



**House Bill No. 5215**

**Public Act No. 26-52**

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD STATUTES.**

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

Section 1. Subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 10-220 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(2) On and after January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, a local or regional board of education shall provide for a uniform inspection and evaluation program of the indoor air quality within each school building using the Environmental Protection Agency's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program. The inspection and evaluation program shall include, but not be limited to, a review, inspection or evaluation of the following: (A) The heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems; (B) radon levels in the air; (C) potential for exposure to microbiological airborne particles, including, but not limited to, fungi, mold and bacteria; (D) chemical compounds of concern to indoor air quality including, but not limited to, volatile organic compounds; (E) the degree of pest infestation, including, but not limited to, insects and rodents; (F) the degree of pesticide usage; (G) the presence of and the plans for removal of any hazardous substances that

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are contained on the list prepared pursuant to Section 302 of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, 42 USC [9601] 11001 et seq.; (H) ventilation systems; (I) plumbing, including water distribution systems, drainage systems and fixtures; (J) moisture incursion; (K) the overall cleanliness of the facilities; (L) building structural elements, including, but not limited to, roofing, basements or slabs; (M) the use of space, particularly areas that were designed to be unoccupied; and (N) the provision of indoor air quality maintenance training for building staff. Local and regional boards of education conducting evaluations pursuant to this subsection shall (i) make available for public inspection the results of the inspection and evaluation at a regularly scheduled board of education meeting and on the Internet web site of such board and on the Internet web site, if any, of each individual school, and (ii) submit the report and results of such inspection and evaluation to the Department of Administrative Services using the form developed pursuant to section 10-231h.

Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 10-512 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(c) The State Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipt, maintenance, administration, investing and release of amounts from the endowment. The endowment shall not receive deposits in any form other than cash.

Sec. 3. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-512a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, based on an estimate prepared by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management between June 15, 2025, to June 30, 2025, inclusive, of the amount of current unappropriated surplus for such fiscal year, the amount of such

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estimated surplus, if any, up to a maximum of three hundred million dollars shall be transferred on or before June 30, 2025, by the State Treasurer from the General Fund to the Early Childhood Education Endowment established under section 10-512, as amended by this act.

(b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, based on such estimated amount of current unappropriated surplus described in subsection (a) of this section, if any, the entire amount of such estimated surplus for each such fiscal year shall be transferred by the State Treasurer from the General Fund to the Early Childhood Education Endowment, except that if the amount in the Budget Reserve Fund is estimated by the secretary to be less than eighteen per cent of the estimated net General Fund appropriations for the ensuing fiscal year, the amount of such transfer shall be reduced by the amount necessary to increase the amount in the Budget Reserve Fund to eighteen per cent of the estimated net General Fund appropriations for the ensuing fiscal year, or by the maximum amount of the projected surplus, whichever is less, and an amount equal to such reduction shall be transferred to the Budget Reserve Fund.

Sec. 4. Section 10-512b of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, the State Treasurer, in consultation with the Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board, shall annually authorize the release of funds from the Early Childhood Education Endowment in an amount not to exceed twelve per cent of the total amount of the endowment to the Commissioner of Early Childhood. Such released funds shall be expended by the Commissioner of Early Childhood in accordance with the provisions of section 10-512c, as amended by this act.

(b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, and each fiscal year

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thereafter, the State Treasurer shall, in consultation with the Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board, annually authorize the release of funds from the endowment in an amount not to exceed ten per cent of the total amount of the endowment to the Commissioner of Early Childhood. Such released funds shall be expended by the Commissioner of Early Childhood in accordance with the provisions of section 10-512c, as amended by this act.

