



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Governor's Bill No. 5033

LCO No. 352



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Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:

Request of the Governor Pursuant
to Joint Rule 9

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EDUCATION.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsections (j) to (m), inclusive, of section 10-264l of the
2 2026 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following
3 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

4 (j) (1) After accommodating students from participating districts in
5 accordance with an approved enrollment agreement, an interdistrict
6 magnet school operator that has unused student capacity may enroll
7 directly into its program any interested student. A student from a
8 district that is not participating in an interdistrict magnet school or the
9 interdistrict student attendance program pursuant to section 10-266aa
10 to an extent determined by the Commissioner of Education shall be
11 given preference. The local or regional board of education otherwise
12 responsible for educating such student shall contribute funds to support
13 the operation of the interdistrict magnet school in an amount equal to
14 the per student tuition, if any, charged to participating districts, except

15 (A) for the fiscal [year] years ending June 30, 2025, [and each fiscal year
16 thereafter] to June 30, 2027, inclusive, such per student tuition charged
17 to such participating districts shall not exceed the amount of tuition
18 authorized pursuant to subsection (k) of this section, and (B) for the
19 fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, and each fiscal year thereafter, such per
20 student tuition charged to such participating districts shall not exceed
21 the amount calculated pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection.

22 (2) (A) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, the maximum amount
23 of the per student tuition that may be charged to participating districts
24 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, may be adjusted in accordance
25 with any change in the consumer price index for all urban consumers
26 for the preceding two calendar years, less food and energy, as published
27 by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
28 Such adjusted tuition amount shall be published by the Department of
29 Education not later than April 1, 2027.

30 (B) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2029, the per student tuition
31 charged to participating districts shall be the amount calculated
32 pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

33 (C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2030, and each fiscal year
34 thereafter, the maximum amount of the per student tuition that may be
35 charged to participating districts during the prior two fiscal years may
36 be adjusted in accordance with any change in the consumer price index
37 for all urban consumers for the preceding two calendar years, less food
38 and energy, as published by the United States Department of Labor,
39 Bureau of Labor Statistics. Such adjusted amount shall be charged to
40 participating districts for two fiscal years. Such adjusted tuition amount
41 shall be published by the Department of Education not later than April
42 first of the fiscal year prior to when such adjusted tuition amount will
43 be charged.

44 (k) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, and each fiscal year
45 thereafter, any tuition charged to a local or regional board of education

46 by (A) a regional educational service center operating an interdistrict
47 magnet school, (B) the Hartford school district operating the Great Path
48 Academy on behalf of Manchester Community College, or (C) any
49 interdistrict magnet school operator described in section 10-264s, for any
50 student enrolled in kindergarten to grade twelve, inclusive, in such
51 interdistrict magnet school shall be in an amount equal to the difference
52 between (i) the average per pupil expenditure of the magnet school for
53 the prior fiscal year, and (ii) the amount of any per pupil state subsidy
54 calculated under subsection (c) of this section plus any revenue from
55 other sources calculated on a per pupil basis, except for the fiscal [year]
56 years ending June 30, 2025, [and each fiscal year thereafter] to June 30,
57 2027, inclusive, the per student tuition charged to a local or regional
58 board of education shall not (I) exceed fifty-eight per cent the per
59 student tuition charged during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, or
60 (II) for an interdistrict magnet school program that is authorized to
61 charge tuition to a local or regional board of education under this
62 subsection and commences operations on or after July 1, 2024, exceed
63 the per student average tuition charged by interdistrict magnet school
64 programs serving similar grade ranges in the same region as determined
65 by the commissioner, and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, and
66 each fiscal year thereafter, the per student tuition charged to a local or
67 regional board of education shall not exceed the amount calculated
68 pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection. If any such board of
69 education fails to pay such tuition, the commissioner may withhold
70 from such board's town or towns a sum payable under section 10-262i
71 in an amount not to exceed the amount of the unpaid tuition to the
72 magnet school and pay such money to the fiscal agent for the magnet
73 school as a supplementary grant for the operation of the interdistrict
74 magnet school program. In no case shall the sum of such tuitions exceed
75 the difference between the total expenditures of the magnet school for
76 the prior fiscal year and the total per pupil state subsidy calculated
77 under subsection (c) of this section plus any revenue from other sources.
78 The commissioner may conduct a comprehensive financial review of the
79 operating budget of a magnet school to verify such tuition rate.

