



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

***Raised Bill No. 5213***

LCO No. 1781



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING DISCONNECTED YOUTH.***

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

- 1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "At-risk student" means a student who is enrolled in high school  
3 and is in danger of not graduating due to (A) not earning sufficient  
4 credits to meet the high school graduation requirements under section  
5 10-221a of the general statutes, (B) being a chronically absent child, and  
6 (C) behavioral and other disciplinary issues, such as suspensions and  
7 expulsions;
- 8 (2) "Chronically absent child" has the same meaning as provided in  
9 section 10-198c of the general statutes; and
- 10 (3) "Disconnected youth" means an individual who is fourteen to  
11 twenty-six years of age, inclusive, and (A) holds a high school diploma  
12 but is neither employed nor attending an institution of higher education  
13 or otherwise pursuing secondary education, (B) does not hold a high  
14 school diploma and is employed, (C) does not hold a high school  
15 diploma and is not employed, or (D) is incarcerated.

16 (b) The Two-Generational Advisory Board, established pursuant to  
17 section 17b-112l of the general statutes, shall develop a plan to address  
18 strategies to assist at-risk students and reengage individuals identified  
19 as disconnected youth. Such plan shall include, but need not be limited  
20 to, (1) ways in which to identify and address the needs of individuals  
21 who are defined as disconnected youth, (2) identify opportunities for  
22 interagency and cross-branch collaboration and streamlining of  
23 resources at the state and local level, (3) the state-wide expansion and  
24 enhancement of a shared data platform, in collaboration with the  
25 Compass Youth Collaborative, to provide a streamlined way for  
26 community-based providers in the state that serve disconnected youth  
27 to access and share individual-level de-identified data to improve  
28 collaboration, communication, efficiency, transparency and outcomes  
29 over time, and (4) recommendations for improvement to the  
30 Connecticut Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information  
31 Network, established pursuant to section 10a-57g of the general statutes,  
32 to promote data sharing and the retention of data models for purposes  
33 of future comparisons. The advisory board shall collaborate with the  
34 Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and the Connecticut Council  
35 of Small Towns in the development of the plan.

36 (c) Not later than January 1, 2025, the advisory board shall submit the  
37 plan, and any recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the  
38 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,  
39 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

40 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The School of Public Policy at The  
41 University of Connecticut shall conduct a study and comprehensive  
42 asset and capacity mapping for nonprofit organizations in this state to  
43 help support the sharing of information and collaboration between such  
44 nonprofit organizations and the communities they serve. The School of  
45 Public Policy at The University of Connecticut may consult with  
46 nonprofit organizations and philanthropy associations in the state while  
47 conducting such study and mapping.

48 (b) Such study and mapping shall (1) assess the capacity of such

49 nonprofit organizations to assist the state in addressing public needs  
50 and identifying the availability and strength of assets and gaps or  
51 weaknesses of service, (2) provide an effective tool for sharing data,  
52 documents and communication among and between such nonprofit  
53 organizations for the purpose of strengthening such nonprofit  
54 organizations' capacity to serve the residents of the state, (3) provide a  
55 resource for policy makers to determine gaps in services and capacity  
56 and enhance collaboration among different nonprofit organizations  
57 working in the same geographic areas and serving the same target  
58 population, (4) provide information to policy makers on ways in which  
59 to ensure that resources are being invested in areas and populations  
60 with the greatest need, and (5) present data by town, county and state-  
61 wide, as well as by each regional council of government, and include a  
62 summary of the available resources, including nonprofit organizations  
63 and state agencies, to create a database of the state's nonprofit  
64 organizations by target service population, mission and geography.

65 (c) The Department of Consumer Protection and the Secretary of State  
66 shall, upon request of The School of Public Policy at The University of  
67 Connecticut, provide to said school any data necessary to conduct such  
68 study and mapping.

