academy

The bill allows the SDE commissioner to authorize the temporary placement of students enrolled in the Bridgeport Military Academy in available classroom space at the Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet Campus to facilitate construction of a permanent facility for the Bridgeport Military Academy. This authorization is limited to the academy's grades and programs approved by SDE and does not alter Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet Campus's magnet school status or magnet grant funding eligibility.

Under the bill, SDE must:

1. assign a separate facility code to the academy during the temporary placement and continue maintaining separate enrollment, performance, and accountability metrics for both schools; and
2. establish guidelines to ensure that the temporary placement does not cause the students of the two schools to commingle in core academic courses or programs, unless approved by SDE for purposes consistent with each school's educational program.

Once the permanent facility is done, the Bridgeport Military Academy must leave the temporary location and resume operations in the new facility.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 6 — REPEAL OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION REGULATIONS

Delays the effective date of the repeal of various educator preparation regulations from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2027

PA 24-41, § 51, repeals numerous State Board of Education educator preparation program and certification regulations. The bill delays the effective date to July 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 7 — BROAD ASSESSMENT REDUCTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Establishes an incentive program for school districts that limits broad assessments, integrates formative assessment tools, and increases teacher competency in the assessment process

The bill requires SDE to establish an incentive program for school districts that (1) reduces or limits the time students spend taking broad assessments, (2) integrates state-provided interim and formative assessment tools into the curriculum to support instructional improvement, and (3) increases teacher competency in the formative assessment process. Additionally, the program may include public recognition, financial awards, and increased operational flexibility for school districts.

Under the bill, broad assessments measure what students should have learned during a semester or school year, but it does not include the state-wide mastery examinations or any federally required student assessments.

The program must be established by July 1, 2027, within available appropriations.

§ 8 — REDUCING DISCRETIONARY LOCAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

Requires SDE to develop and give guidance to school boards on reducing discretionary local student assessments

By June 1, 2027, the bill requires SDE to develop and give guidance to school boards on reducing discretionary local student assessments.

The guidance may include eliminating fall and spring broad

assessments (as defined in § 7, above) or substituting certain end-of-unit classroom summative assessments with state-provided interim and formative assessment tools.

§ 9 — SDE REQUEST TO AMEND STATE PLAN UNDER ESSA

Allows SDE to submit a request to the U.S. Department of Education to amend the state's approved plan submitted pursuant to ESSA

The bill allows SDE to submit a request to the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) to amend the state's approved plan submitted pursuant to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (P.L. 114-95). Under federal law and pursuant to ESSA, Connecticut must submit a plan to DOE addressing standards, assessments, school and district accountability, and special help for struggling schools.

This request may include a federal accountability requirements waiver that allows DOE to modify the state's high school accountability model by reducing the weight assigned to the academic achievement indicator and increasing the weight for other relevant indicators, such as college and career-oriented measures.

SDE can only submit a request after consultation with a working group that is established through existing law. The working group, which is jointly convened by the Connecticut Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut presidents, or their designees, reviews (1) high school grading policies used by school boards and (2) the accountability index and information and data SDE uses to calculate index scores.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 10 — MATHEMATICS PATHWAYS, INSTRUCTION, AND SPECIALIST GUIDANCE

Requires SDE to (1) redesign the state's high school mathematics pathways, (2) develop a list of professional development providers for high quality mathematics instruction, (3) explore the feasibility of launching MathConn, and (4) develop mathematics specialist guidelines

The bill requires SDE to redesign the state's high school mathematics pathways to prepare students for relevant postsecondary careers by

January 1, 2027. These pathways must include (1) science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; (2) data science and statistics; (3) quantitative reasoning; and (4) workforce and applied mathematics. The bill also requires SDE to (1) develop a list of professional development providers to help implement high-quality mathematics instruction and (2) explore the feasibility of launching MathConn, a professional learning series for educators. SDE may consult with relevant stakeholders to implement these requirements.

Additionally, SDE, in consultation with the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board (CEPCB), must develop guidelines for mathematics specialists in supporting mathematics interventions.

Under existing law, CEPCB is responsible for modernizing and aligning educator preparation and certification to ensure that policies attract and retain effective and diverse professionals to work in Connecticut's public schools.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 11-13 — MISCONDUCT-RELATED INFORMATION DISCLOSURE DURING PROSPECTIVE SCHOOL EMPLOYEE HIRING PROCESS

Makes various revisions to the laws on the disclosure of certain misconduct-related information during the hiring process of a prospective school employee

Applicant Misconduct and Employment History Disclosure

The law requires school boards, charter school governing councils, magnet school operators, and supervisory agents of nonpublic schools ("school-governing entities") to review an applicant's employment history before offering employment if the applicant would have direct student contact. Through this process, the school-governing entities seeking to hire must, among other things, (1) review a written statement by the applicant, (2) contact the applicant's former employers (presumably, these include only those that the applicant discloses) and gather information from them on SDE-developed forms, and (3) review information from SDE on the department's knowledge of the applicant's engagement in certain misconduct.

