



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Governor's Bill No. 5034

LCO No. 616



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Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:

Request of the Governor Pursuant
to Joint Rule 9

***AN ACT REDUCING TESTING BURDENS AND ENHANCING THE
MATH CURRICULUM.***

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

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

7 (b) Not later than July 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Education shall
8 establish, within available appropriations, an incentive program for
9 school districts that (1) reduces or limits the amount of time students
10 spend on taking broad assessments during the school year, (2) integrates
11 state-provided interim and formative assessment tools into the local
12 curriculum in a manner that supports ongoing instructional
13 improvement, and (3) increases teacher competency in the formative
14 assessment process. The incentive program may include public

15 recognition, financial awards and enhanced autonomy or operational
16 flexibility for school districts.

17 (c) The Department of Education may accept private donations for
18 the purpose of this section.

19 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Not later than June 1, 2027, the
20 Department of Education shall develop and provide guidance to local
21 and regional boards of education on effective strategies for reducing the
22 amount of discretionary local student assessments. Such guidance may
23 include the elimination of the fall and spring administration of broad
24 assessments, as defined in section 1 of this act, or substituting, where
25 appropriate, certain end-of-unit classroom summative assessments with
26 state-provided interim and formative assessment tools.

27 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Education may,
28 after consultation with the working group established pursuant to
29 section 28 of public act 24-45, submit a request to the United States
30 Secretary of Education to amend the state's approved plan submitted
31 pursuant to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, 20
32 USC 6301, et seq., as amended from time to time, and reauthorized by
33 the Every Student Succeeds Act, P.L. 114-95. Such request may include
34 a waiver from federal accountability requirements under said act that
35 allows the Department of Education to modify the state's high school
36 accountability model by reducing the weight assigned to the academic
37 achievement indicator and increasing the weight for other relevant
38 indicators, such as college and career-oriented measures.

39 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2027, the
40 Commissioner of Education shall redesign Connecticut's high school
41 mathematics pathways to prepare students for relevant postsecondary
42 careers. Such mathematics pathways shall include, but need not be
43 limited to, (1) science, technology, engineering and mathematics, (2)
44 data science and statistics, (3) quantitative reasoning, and (4) workforce
45 and applied mathematics. The commissioner may consult with relevant

46 stakeholders to implement the provisions of this subsection.

47 (b) The commissioner, in consultation with the Connecticut Educator
48 Preparation and Certification Board established pursuant to section 10-
49 150b of the general statutes, shall develop guidelines for the role of
50 mathematics specialists in supporting mathematics interventions in
51 schools.

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

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2026</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2 | <i>July 1, 2026</i> | New section |
| Sec. 3 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 4 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |

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|-----------|---------------------|-------------|
| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2026</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2 | <i>July 1, 2026</i> | New section |
| Sec. 3 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 4 | <i>from passage</i> | New 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.]