69 (d) (1) Not later than October 1, 2024, The School of Public Policy at  
70 The University of Connecticut shall submit a preliminary report on such  
71 study and mapping to the joint standing committee of the General  
72 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in  
73 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

74 (2) Not later than June 30, 2025, The School of Public Policy at The  
75 University of Connecticut shall submit a final report on such study and  
76 mapping to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
77 having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with  
78 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. Such final report  
79 shall include recommendations, including a model to enhance  
80 collaboration among nonprofit organizations to ensure that state  
81 investments are addressing gaps in services and not contributing to

82 duplicative efforts or competition among nonprofit organizations.

83 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section:

84 (1) "Education records" has the same meaning as provided in 30 CFR  
85 99.3, as amended from time to time;

86 (2) "Personally identifiable information" has the same meaning as  
87 provided in 30 CFR 99.3, as amended from time to time;

88 (3) "Data sharing agreement" means a contract between a local and  
89 regional board of education and a youth service bureau, established  
90 pursuant to section 10-19m of the general statutes, or a juvenile review  
91 board, that establishes the processes and procedures that govern the  
92 sharing and use of education records and personally identifiable  
93 information of students who attend a school under the jurisdiction of  
94 such local or regional board of education for the purpose of engaging in  
95 data analysis of long-term outcomes of students to help improve  
96 available programming, instruction and services; and

97 (4) "Required student data" means information for each student that  
98 includes, but is not limited to, (A) a student's state-assigned student  
99 identifier, (B) the first, middle and last name of a student, (C) a student's  
100 date of birth, (D) demographic information of a student, including, but  
101 not limited to, race, ethnicity and gender, (E) whether a student is (i) a  
102 multilingual learner, (ii) a homeless child or youth, as defined in 42 USC  
103 11434a, as amended from time to time, or (iii) receiving special  
104 education or related services, (F) a student's grade level, (G) a student's  
105 current enrollment status, including active registration, transfer and  
106 withdrawal data, (H) a student's date of graduation or anticipated  
107 graduation year, (I) a student's attendance records, including whether  
108 the student's absences were excused or unexcused, (J) a student's  
109 disciplinary history, including, but not limited to, the type, number and  
110 nature of disciplinary actions, and (K) any additional student  
111 information or data necessary for youth service bureaus to comply with  
112 the provisions of section 10-19m of the general statutes.

113 (b) Not later than October 1, 2024, each local and regional board of  
114 education shall enter into a data sharing agreement with each youth  
115 service bureau, established pursuant to section 10-19m of the general  
116 statutes, or juvenile review board that serves the municipality in which  
117 any student enrolled in a school under the jurisdiction of such board  
118 resides.

119 (c) Each data sharing agreement entered into under this section shall  
120 (1) require the board to provide required student data to the youth  
121 service bureau or juvenile review board on a monthly basis, (2) stipulate  
122 that any disclosure of the education records and personally identifiable  
123 information of a student without the consent of the parent or guardian  
124 of such student is permissible under the data sharing agreement under  
125 the provisions of 34 CFR 99.31(a)(6), as amended from time to time,  
126 provided the purpose of such disclosure is to allow a youth service  
127 bureau or juvenile review board to conduct a study to improve  
128 instruction and assess the effectiveness of state and federally funded  
129 education programs, and (3) allow a youth service bureau or juvenile  
130 review board to (A) share the results of any study described in  
131 subdivision (2) of this subsection with the local or regional board of  
132 education, and (B) utilize the data in such study to help assess long-term  
133 outcomes of the students served by the youth service bureau or juvenile  
134 review board for the purposes of evaluating such youth service bureau's  
135 or juvenile review board's program and service effectiveness, improving  
136 instruction and identifying areas for program improvement.

137 (d) Any data sharing agreement entered into under this section shall  
138 be in accordance with federal and state law, including, but not limited  
139 to, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 USC  
140 1232g, as amended from time to time, and 34 CFR 99.1 et seq.

