



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 5280

LCO No. 1698



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF BILINGUAL EDUCATION
IN CONNECTICUT.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-17g of the 2022 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

4 For the fiscal [years] year ending [June 30, 2016, to] June 30, 2023,
5 [inclusive] and each fiscal year thereafter, the board of education for
6 each local and regional school district that is required to provide a
7 program of bilingual education, pursuant to section 10-17f, may make
8 application to the State Board of Education and shall annually receive,
9 within available appropriations, a grant in an amount equal to the
10 product obtained by multiplying [one million nine hundred sixteen
11 thousand one hundred thirty] three million eight hundred thirty-two
12 thousand two hundred sixty by the ratio which the number of eligible
13 children in the school district bears to the total number of such eligible
14 children state-wide. The board of education for each local and regional
15 school district receiving funds pursuant to this section shall annually,

16 on or before September first, submit to the State Board of Education a
17 progress report which shall include (1) measures of increased
18 educational opportunities for eligible students, including language
19 support services and language transition support services provided to
20 such students, (2) program evaluation and measures of the effectiveness
21 of its bilingual education and English as a second language programs,
22 including data on students in bilingual education programs and
23 students educated exclusively in English as a second language
24 programs, and (3) certification by the board of education submitting the
25 report that any funds received pursuant to this section have been used
26 for the purposes specified. The State Board of Education shall annually
27 evaluate programs conducted pursuant to section 10-17f. For purposes
28 of this section, measures of the effectiveness of bilingual education and
29 English as a second language programs include, but need not be limited
30 to, mastery examination results, under section 10-14n, and graduation
31 and school dropout rates. Any amount appropriated under this section
32 in excess of [one million nine hundred sixteen thousand one hundred
33 thirty] three million eight hundred thirty-two thousand two hundred
34 sixty dollars shall be spent in accordance with the provisions of sections
35 10-17k, 10-17n and 10-66t. Any unexpended funds, as of November first,
36 appropriated to the Department of Education for purposes of providing
37 a grant to a local or regional board of education for the provision of a
38 program of bilingual education, pursuant to section 10-17f, shall be
39 distributed on a pro rata basis to each local and regional board of
40 education receiving a grant under this section. Notwithstanding the
41 provisions of this section, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2009, to
42 June 30, 2023, inclusive, the amount of grants payable to local or regional
43 boards of education for the provision of a program of bilingual
44 education under this section shall be reduced proportionately if the total
45 of such grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for such
46 grants for such year.

47 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) As used in this section:

48 (1) "Dual language program" means any program, including a two-
49 way immersion program or a one-way immersion program, that

50 provides literacy and content instruction to all students through two
51 languages and promotes bilingualism and biliteracy, grade-level
52 academic achievement and socio-cultural competence for all students;

53 (2) "Two-way immersion program" means a dual language program
54 in which two groups of students, one of which is composed of native
55 English speakers and the other of which is composed of native speakers
56 of a single other language, learn together in a systematic way so that
57 both groups become bilingual and biliterate in the two languages; and

58 (3) "One-way immersion program" means a dual language program
59 in which a group of students who speak one language are taught in the
60 students' native language and English throughout the school day.

61 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year
62 thereafter, the Department of Education shall administer a dual
63 language seed grant program that provides grants to local and regional
64 boards of education for the purpose of establishing new or expanding
65 existing dual language programs. The department shall annually award
66 up to five grants to a local or regional board of education, in accordance
67 with the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, and each such grant
68 may be in an amount up to three hundred thousand dollars.

69 (c) A local or regional board of education may submit, at such time
70 and manner as prescribed by the department, an application for a grant
71 under the program. An application shall include a plan for how such
72 grant will be expended.

73 (d) The department shall review all applications for a grant under this
74 section, and may not award a grant unless the plan for the expenditure
75 of the grant included in an application is reviewed and approved by the
76 department. In reviewing an application and expenditure plan and
77 considering whether to award a grant to a local or regional board of
78 education under this section, the department shall give priority to those
79 applications that (1) are submitted by an alliance district or a school
80 district in which twenty per cent or more of the student population is
81 identified as English language learners, (2) include a plan in which such

82 board will be collaborating with an institution of higher education, as
83 defined in section 10a-34 of the general statutes, (3) include a letter of
84 commitment from community partners to collaborate on the
85 development or implementation of the dual language program, (4)
86 include a comprehensive plan to recruit, train and retain dual language
87 program educators through coursework or appropriate professional
88 development, (5) include a plan to provide targeted services for specific
89 student populations of English language learners, (6) provide a dual
90 language program that demonstrates equitable access to high quality
91 instruction for students who are English language learners, and (7)
92 include a plan with strategies for family and community engagement in
93 the development or implementation of the dual language program.

94 (e) A local or regional board of education that receives a grant under
95 the program will have three years to expend the grant in accordance
96 with the provisions of the approved plan. Such board may expend a
97 grant awarded under this section to (1) partner with experts in dual
98 language instruction and programs to develop and incorporate program
99 elements that would serve the student population and the community,
100 (2) create and utilize a variety of approaches to recruit, train and retain
101 dual language program educators, and (3) implement culturally
102 responsive teaching practices that promote equity and social justice in
103 new or existing dual language programs.

104 (f) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of this section
105 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available for
106 expenditure during the next fiscal year.

| | | |
|---|--------------|-------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | July 1, 2022 | 10-17g |
| Sec. 2 | July 1, 2022 | New section |

Statement of Purpose:

To increase the per pupil grant amount for bilingual education and to establish a dual language seed grant program.

[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.]