The bill generally expands the scope of what former employers and SDE must disclose to include allegations currently under investigation (whether or not related to the applicant's employment).

Applicant's Written Statement and SDE-Developed Forms for Previous Employers

Currently, as part of the applicant's written statement and the forms filled out by the applicant's current and prior employers, all must state if they know the applicant:

1. had an allegation made against them of abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct under investigation by any employer, state agency, or municipal police department (that was not found to be unsubstantiated, and an employer also must reveal any pending investigation);
2. resigned, was asked to resign, otherwise separated from employment, or was disciplined for a substantiated allegation of these acts or while an allegation was pending or under investigation; or
3. surrendered a professional or occupational license or other credential or had it suspended or revoked for a substantiated allegation of these acts or while one was pending or under investigation.

The bill expands the scope of this inquiry by additionally asking the:

1. applicant and previous employers if the applicant is currently under investigation for abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct; and
2. applicant if he or she was, or is currently, facing an allegation involving the injury or risk of injury to, or impairing the morals of, a minor and whether any of the actions described above (resignation, separation, discipline, or surrendering a credential) happened in relation to an allegation or investigation involving the injury or risk of injury to, or impairing the morals of, a minor.

The bill also removes the provision in current law explicitly exempting from disclosure investigations that resulted in a finding that all allegations were unsubstantiated. So, under the bill, the applicant must disclose the investigations regardless of whether the allegations were substantiated. The bill also makes conforming changes to clarify that certain provisions apply to all employer, state agency, and local police investigations.

Providing Information to SDE

Currently, school governing entities must notify SDE when an applicant or employee has been disciplined because of a finding of abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct. The bill additionally requires them to notify SDE of applicants who are currently under investigation for this conduct.

SDE-Provided Information

By law, school-governing entities must request from SDE information on:

1. an applicant's employment eligibility status for positions requiring state certification or permit;
2. whether SDE has knowledge of a substantiated finding of abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct against the applicant; and
3. whether SDE has received notification of a criminal conviction or pending criminal charge against the applicant.

The bill expands the information that SDE must release to school-governing entities to also include if it knows of any pending investigation of abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct.

Applicants Who Are Contractors

By law, a contractor's employee who will have direct student contact must make the same disclosures as an applicant for employment with a school-governing entity. The bill expands the requirements for information disclosure and sharing for these employees in the same way

as for job applicants described above.

Additionally, for any of its current employees who will have contact with children, a contractor must (1) contact any of that employee's current or former employers that were school-governing entities or caused the employee to have contact with children and (2) request from them any information about whether there was a finding of abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct against the employee. The bill expands this to include any pending or open investigation. By law and under the bill, the contractor must report all of this information to the school-governing entity.

Additionally, under existing law, a school-governing entity must give on request, to any other school-governing entity or to the SDE commissioner, information it has about a finding of abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct on someone being considered for a job as a direct employee of another education employer or a contractor. The bill similarly expands this provision to apply to investigations.

Contract and Agreement Restrictions

By law, a school-governing entity cannot enter into a collective bargaining agreement, employment contract, resignation or termination agreement, severance agreement, or any other contract or agreement, or take any action with certain effects.

Currently, these agreements and actions cannot require a school-governing entity to expunge information about an allegation or finding of abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct from any documents it maintains unless, after an investigation, the allegation is dismissed or found false. The bill raises the standard for expungement by eliminating dismissed allegations, allowing expungement only when an allegation is found to be false.

By law, these agreements also cannot affect a school-governing entity's ability to report suspected abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct to the appropriate authorities.

School Operators Requesting Applicant Misconduct Information from SBE

By law, eligible and nongovernmental school operators (see BACKGROUND) may request from SBE information about (1) the applicant's employment eligibility for a certified position; (2) whether SDE knows of prior applicant discipline for a finding of abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct; or (3) whether SDE has received notice of criminal charges pending, or criminal convictions against, an applicant and information about the charges.

The bill adds that eligible and nongovernmental school operators can also request from SBE information about whether SDE has been notified by a former employer that the applicant is under investigation for abuse; neglect; or sexual misconduct unless the investigation resulted in a finding that all allegations were false.

Background — Eligible School Operators

By law, "eligible school operators" are schools or school districts authorized to receive national criminal history record information from the FBI under federal law. These operators include the following entities:

1. local or regional boards of education,
2. the Technical Education and Career System (the technical high school system), and
3. interdistrict magnet school operators that are not third-party nonprofit corporations approved by the SDE commissioner.

Background — Nongovernmental School Operators

By law, nongovernmental school operators are:

1. third-party, nonprofit interdistrict magnet school operators approved by the SDE commissioner;
2. state or local charter school governing councils;

3. SBE-approved (a) endowed or incorporated academies and (b) special education facilities;
4. private school supervisory agents; or
5. private providers of special education services.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 45 Nay 0 (03/16/2026)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 43 Nay 2 (04/14/2026)