80 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, and each fiscal year
81 thereafter, a regional educational service center operating an
82 interdistrict magnet school offering a preschool program that is not
83 located in the Sheff region shall charge tuition to the parent or guardian
84 of a child enrolled in such preschool program in an amount up to four
85 thousand fifty-three dollars, except such regional educational service
86 center shall (A) not charge tuition to such parent or guardian with a
87 family income at or below seventy-five per cent of the state median
88 income, [and] (B) for the fiscal [year] years ending June 30, 2025, [and
89 each fiscal year thereafter] to June 30, 2027, inclusive, charge tuition to
90 such parent or guardian in an amount not to exceed fifty-eight per cent
91 of the tuition charged during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, except
92 for an interdistrict magnet school preschool program that is authorized
93 to charge tuition to a parent or guardian under this subsection and
94 commences operations on or after July 1, 2024, charge tuition to such
95 parent or guardian in an amount not to exceed the per child average
96 tuition charged by interdistrict magnet school preschool programs in
97 the same region as determined by the commissioner, and (C) for the
98 fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, and each fiscal year thereafter, charge
99 tuition to such parent or guardian in an amount not to exceed the
100 amount calculated pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection. The
101 Department of Education shall, within available appropriations, be
102 financially responsible for any unpaid tuition charged to such parent or
103 guardian with a family income at or below seventy-five per cent of the
104 state median income. The commissioner may conduct a comprehensive
105 financial review of the operating budget of any such magnet school
106 charging such tuition to verify such tuition rate.

107 (3) (A) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, the maximum amount
108 of the tuition that may be charged pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2)
109 of this subsection during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, may be
110 adjusted in accordance with any change in the consumer price index for
111 all urban consumers for the preceding two calendar years, less food and
112 energy, as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau

113 of Labor Statistics. Such adjusted tuition amount shall be published by
114 the Department of Education not later than April 1, 2027.

115 (B) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2029, the amount of the tuition
116 charged pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection shall be
117 the amount calculated pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

118 (C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2030, and each fiscal year
119 thereafter, the maximum amount of the tuition that may be charged
120 pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection during the prior
121 two fiscal years may be adjusted in accordance with any change in the
122 consumer price index for all urban consumers for the preceding two
123 calendar years, less food and energy, as published by the United States
124 Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Such adjusted amount
125 shall be charged pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection
126 for two fiscal years. Such adjusted tuition amount shall be published by
127 the Department of Education not later than April first of the fiscal year
128 prior to when such adjusted tuition amount will be charged.

129 (l) A participating district shall provide opportunities for its students
130 to attend an interdistrict magnet school in a number that is at least equal
131 to the number specified in any written agreement with an interdistrict
132 magnet school operator or in a number that is at least equal to the
133 average number of students that the participating district enrolled in
134 such magnet school during the previous three school years.

135 (m) (1) On or before May 15, 2010, and annually thereafter, each
136 interdistrict magnet school operator shall provide written notification to
137 any school district that is otherwise responsible for educating a student
138 who resides in such school district and will be enrolled in an interdistrict
139 magnet school under the operator's control for the following school
140 year. Such notification shall include (A) the number of any such
141 students, by grade, who will be enrolled in an interdistrict magnet
142 school under the control of such operator, (B) the name of the school in
143 which such student has been placed, and (C) the amount of tuition to be

144 charged to the local or regional board of education for such student.
145 Such notification shall represent an estimate of the number of students
146 expected to attend such interdistrict magnet schools in the following
147 school year, but shall not be deemed to limit the number of students
148 who may enroll in such interdistrict magnet schools for such year.

