



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5437

February Session, 2024



AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION MANDATE RELIEF.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) There is established the
2 Educator Professional Development Mandate Review Advisory
3 Council. The council shall advise and provide annual reports to the joint
4 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
5 matters relating to education on the cost and implementation of existing
6 mandates concerning educator professional development and in-service
7 training, as well as the impact of any proposals relating to additions or
8 revisions to such professional development and in-service training.

9 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:

10 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
11 who shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association of Boards
12 of Education;

13 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
14 shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association of Public School
15 Superintendents;

16 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
17 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut

18 Association of Schools;

19 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
20 a representative of the Connecticut Association of School Business
21 Officials;

22 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
23 Representatives, who shall be a member of a local or regional board of
24 education;

25 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
26 a representative of the Connecticut Federation of School
27 Administrators;

28 (7) One appointed by the House chairperson of the joint standing
29 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
30 relating to education, who shall be a paraeducator in a public school in
31 this state;

32 (8) One appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing
33 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
34 relating to education, who shall be a teacher in a public school in this
35 state;

36 (9) One appointed by the House ranking member of the joint standing
37 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
38 relating to education, who shall be a paraeducator in a public school in
39 this state; and

40 (10) One appointed by the Senate ranking member of the joint
41 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
42 matters relating to education, who shall be a teacher in a public school
43 in this state.

44 (c) All initial appointments to the council shall be made not later than
45 August 1, 2024. The initial terms for the members appointed shall
46 terminate on January 31, 2029. Terms following the initial terms shall be
47 for five years. Any member of the council may serve more than one

48 term. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

49 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
50 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the council
51 from among the members of the council. Such chairpersons shall
52 schedule the first meeting of the council, which shall be held not later
53 than October 1, 2024.

54 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
55 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
56 shall serve as administrative staff of the council.

57 (f) Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the council
58 shall develop and submit an annual report on its review of the
59 implementation and cost of existing requirements relating to
60 professional development, as described in sections 10-148a, 10-148b and
61 10-148d of the general statutes, and in-service training, as described in
62 section 10-220a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, on
63 educators and local and regional boards of education. Such annual
64 report shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) a review of all
65 existing professional development and in-service training mandates
66 required by state and federal law, (2) the costs incurred by local and
67 regional boards of education resulting from the provision of such
68 professional development and in-service training, (3) how such
69 professional development and in-service training is being provided and
70 implemented by local and regional boards of education, including who
71 is receiving and completing such professional development and in-
72 service training, and (4) the manner in which and how often such
73 professional development and in-service training is offered and
74 provided. The council shall submit such report, and any
75 recommendations for legislation, to the joint standing committee of the
76 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
77 and the Commissioner of Education, in accordance with the provisions
78 of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

79 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the 2024 supplement to the

80 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
81 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

82 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-
83 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil
84 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or
85 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such
86 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)
87 the nature and the relationship of alcohol and drugs, as defined in
88 section 21a-240, to health and personality development, and procedures
89 for discouraging their abuse, (2) health and mental health risk reduction
90 education that includes, but need not be limited to, the prevention of
91 risk-taking behavior by children and the relationship of such behavior
92 to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, including
93 HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in section 19a-581, violence, teen
94 dating violence, domestic violence and child abuse, (3) school violence
95 prevention, conflict resolution [] and the prevention of and response to
96 youth suicide, [and the identification and prevention of and response to
97 bullying, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10-222d, except that (A)
98 those boards of education that implement any evidence-based model
99 approach that is approved by the Department of Education and is
100 consistent with subsection (c) of section 10-145a, sections 10-222d, 10-
101 222g and 10-222h, subsection (g) of section 10-233c and sections 1 and 3
102 of public act 08-160, shall not be required to provide in-service training
103 on the identification and prevention of and response to bullying, and
104 (B)] provided such school violence prevention training shall be in a
105 manner prescribed in a school security and safety plan, in accordance
106 with the provisions of section 10-222n, (4) cardiopulmonary
107 resuscitation and other emergency life saving procedures, (5) the
108 requirements and obligations of a mandated reporter, (6) the detection
109 and recognition of, and evidence-based structured literacy interventions
110 for, students with dyslexia, as defined in section 10-3d, [(7) culturally
111 responsive pedagogy and practice, including, but not limited to, the
112 video training module relating to implicit bias and anti-bias in the hiring
113 process in accordance with the provisions of section 10-156hh, (8) the

114 principles and practices of social-emotional learning and restorative
115 practices, (9)] (7) the laws governing the implementation of planning
116 and placement team meetings and concerning plans pursuant to Section
117 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to time,
118 [(10)] (8) an annual update of the new state and federal policies
119 concerning special education, recommendations and best practices, and
120 [(11)] (9) emergency response to students who experience a seizure in a
121 school, including, but not limited to, the recognition of the signs and
122 symptoms of seizures, the appropriate steps for seizure first aid,
123 information about seizure action plans for students and, for those
124 authorized to administer medication under section 10-212a, the
125 administration of seizure rescue medication or prescribed electrical
126 stimulation using a Vagus Nerve Stimulator magnet. The manner and
127 frequency of the provision of the information described in subdivisions
128 (1) to (9), inclusive, of this subsection shall be determined by the
129 professional development and evaluation committee, established
130 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, provided such information is
131 provided at least once every five years. Each local or regional board of
132 education shall allow any school paraeducator or noncertified employee
133 to participate, on a voluntary basis, in any in-service training program
134 provided pursuant to this section.