141 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Not later than September 1, 2024,  
142 the Commissioner of Education shall develop a model data sharing  
143 agreement for use by local and regional boards of education, youth  
144 service bureaus established pursuant to section 10-19m of the general  
145 statutes and juvenile review boards. Such model data sharing

146 agreement shall be in accordance with the provisions of section 3 of this  
147 act. The commissioner shall make such model data sharing agreement  
148 available upon request and on the Internet web site of the Department  
149 of Education.

150       Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Each local and regional board of  
151 education shall include individuals designated by the appropriate  
152 youth service bureau, established pursuant to section 10-19m of the  
153 general statutes, or juvenile review board for which such board has  
154 entered into a data sharing agreement under section 3 of this act, in  
155 school level support meetings and on any attendance review team,  
156 established pursuant to section 10-198c of the general statutes. As used  
157 in this section, "school level support meetings" means a scheduled  
158 meeting of school administrators, teachers, social workers, school  
159 counselors or other school officials to review and discuss student data  
160 related to absenteeism, discipline or mental and behavioral health.

161       Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Not later than October 1, 2024,  
162 the State Board of Education shall enter into a data sharing agreement,  
163 as defined in section 12 of this act, with an association that represents a  
164 network of youth service bureaus in the state to provide required  
165 student data, as defined in section 3 of this act. Such data sharing  
166 agreement shall require the state board to provide such required student  
167 data not later than thirty days after the state board receives such  
168 required student data from each local or regional board of education.

169       Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Any student enrolled in a public  
170 school located in a priority school district, as defined in section 10-266p  
171 of the general statutes, shall be exempt from payment of the lawful  
172 charge for state-owned or state-controlled bus public transportation  
173 service during the two-hour period before the start of the regular school  
174 day and during the four-hour period immediately following the end of  
175 the regular school day, provided such person presents to the fare  
176 inspector, as defined in section 13b-2 of the general statutes, or the  
177 driver of such bus, as applicable, a student identification card issued by  
178 the local or regional board of education for the priority school district in

179 which such student is enrolled, indicating such person's status as a  
180 student.

181 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section:

182 (1) "Dual credit course" means a concurrent enrollment course or a  
183 dual enrollment course for which credit is offered by a local or regional  
184 board of education to students in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, and  
185 for which high school and college credit is awarded;

186 (2) "Concurrent enrollment course" means a dual credit course that is  
187 delivered at a high school by a certified educator employed by a local or  
188 regional board of education; and

189 (3) "Dual enrollment course" means a dual credit course that is  
190 delivered at a public or independent institution of higher education by  
191 a member of the faculty of such institution of higher education.

192 (b) Prior to the establishment of a dual credit course, a local or  
193 regional board of education and a public or independent institution of  
194 higher education shall enter into a memorandum of understanding for  
195 the delivery and awarding of credit for such dual credit course. Such  
196 memorandum of understanding shall ensure that (1) any such dual  
197 credit course aligns with the standards developed by the National  
198 Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships, (2) the educator  
199 employed by a local or regional board of education or faculty member  
200 of such institution of higher education that is teaching such dual credit  
201 course meets the qualifications set forth by the National Alliance of  
202 Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships, (3) the superintendent of schools  
203 attests to the institution of higher education that the educator employed  
204 by the local or regional board of education meets such qualifications  
205 prior to assigning such educator to teach such dual credit course, (4)  
206 such educator completes the same professional development training  
207 that is commensurate with the professional development that a faculty  
208 member at such institution of higher education would complete for such  
209 dual credit course offered at such institution, (5) such institution of  
210 higher education may conduct an evaluation of such dual credit course

211 or the professional development associated with such dual credit  
212 course, (6) students enrolled in such dual credit course complete an  
213 orientation program offered by such institution of higher education, and  
214 (7) any student enrolled in such dual credit course meets the  
215 prerequisites for such dual credit course.