149 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and each school year
150 thereafter, any interdistrict magnet school operator that is a local or
151 regional board of education and did not charge tuition to another local
152 or regional board of education for the school year commencing July 1,
153 2014, may not charge tuition to such board unless (A) such operator
154 receives authorization from the Commissioner of Education to charge
155 the proposed tuition, and (B) if such authorization is granted, such
156 operator provides written notification on or before September first of
157 the school year prior to the school year in which such tuition is to be
158 charged to such board of the tuition to be charged to such board for each
159 student that such board is otherwise responsible for educating and is
160 enrolled at the interdistrict magnet school under such operator's control,
161 except (i) for the fiscal [year] years ending June 30, 2025, [and each fiscal
162 year thereafter] to June 30, 2027, inclusive, the amount of such tuition
163 charged to such other local or regional board of education shall not [(i)]
164 exceed fifty-eight per cent the per student tuition charged during the
165 fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, or [(ii)] for an interdistrict magnet
166 school program that is authorized to charge tuition to a local or regional
167 board of education under this subsection and commences operations on
168 or after July 1, 2024, exceed the per student average tuition charged by
169 interdistrict magnet school programs serving similar grade ranges in the
170 same region as determined by the commissioner, and (ii) for the fiscal
171 year ending June 30, 2028, and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount of
172 such tuition charged to such other local or regional board of education
173 shall not exceed the amount calculated pursuant to subdivision (3) of
174 this subsection. In deciding whether to authorize an interdistrict magnet
175 school operator to charge tuition under this subdivision, the
176 commissioner shall consider (I) the average per pupil expenditure of

177 such operator for each interdistrict magnet school under the control of
178 such operator, and (II) the amount of any per pupil state subsidy and
179 any revenue from other sources received by such operator. The
180 commissioner may conduct a comprehensive financial review of the
181 operating budget of the magnet school of such operator to verify that
182 the tuition is appropriate. The provisions of this subdivision shall not
183 apply to any interdistrict magnet school operator that is a regional
184 educational service center or assisting the state in meeting its obligations
185 pursuant to the decision in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any
186 related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the
187 Commissioner of Education.

188 (3) (A) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, the maximum amount
189 of the tuition that may be charged to another local or regional board of
190 education during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, may be adjusted
191 in accordance with any change in the consumer price index for all urban
192 consumers for the preceding two calendar years, less food and energy,
193 as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor
194 Statistics. Such adjusted tuition amount shall be published by the
195 Department of Education not later than April 1, 2027.

196 (B) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2029, the amount of the tuition
197 charged to another local or regional board of education shall be the
198 amount calculated pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

199 (C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2030, and each fiscal year
200 thereafter, the maximum amount of the tuition that may be charged to
201 another local or regional board of education during the prior two fiscal
202 years may be adjusted in accordance with any change in the consumer
203 price index for all urban consumers for the preceding two calendar
204 years, less food and energy, as published by the United States
205 Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Such adjusted amount
206 shall be charged to such other local or regional board of education
207 districts for two fiscal years. Such adjusted tuition amount shall be
208 published by the Department of Education not later than April first of

209 the fiscal year prior to when such adjusted tuition amount will be
210 charged.

211 [(3)] (4) Not later than two weeks following an enrollment lottery for
212 an interdistrict magnet school conducted by a magnet school operator,
213 the parent or guardian of a student (A) who will enroll in such
214 interdistrict magnet school in the following school year, or (B) whose
215 name has been placed on a waiting list for enrollment in such
216 interdistrict magnet school for the following school year, shall provide
217 written notification of such prospective enrollment or waiting list
218 placement to the school district in which such student resides and is
219 otherwise responsible for educating such student.

220 Sec. 2. Section 10-264o of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
221 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July
222 1, 2026*):

223 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, interdistrict
224 magnet schools that begin operations on or after July 1, 2008, pursuant
225 to the decision in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related
226 stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the Commissioner of
227 Education, may operate without district participation agreements and
228 enroll students from any district through a lottery designated by the
229 commissioner.