Sec. 5. Section 10-512c of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Expansion costs" includes expenses to increase early care and education program provider payment rates, increase equitable access and affordability of high quality early childhood education, extend the hours of operation per day or portion of the year covered or to sustain services previously funded by the Early Childhood Education Endowment;

(2) "Programmatic costs" includes costs for parent and early care and education program enrollment campaigns, local governance partners, needs assessment technical assistance, facilities program technical assistance and workforce recruitment and scholarships for educators in alignment with the early childhood priorities of the Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board and the Office of Early Childhood; and

(3) "Administrative costs" includes costs relating to (A) personnel, including, but not limited to, the salary and fringe benefits of the employees of the State Treasurer's office responsible for administering the Early Childhood Education Endowment and the employees of the Office of Early Childhood and the Department of Education responsible

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for administering programming that utilizes funds from the endowment, and the stipends provided to parent and program provider members of the Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board pursuant to subsection (g) of section 10-512g, as amended by this act, and (B) data and technology, including, but not limited to, the development and maintenance of payment or parent enrollment portals, establishing or managing memoranda of understanding between the Office of Early Childhood and other [states] state agencies related to the provision of child care.

(b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the Commissioner of Early Childhood, upon receipt of the funds released by the State Treasurer from the Early Childhood Education Endowment pursuant to section 10-512b, as amended by this act, is authorized to expend such funds for the following purposes and in the following manner: (1) Up to eight per cent of such released funds for administrative costs, and (2) of such remaining released funds (A) three hundred thousand dollars for the health insurance subsidy program established pursuant to section 10-531b, and (B) the remaining balance for expansion costs and programmatic costs.

(c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the Commissioner of Early Childhood, upon receipt of the funds released by the State Treasurer from the endowment pursuant to section 10-512b, as amended by this act, is authorized to expend such funds for the following purposes and in the following manner: (1) Up to twelve per cent of such released funds for administrative costs, and (2) of such remaining released funds (A) ten million dollars for the health insurance subsidy program established pursuant to section 10-531b, and (B) the remaining balance for expansion costs and programmatic costs.

(d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Commissioner of Early Childhood, upon receipt of the funds released by the State Treasurer from the endowment pursuant to

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section 10-512b, as amended by this act, is authorized to expend such funds for the following purposes and in the following manner: (1) Up to seven per cent of such released funds for administrative costs, and (2) of such remaining released funds for (A) the health insurance subsidy program established pursuant to section 10-531b, and (B) expansion costs and programmatic costs.

(e) Any funds from the endowment that have been released by the State Treasurer to the Commissioner of Early Childhood pursuant to section 10-512b, as amended by this act, shall:

(1) Supplement and not supplant any other local, state or federal funds otherwise available for early childhood care and education;

(2) Not be comingled with any state or federal funding received under the child care development block grant pursuant to the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990; and

(3) Not lapse if not expended by the commissioner at the end of the fiscal year and shall be transferred to the State Treasurer and deposited in the endowment.

Sec. 6. Section 10-512d of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Commissioner of Early Childhood may expend, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-512c, as amended by this act, funds released by the State Treasurer from the Early Childhood Education Endowment, pursuant to section 10-512b, as amended by this act, to any early care and education program providing child care services, as described in section 19a-77, or preschool program operated by a local or regional board of education that is (1) receiving financial assistance under Early Start CT pursuant to section 10-550b, (2)

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participating in the quality improvement system established by the Office of Early Childhood under subdivision (15) of subsection (b) of section 10-500, and (3) participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, 42 USC 1766, as amended from time to time, unless such program has received a waiver from participation in said program by the Commissioner of Early Childhood or is a public school preschool program that offers free or reduced priced lunches pursuant to federal law and regulations.

Sec. 7. Section 10-512g of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There is established the Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board. The board shall be responsible for (1) providing oversight of the administration of the Early Childhood Education Endowment, (2) ensuring that funds from the endowment are expended in accordance with the provisions of section 10-512c, as amended by this act, (3) reviewing all reports and expenditure plans concerning the endowment submitted by the State Treasurer and Commissioner of Early Childhood, (4) reviewing and assessing the outcomes related to the expenditure of funds from the endowment, and (5) preparing and submitting reports and recommendations to the General Assembly concerning the administration of the endowment and permissible expenditure of funds from the endowment, including recommendations for expansion of permissible expenditures of funds from the endowment.