216 Sec. 9. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 10-223e of the  
217 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
218 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

219 (1) "Accountability index" means the score resulting from multiple  
220 student, school or district-level measures, as weighted by the  
221 Department of Education, that (A) shall include the performance index  
222 score and high school graduation rates, including the availability of a  
223 credit recovery program and the number of students who earn credit  
224 and graduate as a result of participation in a credit recovery program,  
225 and (B) may include, but need not be limited to, academic growth over  
226 time, attendance and chronic absenteeism, postsecondary education  
227 and career readiness, enrollment in and graduation from institutions of  
228 higher education and postsecondary education programs, civics and  
229 arts education and physical fitness.

230 Sec. 10. Section 10-74j of the general statutes is repealed and the  
231 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

232 (a) As used in this section, "alternative education" means a school or  
233 program maintained and operated by a local or regional board of  
234 education that is offered to students in a nontraditional educational  
235 setting and addresses the social, emotional, behavioral and academic  
236 needs of such students.

237 (b) A local or regional board of education may provide alternative  
238 education to students, in accordance with guidelines established by the  
239 State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-74k. A local or regional  
240 board of education may use space in an existing school or establish a  
241 new school for the purposes of providing alternative education to  
242 students. Alternative education shall be provided in accordance with



243 the provisions of sections 10-15 and 10-16 and shall be subject to all  
244 federal and state laws governing public schools.

245 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall make available  
246 on its Internet web site information relating to alternative education  
247 offered under this section, including, but not limited to, the purpose,  
248 location, contact information, staff directory and enrollment criteria for  
249 such alternative education.

250 (d) For the school year commencing July 1, 2024, and each school year  
251 thereafter, any local or regional board of education that includes a credit  
252 recovery program as part of its alternative education provided under  
253 this section shall permit any student enrolled in a traditional school  
254 program offered by such board and who is at risk of not graduating to  
255 enroll in such credit recovery program while still enrolled in the  
256 traditional school program.

257 Sec. 11. Section 4-124ll of the general statutes is repealed and the  
258 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

259 (a) On or before July 1, 2023, the Chief Workforce Officer, in  
260 consultation with the Commissioner of Education, the executive  
261 director of the Technical Education and Career System and the Labor  
262 Commissioner, shall develop a model student work release policy. Not  
263 later than July 1, 2023, the Chief Workforce Officer shall report, in  
264 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, regarding such model  
265 student work release policy to the joint standing committees of the  
266 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,  
267 commerce and labor.

268 (b) The Chief Workforce Officer, in consultation with the  
269 Commissioner of Education, may update the model student work  
270 release policy developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section as  
271 needed. The Chief Workforce Officer shall notify each local and regional  
272 board of education of such updated model student work release policy.

273 (c) For the school year commencing July 1, 2024, and each school year

274 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall adopt the  
275 model student work release policy developed pursuant to subsection (a)  
276 of this section or the most recent updated model student work release  
277 policy developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

278 Sec. 12. Section 10-66u of the general statutes is repealed and the  
279 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

280 For the fiscal [years] year ending June 30, 2023, and [June 30, 2024]  
281 each fiscal year thereafter, each regional educational service center shall  
282 [hire] employ an individual to serve as the regional trauma coordinator  
283 for such center. Such individual shall have significant trauma-informed  
284 experience and have completed specific professional training focused  
285 on trauma. The regional trauma coordinator for each such center shall  
286 be responsible for: (1) Developing a trauma-informed care training  
287 program in accordance with the provisions of section 10-66v, (2)  
288 implementing the trauma-informed care training program, (3)  
289 providing technical assistance to the local and regional boards of  
290 education that are members of the regional educational service center in  
291 implementing the trauma-informed care training program, (4) training  
292 school mental health specialists, as defined in section 12 of public act 22-  
293 47, to be the trainers under the trauma-informed care training program,  
294 and (5) ensuring that such trainers are properly training teachers,  
295 administrators, school staff and coaches under the trauma-informed  
296 care training program.