230 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, and each fiscal year
231 thereafter, any tuition charged to a local or regional board of education
232 by a regional educational service center or by Goodwin University
233 Magnet Schools operating an interdistrict magnet school assisting the
234 state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in *Sheff v.*
235 *O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect,
236 as determined by the Commissioner of Education, for any student
237 enrolled in kindergarten to grade twelve, inclusive, in such interdistrict
238 magnet school shall be in an amount equal to the difference between (1)
239 the average per pupil expenditure of the magnet school for the prior

240 fiscal year, and (2) the amount of any per pupil state subsidy calculated
241 under subsection (c) of section 10-264*l*, plus any revenue from other
242 sources calculated on a per pupil basis, except (A) for the fiscal [year]
243 years ending June 30, 2025, [and each fiscal year thereafter] to June 30,
244 2027, inclusive, the per student tuition charged to a local or regional
245 board of education shall not [(A)] (i) exceed fifty-eight per cent of the
246 per student tuition charged during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024,
247 or [(B)] (ii) for an interdistrict magnet school program that is authorized
248 to charge tuition to a local or regional board of education under this
249 subsection and commences operations on or after July 1, 2024, exceed
250 the per student average tuition charged by interdistrict magnet school
251 programs serving similar grade ranges in the same region as determined
252 by the commissioner, and (B) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028,
253 and each fiscal year thereafter, the per student tuition charged to a local
254 or regional board of education shall not exceed the amount calculated
255 pursuant to subsection (e) of this section. If any such board of education
256 fails to pay such tuition, the commissioner may withhold from such
257 board's town or towns a sum payable under section 10-262*i* in an
258 amount not to exceed the amount of the unpaid tuition to the magnet
259 school and pay such money to the fiscal agent for the magnet school as
260 a supplementary grant for the operation of the interdistrict magnet
261 school program. In no case shall the sum of such tuitions exceed the
262 difference between (i) the total expenditures of the magnet school for
263 the prior fiscal year, and (ii) the total per pupil state subsidy calculated
264 under subsection (c) of section 10-264*l*, plus any revenue from other
265 sources. The commissioner may conduct a comprehensive review of the
266 operating budget of a magnet school to verify such tuition rate.

267 (c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, and each fiscal year
268 thereafter, a regional educational service center or Goodwin University
269 Magnet Schools operating an interdistrict magnet school assisting the
270 state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in *Sheff v.*
271 *O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect,
272 as determined by the Commissioner of Education, and offering a

273 preschool program shall (1) for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2025, to
274 June 30, 2027, inclusive, charge tuition to the parent or guardian of a
275 child enrolled in such preschool program in an amount not to exceed
276 fifty-eight per cent the per child tuition charged during the fiscal year
277 ending June 30, 2024, and (2) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, and
278 each fiscal year thereafter, charge tuition to the parent or guardian of a
279 child enrolled in such preschool program in an amount calculated
280 pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, except such regional
281 educational service center or Goodwin University Magnet Schools shall
282 [(1)] (A) not charge tuition to such parent or guardian with a family
283 income at or below seventy-five per cent of the state median income,
284 and [(2)] (B) for an interdistrict magnet school preschool program that
285 is authorized to charge tuition to a parent or guardian under this
286 subsection and commences operations on or after July 1, 2024, charge
287 tuition to such parent or guardian in an amount not to exceed the per
288 child average tuition charged by interdistrict magnet school preschool
289 programs in the same region as determined by the commissioner. The
290 Department of Education shall, within available appropriations, be
291 financially responsible for any unpaid tuition charged to such parent or
292 guardian with a family income at or below seventy-five per cent of the
293 state median income. The commissioner may conduct a comprehensive
294 financial review of the operating budget of any such magnet school
295 charging such tuition to verify such tuition rate.