(b) The board shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a parent who is a member of the parent cabinet established by the Office of Early Childhood pursuant to section 10-500 and one of whom shall be a member of the House of Representatives;

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(2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be the licensee of a family child care home and one of whom shall be a member of the Senate;

(3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be an educator in an early care and education program in the state and one of whom shall be the parent or guardian of a child receiving services under the birth-to-three program established under section 17a-248b;

(4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall be a representative of a philanthropic organization that is engaged in early childhood education issues or child care issues in the state and one of whom shall be a special education teacher or administrator in a public school preschool program that is providing services under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1431 et seq., as amended from time to time;

(5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who is a representative of a child care center;

(6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is an educator in a preschool program provided by a local or regional board of education;

(7) Two appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a representative of a corporation with a significant physical presence in the state and that employs individuals who may benefit from early childhood education and state child care initiatives and one of whom shall be a representative from a Head Start program;

(8) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's designee;

(9) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the

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secretary's designee;

(10) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;  
and

(11) The State Treasurer, or the State Treasurer's designee.

(c) All initial appointments to the board shall be made not later than September 1, 2025. Each appointed member shall serve in accordance with the provisions of section 4-1a and the appointing authorities shall appoint members to ensure representation on the board of all geographic areas in the state, to the extent practicable. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. Any vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term.

(d) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's designee, the member of the House of Representatives and the member of the Senate shall serve as the chairpersons of the board. The chairpersons shall jointly schedule the first meeting of the board to be held not later than October 1, 2025. The board shall meet at least quarterly and host an annual public hearing prior to the completion of the annual report described in subsection (f) of this section.

(e) The State Treasurer, or the State Treasurer's designee, shall, at the first meeting of the board and semiannually thereafter, submit to the board an actuarial chart that includes a review of the total amount of funds within the endowment, the health of the investments of the endowment, the anticipated growth of the endowment and any recommended models for the timing and rate of drawing down from the endowment.

(f) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the board shall develop a report that includes, but is not limited to, (1) the financial health and actuarial future of the endowment based on information

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received from the State Treasurer, (2) the expenditures of funds from the endowment, (3) status updates of early care and education programs, early childhood educators, families and children served, and (4) any recommendations for legislation. The board shall submit such report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, children, appropriations and finance, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

(g) The members of the board shall serve without compensation, except the parent and program provider members of the board may, within available resources, be provided a stipend for serving on the board.

(h) The board shall be within the office of the State Treasurer for administrative purposes only.

Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 10-512i of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Not later than January 1, 2032, and every five years thereafter, the Commissioner of Early Childhood shall prepare an impact analysis concerning the operations of the Early Childhood Education Endowment and the effect that the expenditure of funds from the endowment have had on the availability, affordability and quality of early child care in the state. Such impact analysis shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) a report on the solvency of the endowment prepared by the State Treasurer, and (2) an analysis of the effect that the expenditure of funds from the endowment has had on (A) early care and education programs receiving financial assistance under Early Start CT pursuant to section 10-550b, (B) early care and education programs that are not receiving state financial assistance, (C) access of families to early care and education programs receiving state financial assistance under Early Start CT, (D) tuition and family contribution rates, (E) early

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childhood educator salaries and benefits, and (F) the state-wide demand for child care.

Sec. 9. Section 10-512j of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Upon receipt and review of the impact analysis prepared by the Commissioner of Early Childhood pursuant to section 10-512i, as amended by this act, and following consultation with the State Treasurer regarding the solvency of the Early Childhood Education Endowment, the Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board shall develop recommendations concerning the expansion of permissible expenditures of funds from the endowment under section 10-512c, as amended by this act. Not later than January 1, 2032, the advisory board shall submit such recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, children, appropriations and finance, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

Sec. 10. Section 10-512k of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) The State Treasurer, on behalf of the Early Childhood Education Endowment and for purposes of the endowment, may:

(1) Receive and invest moneys in the endowment in any instruments, obligations, securities or property in accordance with section 10-512l, as amended by this act;

(2) Enter into one or more contractual agreements, including contracts for legal, actuarial, accounting, custodial, advisory, management, administrative, advertising, marketing and consulting services for the endowment, and pay for such services from the assets

