



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 312

February Session, 2026



AN ACT CONCERNING ASSORTED REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) (a) The Department of
2 Education shall establish an American Sign Language education
3 working group which shall consist of (1) a representative from each of
4 the following: The Departments of Education and Aging and Disability
5 Services, the Labor Department, the Office of Higher Education, the
6 Connecticut Council of Language Teachers, the American School for the
7 Deaf and the Connecticut Association of the Deaf, and (2) at least one
8 American Sign Language instructor who teaches in a public school in
9 the state.

10 (b) The working group shall provide recommendations to the
11 Department of Education regarding the following:

12 (1) Curriculum guidance for American Sign Language instruction
13 that includes, but is not limited to, aligning such curriculum with
14 nationally recognized proficiency frameworks;

15 (2) Teacher certification standards based on standards established by
16 the American Sign Language Teachers Association and the American
17 Sign Language Proficiency Interview that includes, but is not limited to,

18 (A) establishment of a proficiency benchmark, (B) recognition of an
19 alternative certification pathway for native American Sign Language
20 users and interpreters, and (C) reciprocity with American Sign
21 Language teaching certifications from other states; and

22 (3) Guidance to educator preparation programs in the state
23 concerning, but not limited to, the (A) expansion of American Sign
24 Language and interpretation education programs, (B) creation of
25 educational incentives, such as tuition support, credit enhancement or
26 alternative route programs, and (C) establishment of bridge,
27 endorsement or alternative programs for native American Sign
28 Language users and certified interpreters seeking teacher certification.

29 (c) Not later than January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, the
30 Department of Education shall submit a progress report, in accordance
31 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
32 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
33 matters relating to education concerning the work of the American Sign
34 Language education working group.

35 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Not later than July 1, 2030, the
36 Department of Education shall issue to each local and regional board of
37 education the guidance developed pursuant to subdivision (1) of
38 subsection (b) of section 1 of this act to ensure consistent
39 implementation of the American Sign Language portion of the world
40 languages curriculum required pursuant to section 10-16b of the general
41 statutes.

42 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 10-183t of the 2026 supplement to the
43 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
44 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

45 (c) (1) On and after July 1, 2022, the board shall pay a subsidy of two
46 hundred twenty dollars, to the board of education or to the state, if
47 applicable, on behalf of any member who is receiving retirement
48 benefits or a disability allowance from the system, the spouse of such
49 member, the surviving spouse of such member, or a disabled dependent

50 of such member if there is no spouse or surviving spouse, who is
51 participating in a health insurance plan maintained by a board of
52 education or by the state, if applicable. Such payment shall not exceed
53 the actual cost of such insurance.

54 (2) With respect to any person participating in any such plan
55 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the state shall appropriate to
56 the board one-third of the cost of the subsidy, except that, for the fiscal
57 years ending June 30, 2013, and June 30, 2026, the state shall appropriate
58 twenty-five per cent of the cost of the subsidy. On and after July 1, 2018,
59 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, and for each fiscal year
60 thereafter, fifty per cent of the total amount appropriated by the state in
61 each such fiscal year for the state's share of the cost of such subsidies
62 shall be paid to the board on or before July first of such fiscal year, and
63 the remaining fifty per cent of such total amount shall be paid to the
64 board on or before December first of such fiscal year.

65 (3) No payment to a board of education pursuant to this subsection
66 may be used to reduce the amount of any premium payment on behalf
67 of any such member, spouse, surviving spouse, or disabled dependent,
68 made by such board pursuant to any agreement in effect on July 1, 1990.
69 On and after July 1, 2022, the board shall pay a subsidy of four hundred
70 forty dollars per month on behalf of the member, spouse or the
71 surviving spouse of such member who: (A) Has attained the normal
72 retirement age to participate in Medicare, (B) is not eligible for Medicare
73 Part A without cost, and (C) contributes at least four hundred forty
74 dollars per month towards his or her medical and prescription drug
75 plan provided by the board of education.

76 (4) On and after July 1, 2026, the board shall pay a subsidy of four
77 hundred forty dollars per month to the board of education on behalf of
78 any member, spouse or the surviving spouse of such member who is
79 receiving a disability allowance from the system and participating in the
80 group health insurance plan maintained by such member's last
81 employing board of education, as defined in subsection (b) of this
82 section, in lieu of the subsidy amount specified for such member, spouse

83 or surviving spouse pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-183t(c)

ED *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R* APP