296 (d) [For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year
297 thereafter, any] Any interdistrict magnet school operator described in
298 section 10-264s that offers a preschool program shall (1) for the fiscal
299 years ending June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2027, inclusive, charge tuition to
300 the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in such preschool program in
301 an amount not to exceed fifty-eight per cent the per child tuition charged
302 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and (2) for the fiscal year
303 ending June 30, 2028, and each fiscal year thereafter, charge tuition to
304 the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in such preschool program in
305 an amount calculated pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, except

306 [(1)] (A) such interdistrict magnet school operator shall not charge
307 tuition to such parent or guardian with a family income at or below
308 seventy-five per cent of the state median income, and [(2)] (B) for an
309 interdistrict magnet school preschool program that is authorized to
310 charge tuition to a parent or guardian under this subsection and
311 commences operations on or after July 1, 2024, shall not charge tuition
312 to such parent or guardian in an amount not to exceed the per child
313 average tuition charged by interdistrict magnet school preschool
314 programs in the same region as determined by the commissioner. The
315 Department of Education shall, within available appropriations, be
316 financially responsible for any unpaid tuition charged to such parent or
317 guardian with a family income at or below seventy-five per cent of the
318 state median income. The commissioner may conduct a comprehensive
319 financial review of the operating budget of any such interdistrict magnet
320 school operator charging such tuition to verify such tuition rate.

321 (e) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, the maximum amount
322 of the tuition that may be charged under this section during the fiscal
323 year ending June 30, 2027, may be adjusted in accordance with any
324 change in the consumer price index for all urban consumers for the
325 preceding two calendar years, less food and energy, as published by the
326 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Such
327 adjusted tuition amount shall be published by the Department of
328 Education not later than April 1, 2027.

329 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2029, the amount of the tuition
330 charged under this section shall be the amount calculated pursuant to
331 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

332 (3) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2030, and each fiscal year
333 thereafter, the maximum amount of the tuition that may be charged
334 under this section during the prior two fiscal years may be adjusted in
335 accordance with any change in the consumer price index for all urban
336 consumers for the preceding two calendar years, less food and energy,
337 as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor

338 Statistics. Such adjusted amount shall be the tuition amount charged
339 under this section for two fiscal years. Such adjusted tuition amount
340 shall be published by the Department of Education not later than April
341 first of the fiscal year prior to when such adjusted tuition amount will
342 be charged.

343 Sec. 3. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-65 of the general statutes
344 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
345 *1, 2026*):

346 (a) Each local or regional school district operating an agricultural
347 science and technology education center approved by the State Board of
348 Education for program, educational need, location and area to be served
349 shall be eligible for the following grants: (1) In accordance with the
350 provisions of chapter 173, through progress payments in accordance
351 with the provisions of section 10-287i, (A) for projects for which an
352 application was filed prior to July 1, 2011, ninety-five per cent, and (B)
353 for projects for which an application was filed on or after July 1, 2011,
354 eighty per cent of the net eligible costs of constructing, acquiring,
355 renovating and equipping approved facilities to be used exclusively for
356 such agricultural science and technology education center, for the
357 expansion or improvement of existing facilities or for the replacement
358 or improvement of equipment therein, and (2) subject to the provisions
359 of section 10-65b, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal
360 year thereafter, a grant equal to the amount such board is entitled to
361 receive under the provisions of section 10-252a.

362 (b) (1) Each local or regional board of education not maintaining an
363 agricultural science and technology education center shall provide
364 opportunities for its students to enroll in one or more such centers. If a
365 local or regional board of education provided opportunities for students
366 to enroll in more than one center for the school year commencing July 1,
367 2007, such board of education shall continue to provide such
368 opportunities to students in accordance with this subsection.