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of the endowment;

(3) Procure insurance in connection with the endowment's property, assets, activities or deposits to the endowment;

(4) Apply for, accept and expend gifts, grants or donations from public or private sources to enable the endowment to carry out its objectives;

(5) Adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 for purposes of section 3-13c, sections 10-512 to 10-512l, inclusive, as amended by this act, and section 10-531b;

(6) Sue and be sued;

(7) Establish one or more funds within the endowment; and

(8) Take any other action necessary to carry out the purposes of section 3-13c, sections 10-512 to 10-512l, inclusive, as amended by this act, and section 10-531b and incidental to the duties imposed on the State Treasurer pursuant to said sections.

(b) The State Treasurer, on behalf of the endowment and for purposes of the endowment, shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Commissioner of Early Childhood to establish information-sharing practices for purposes of section 3-13c, sections 10-512 to 10-512l, inclusive, as amended by this act, and section 10-531b. Such memorandum of understanding shall be in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

Sec. 11. Section 10-512l of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 3-13 to 3-13h, inclusive, the State Treasurer shall invest the amounts on deposit in the Early

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Childhood Education Endowment in a manner reasonable and appropriate to achieve the objectives of the endowment, exercising the discretion and care of a prudent person in similar circumstances with similar objectives. The State Treasurer shall give due consideration to rate of return, risk, term or maturity, diversification of the total portfolio within the endowment, liquidity, the projected disbursements and expenditures and the expected payments, deposits, contributions and gifts to be received. The State Treasurer shall not require the endowment to invest directly in obligations of the state or any political subdivision of the state or in any investment or other fund administered by the State Treasurer. The assets of the endowment shall be continuously invested and reinvested in a manner consistent with the objectives of the endowment until disbursed for eligible expenditures or expended on expenses incurred by the operations of the endowment.

Sec. 12. Subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 10-264l of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(2) In determining whether an application shall be approved and funds awarded pursuant to this section, the commissioner shall consider, but such consideration shall not be limited to: (A) Whether the program offered by the school is likely to increase student achievement; (B) whether the program is likely to reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation; (C) the percentage of the student enrollment in the program from each participating district; and (D) the proposed operating budget and the sources of funding for the interdistrict magnet school. For a magnet school not operated by a local or regional board of education, the commissioner shall only approve a proposed operating budget that, on a per pupil basis, does not exceed the maximum allowable threshold established in accordance with this subdivision. The maximum allowable threshold shall be an amount equal to one hundred twenty per cent of the state average of the quotient obtained by dividing net

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current expenditures, as defined in section 10-261, by average daily membership, as defined in said section, for the fiscal year two years prior to the fiscal year for which the operating grant is requested. The Department of Education shall establish the maximum allowable threshold no later than December fifteenth of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year for which the operating grant is requested. If requested by an applicant that is not a local or regional board of education, the commissioner may approve a proposed operating budget that exceeds the maximum allowable threshold if the commissioner determines that there are extraordinary programmatic needs. For the fiscal [years] year ending June 30, 2017, and each fiscal year thereafter, in the case of an interdistrict magnet school that will assist the state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the commissioner, the commissioner shall also consider whether the school is meeting the enrollment standards for interdistrict magnet school programs, developed by the commissioner pursuant to section 10-264r. If such school has not met such enrollment standards, it shall not be entitled to receive a grant pursuant to this section unless the commissioner finds that it is appropriate to award a grant for an additional year or years and approves a plan to bring such school into compliance with such enrollment standards. If requested by the commissioner, the applicant shall meet with the commissioner or the commissioner's designee to discuss the budget and sources of funding.

Sec. 13. Subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section 10-222tt of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(2) Three appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom is a parent of a child receiving special education services in the state, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents and one of whom is an individual who

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may be a member of the General Assembly;

Sec. 14. Subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 11-21a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(3) Acknowledge that librarians are professionally trained to curate and develop a collection that provides [resident] residents with access to the widest array of library and other educational materials; and