297 Sec. 13. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The executive director of the  
298 Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, or the executive  
299 director's designee, may convene a working group to conduct a review  
300 of and make recommendations regarding the high school graduation  
301 requirements, described in section 10-221a of the general statutes, for  
302 the purpose of identifying those requirements that have the effect of  
303 limiting or restricting the provision of instruction or services to students.

304 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

305 (1) A representative from each of the following organizations,

306 designated by each such organization:

307 (A) The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education;

308 (B) The Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents;

309 (C) The Connecticut PTA;

310 (D) The American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut;

311 (E) The Connecticut Education Association;

312 (F) The Connecticut Association of Schools;

313 (G) The Connecticut Federation of School Administrators;

314 (H) The Connecticut School Counselor Association; and

315 (I) The Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education,  
316 Recreation and Dance;

317 (2) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
318 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
319 relating to education, or the chairpersons' and ranking members'  
320 designees; and

321 (3) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

322 (c) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not  
323 later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy  
324 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

325 (d) The executive director of the Connecticut Association of Boards  
326 of Education, or the executive director's designee, shall serve as the  
327 chairperson of the working group. The chairperson shall schedule the  
328 first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than  
329 sixty days after the effective date of this section.

330 (e) The working group may provide an opportunity for public  
331 comment or seek input from students, parents, educators, boards of

332 education and other education stakeholders while conducting the  
333 review and developing its recommendations under this section.

334 (f) Not later than January 1, 2026, the working group shall submit a  
335 report on its review of such graduation requirements and its  
336 recommendations for revisions to such graduation requirements to the  
337 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
338 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of  
339 section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate  
340 on the date that it submits such report or July 1, 2026, whichever is later.

341 Sec. 14. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The president of the Connecticut  
342 Education Association, or the president's designee, and the president of  
343 the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut, or the president's  
344 designee, may jointly convene a working group to (1) conduct a review  
345 of (A) high school grading policies in use by local and regional boards  
346 of education, and (B) the accountability index, as defined in section 10-  
347 223e of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and the information  
348 and data selected by the Department of Education in the calculation of  
349 accountability index scores for school districts.

350 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

351 (1) A representative from each of the following organizations,  
352 designated by each such organization:

353 (A) The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education;

354 (B) The Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents;

355 (C) The Connecticut PTA;

356 (D) The American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut;

357 (E) The Connecticut Education Association;

358 (F) The Connecticut Association of Schools;

359 (G) The Connecticut Federation of School Administrators;

360 (H) The Connecticut School Counselor Association; and

361 (I) The Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education,  
362 Recreation and Dance;

363 (2) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
364 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
365 relating to education, or the chairpersons' and ranking members'  
366 designees; and

367 (3) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

368 (c) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not  
369 later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy  
370 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

371 (d) The president of the Connecticut Education Association, or the  
372 president's designee, and the president of the American Federation of  
373 Teachers-Connecticut, or the president's designee, shall serve as the  
374 cochairpersons of the working group. The cochairpersons shall jointly  
375 schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not  
376 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

377 (e) The working group may provide an opportunity for public  
378 comment or seek input from students, parents, educators, boards of  
379 education and other education stakeholders while conducting the  
380 review and developing its recommendations under this section.

381 (f) Not later than January 1, 2026, the working group shall submit a  
382 report on its review of such mandates and its recommendations for the  
383 repeal of or amendment to any state mandates and development of a  
384 biennial review process to the joint standing committee of the General  
385 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in  
386 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.  
387 The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such  
388 report or July 1, 2026, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-223e(a)(1)
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-74j
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	4-124ll
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-66u
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To improve school district data systems and practices to identify and support at-risk students and to establish coalitions and partnerships focused on supporting at-risk and disconnected youth.

*[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.]*