369 (2) The board of education operating an agricultural science and
370 technology education center may charge, subject to the provisions of
371 section 10-65b, tuition for a school year in an amount not to exceed fifty-
372 nine and two-tenths per cent of the foundation level pursuant to
373 subdivision (9) of section 10-262f, per student for the fiscal year in which
374 the tuition is paid, except that (A) such board may charge tuition for (i)
375 students enrolled under shared-time arrangements on a pro rata basis,
376 and (ii) special education students which shall not exceed the actual
377 costs of educating such students minus the amounts received pursuant
378 to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section and subsection (c) of
379 this section, [and] (B) for the fiscal [year] years ending June 30, 2025,
380 [and each fiscal year thereafter] to June 30 2027, inclusive, such board
381 may charge such tuition in an amount not to exceed fifty-eight per cent
382 of the amount such board charged during the fiscal year ending June 30,
383 2024, and (C) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, and each fiscal year
384 thereafter, such board may charge tuition in an amount calculated
385 pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection. Any tuition paid by such
386 board for special education students in excess of the tuition paid for
387 non-special-education students shall be reimbursed pursuant to section
388 10-76g.

389 (3) (A) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, the board of education
390 operating an agricultural science and technology center may adjust the
391 maximum amount of the tuition that may be charged during the fiscal
392 year ending June 30, 2027, in accordance with any change in the
393 consumer price index for all urban consumers for the preceding two
394 calendar years, less food and energy, as published by the United States
395 Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, subject to the
396 provisions of section 10-65b. Such adjusted tuition amount shall be
397 published by the Department of Education not later than April 1, 2027.

398 (B) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2029, the board of education
399 operating an agricultural science and technology center shall charge
400 tuition in an amount equal to the amount calculated pursuant to
401 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

402 (C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2030, and each fiscal year
403 thereafter, the board of education operating an agricultural science and
404 technology center may adjust the maximum amount of tuition that may
405 be charged during the prior two fiscal years in accordance with any
406 change in the consumer price index for all urban consumers for the
407 preceding two calendar years, less food and energy, as published by the
408 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, subject
409 to the provisions of section 10-65b. Such board shall charge such
410 adjusted amount for two fiscal years. Such adjusted tuition amount shall
411 be published by the Department of Education not later than April first
412 of the fiscal year prior to when such adjusted tuition amount will be
413 charged.

414 Sec. 4. Subsection (d) of section 10-71 of the 2026 supplement to the
415 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
416 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

417 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, for the fiscal years
418 ending June 30, 2004, to June 30, 2022, inclusive, and for the fiscal [year]
419 years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, the amount of the grants
420 payable to towns, regional boards of education or regional educational
421 service centers in accordance with this section shall be reduced
422 proportionately if the total of such grants in such year exceeds the
423 amount appropriated for the purposes of this section for such year.

424 Sec. 5. Subsection (i) of section 10-217a of the 2026 supplement to the
425 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
426 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

427 (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, for the fiscal years
428 ending June 30, 2008, to June 30, [2026] 2027, inclusive, the amount of
429 the grants payable to local or regional boards of education in accordance
430 with this section shall be reduced proportionately if the total of such
431 grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for purposes of
432 this section.

433 Sec. 6. Subsection (i) of section 10-145o of the 2026 supplement to the
434 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
435 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

436 (i) The Department of Education [, in consultation with EASTCONN,] shall create a data system for local and regional school districts to access
437 the resources and record-keeping tools to manage the teacher education
438 and mentoring program at the local level. Such data system shall include
439 (1) templates for (A) writing and updating each district's plan, (B)
440 recording each teacher's completion of each of the five instructional
441 modules, and (C) teachers to record the completion of instructional
442 module activities and submit written reflection papers or projects, and
443 (2) links to on-line programs or workshops that are part of the five
444 modules.

446 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 10-76mmm of the 2026 supplement to
447 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
448 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

449 (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and each fiscal year
450 thereafter, the Department of Education shall, within available
451 appropriations, administer the special education training, education
452 and testing competitive grant program. Under the grant program, the
453 department shall award grants to individual educators and
454 paraeducators for the purpose of covering the costs associated with any
455 professional training, education and testing requirements relating to
456 such individual's ability to provide special education and related
457 services. The department shall develop criteria for reviewing and
458 awarding grants under the program, and such criteria shall take into
459 consideration the financial need of the applicant and give priority to
460 those applicants with the greatest financial need. As used in this section,
461 "educators and paraeducators" includes individuals who are enrolled in
462 a teacher preparation program, as defined in section 10-10a, candidates
463 for professional certification as an educator under chapter 166, teachers
464 employed by a local or regional board of education, prospective

465 paraeducators and paraeducators employed by a local or regional board
466 of education.

467 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 10-76nnn of the 2026 supplement to
468 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
469 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

470 (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year
471 thereafter, the Department Education shall, within available
472 appropriations, establish a grant program to support local and regional
473 boards of education in providing support services for students who
474 require special education and have experienced trauma or have
475 behavioral health needs. Such grant shall be available to each local or
476 regional board of education that provides support services, including,
477 but not limited to, trauma-informed care coordination and family
478 outreach, for such students and such students' families in partnership
479 with community service providers, including, but not limited to, family
480 service centers. Grants shall be funded in an amount prescribed by the
481 Commissioner of Education.

482 Sec. 9. Section 10-4x of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is
483 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
484 *2026*):

485 For the school year commencing July 1, 2026, and each school year
486 thereafter, the Department of Education shall, within available
487 appropriations, at least quarterly, host trainings for persons hired or
488 designated to serve as an instructional support partner, as described in
489 section 10-220t. Such training shall include, but need not be limited to,
490 effective literacy and math instruction, personalized learning and
491 individualized instruction for students with disabilities, improving
492 classroom management, effective instructional methods and behavioral
493 supports, and transition plans for students with disabilities.

494 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) For the fiscal year ending June
495 30, 2027, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Department of Education

496 shall, within available appropriations, administer a teacher
497 apprenticeship program.

498 Sec. 11. Section 36a-25 of the general statutes is repealed and the
499 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

500 (a) There is established an Office of the Student Loan Ombudsman,
501 which shall be within the [Department of Banking] Office of Higher
502 Education for administrative purposes only, to provide timely
503 assistance to any student loan borrower, as defined in section 36a-846,
504 of any student education loan, as defined in section 36a-846. The
505 [Banking Commissioner] Governor shall appoint a Student Loan
506 Ombudsman who shall be selected from among individuals with
507 expertise and experience in a field concerning student loans to head the
508 office.

509 (b) The Office of the Student Loan Ombudsman shall:

510 (1) Receive, review and attempt to resolve any complaints from
511 student loan borrowers, including, but not limited to, attempts to
512 resolve such complaints in collaboration with institutions of higher
513 education, student loan servicers, as defined in section 36a-846, and any
514 other participants in student loan lending, including, but not limited to,
515 The University of Connecticut, the Board of Regents for Higher
516 Education [, the Office of Higher Education] or the Connecticut Higher
517 Education Supplemental Loan Authority;

518 (2) Compile and analyze data on student loan borrower complaints
519 as described in subdivision (1) of this subsection;

520 (3) Assist student loan borrowers to understand their rights and
521 responsibilities under the terms of student education loans;

522 (4) Provide information to the public, agencies, legislators and others
523 regarding the problems and concerns of student loan borrowers and
524 make recommendations for resolving those problems and concerns;

525 (5) Analyze and monitor the development and implementation of
526 federal, state and local laws, regulations and policies relating to student
527 loan borrowers and recommend any changes the Student Loan
528 Ombudsman deems necessary;

529 (6) Review the complete student education loan history for any
530 student loan borrower who has provided written consent for such
531 review;

532 (7) Disseminate information concerning the availability of the Office
533 of the Student Loan Ombudsman to assist student loan borrowers and
534 potential student loan borrowers, as well as public institutions of higher
535 education, student loan servicers and any other participant in student
536 education loan lending, with any student loan servicing concerns; and

537 (8) Take any other actions necessary to fulfill the duties of the Office
538 of the Student Loan Ombudsman and the Student Loan Ombudsman as
539 set forth in this subsection.

540 (c) (1) [On or before October 1, 2016, the] The Student Loan
541 Ombudsman [, in consultation with the commissioner,] shall, within
542 available appropriations, establish and maintain a student loan
543 borrower education course that shall include educational presentations
544 and materials regarding student education loans. Such program shall
545 include, but not be limited to, key loan terms, documentation
546 requirements, monthly payment obligations, income-based repayment
547 options, loan forgiveness and disclosure requirements.

548 (2) [Beginning on October 1, 2024, the] The Office of the Student Loan
549 Ombudsman shall maintain the student loan borrower education course
550 established pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

551 [(d) (1) On or before January 1, 2016, and annually thereafter until
552 January 1, 2023, the Banking Commissioner shall submit a report, in
553 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
554 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters

555 relating to banking and higher education. The commissioner shall
556 report on: (A) The implementation of this section; (B) the overall
557 effectiveness of the Student Loan Ombudsman position; and (C)
558 additional steps that need to be taken for the Department of Banking to
559 gain regulatory control over the licensing and enforcement of student
560 loan servicers.]

561 [(2)] (d) Beginning on January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the
562 Student Loan Ombudsman shall submit [the] a report [required under
563 subdivision (1) of this subsection,] in accordance with the provisions of
564 section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
565 having cognizance of matters relating to banking and higher education.
566 The ombudsman shall report on: [(A)] (1) The implementation of this
567 section; [(B)] (2) the overall effectiveness of the Office of the Student
568 Loan Ombudsman; and [(C)] (3) additional steps that need to be taken
569 for the Department of Banking to gain regulatory control over the
570 licensing and enforcement of student loan servicers.

571 (e) (1) There is established an account to be known as the "student
572 loan ombudsman account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing
573 account, [within the Banking Fund.] The account shall contain the
574 moneys described in subdivision (2) of this subsection and any other
575 moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the
576 account shall be expended by the [Banking Commissioner] Student
577 Loan Ombudsman for the purpose of administering the provisions of
578 this section.

579 (2) The account established under subdivision (1) of this subsection
580 shall contain any licensing or investigation fees collected pursuant to
581 subsection (b) of section 36a-847.

582 Sec. 12. Section 224 of public act 25-174 is repealed. (*Effective from*
583 *passage*)

| | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2026</i> | 10-264l(j) to (m) |
| Sec. 2 | <i>July 1, 2026</i> | 10-264o |
| Sec. 3 | <i>July 1, 2026</i> | 10-65(a) and (b) |
| Sec. 4 | <i>July 1, 2026</i> | 10-71(d) |
| Sec. 5 | <i>July 1, 2026</i> | 10-217a(i) |
| Sec. 6 | <i>July 1, 2026</i> | 10-145o(i) |
| Sec. 7 | <i>July 1, 2026</i> | 10-76mmm(a) |
| Sec. 8 | <i>July 1, 2026</i> | 10-76nnn(a) |
| Sec. 9 | <i>July 1, 2026</i> | 10-4x |
| Sec. 10 | <i>July 1, 2026</i> | New section |
| Sec. 11 | <i>July 1, 2026</i> | 36a-25 |
| Sec. 12 | <i>from passage</i> | Repealer section |

| Section 1 | *July 1, 2026* | 10-264l(j) to (m) |
| Sec. 2 | *July 1, 2026* | 10-264o |
| Sec. 3 | *July 1, 2026* | 10-65(a) and (b) |
| Sec. 4 | *July 1, 2026* | 10-71(d) |
| Sec. 5 | *July 1, 2026* | 10-217a(i) |
| Sec. 6 | *July 1, 2026* | 10-145o(i) |
| Sec. 7 | *July 1, 2026* | 10-76mmm(a) |
| Sec. 8 | *July 1, 2026* | 10-76nnn(a) |
| Sec. 9 | *July 1, 2026* | 10-4x |
| Sec. 10 | *July 1, 2026* | New section |
| Sec. 11 | *July 1, 2026* | 36a-25 |
| Sec. 12 | *from passage* | Repealer section |

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

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