135 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the 2024 supplement to the
136 general statutes, as amended by section 60 of public act 23-167, is
137 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
138 *2025*):

139 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-
140 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil
141 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or
142 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such
143 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)
144 the nature and the relationship of alcohol and drugs, as defined in
145 subdivision (17) of section 21a-240, to health and personality
146 development, and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health
147 and mental health risk reduction education that includes, but need not

148 be limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the
149 relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually
150 transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in
151 section 19a-581, violence, teen dating violence, domestic violence and
152 child abuse, (3) school violence prevention, conflict resolution [,] and the
153 prevention of and response to youth suicide, [and the identification and
154 prevention of and response to bullying, as defined in section 10-222aa,
155 except that those boards of education that implement any evidence-
156 based model approach that is approved by the Department of Education
157 and is consistent with subsection (c) of section 10-145a, subsection (g) of
158 section 10-233c and sections 1 and 3 of public act 08-160, shall not be
159 required to provide in-service training on the identification and
160 prevention of and response to bullying,] (4) cardiopulmonary
161 resuscitation and other emergency life saving procedures, (5) the
162 requirements and obligations of a mandated reporter, and (6) the
163 detection and recognition of, and evidence-based structured literacy
164 interventions for, students with dyslexia, as defined in section 10-3d. [,
165 (7) culturally responsive pedagogy and practice, including, but not
166 limited to, the video training module relating to implicit bias and anti-
167 bias in the hiring process in accordance with the provisions of section
168 10-156hh, and (8) the principles and practices of social-emotional
169 learning and restorative practices.] The manner and frequency of the
170 provision of the information described in subdivisions (1) to (6),
171 inclusive, of this subsection shall be determined by the professional
172 development and evaluation committee, established pursuant to
173 subsection (b) of this section, provided such information is provided at
174 least once every five years. Each local or regional board of education
175 may allow any [paraprofessional] paraeducator or noncertified
176 employee to participate, on a voluntary basis, in any in-service training
177 program provided pursuant to this section.

178 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 10-222d of the general statutes is
179 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
180 *2024*):

181 (b) Each local and regional board of education shall develop and

182 implement a safe school climate plan to address the existence of bullying
183 and teen dating violence in its schools. Such plan shall: (1) Enable
184 students to anonymously report acts of bullying to school employees
185 and require students and the parents or guardians of students to be
186 notified at the beginning of each school year of the process by which
187 students may make such reports, (2) enable the parents or guardians of
188 students to file written reports of suspected bullying, (3) require school
189 employees who witness acts of bullying or receive reports of bullying to
190 orally notify the safe school climate specialist, described in section 10-
191 222k, or another school administrator if the safe school climate specialist
192 is unavailable, not later than one school day after such school employee
193 witnesses or receives a report of bullying, and to file a written report not
194 later than two school days after making such oral report, (4) require the
195 safe school climate specialist to investigate or supervise the
196 investigation of all reports of bullying and ensure that such
197 investigation is completed promptly after receipt of any written reports
198 made under this section and that the parents or guardians of the student
199 alleged to have committed an act or acts of bullying and the parents or
200 guardians of the student against whom such alleged act or acts were
201 directed receive prompt notice that such investigation has commenced,
202 (5) require the safe school climate specialist to review any anonymous
203 reports, except that no disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the
204 basis of an anonymous report, (6) include a prevention and intervention
205 strategy, as defined by section 10-222g, for school employees to deal
206 with bullying and teen dating violence, (7) provide for the inclusion of
207 language in student codes of conduct concerning bullying, (8) require
208 each school to notify the parents or guardians of students who commit
209 any verified acts of bullying and the parents or guardians of students
210 against whom such acts were directed not later than forty-eight hours
211 after the completion of the investigation described in subdivision (4) of
212 this subsection (A) of the results of such investigation, and (B) verbally
213 and by electronic mail, if such parents' or guardians' electronic mail
214 addresses are known, that such parents or guardians may refer to the
215 plain language explanation of the rights and remedies available under
216 sections 10-4a and 10-4b published on the Internet web site of the local

217 or regional board of education pursuant to section 10-222r, (9) require
218 each school to invite the parents or guardians of a student against whom
219 such act was directed to a meeting to communicate to such parents or
220 guardians the measures being taken by the school to ensure the safety
221 of the student against whom such act was directed and policies and
222 procedures in place to prevent further acts of bullying, (10) require each
223 school to invite the parents or guardians of a student who commits any
224 verified act of bullying to a meeting, separate and distinct from the
225 meeting required in subdivision (9) of this subsection, to discuss specific
226 interventions undertaken by the school to prevent further acts of
227 bullying, (11) establish a procedure for each school to document and
228 maintain records relating to reports and investigations of bullying in
229 such school and to maintain a list of the number of verified acts of
230 bullying in such school and make such list available for public
231 inspection, and annually report such number to the Department of
232 Education, and in such manner as prescribed by the Commissioner of
233 Education, (12) direct the development of case-by-case interventions for
234 addressing repeated incidents of bullying against a single individual or
235 recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the same individual that
236 may include both counseling and discipline, (13) prohibit
237 discrimination and retaliation against an individual who reports or
238 assists in the investigation of an act of bullying, (14) direct the
239 development of student safety support plans for students against whom
240 an act of bullying was directed that address safety measures the school
241 will take to protect such students against further acts of bullying, (15)
242 require the principal of a school, or the principal's designee, to notify the
243 appropriate local law enforcement agency when such principal, or the
244 principal's designee, believes that any acts of bullying constitute
245 criminal conduct, (16) prohibit bullying (A) on school grounds, at a
246 school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program
247 whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus
248 or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of
249 education, or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic
250 mobile device owned, leased or used by the local or regional board of
251 education, and (B) outside of the school setting if such bullying (i)

252 creates a hostile environment at school for the student against whom
253 such bullying was directed, or (ii) infringes on the rights of the student
254 against whom such bullying was directed at school, or (iii) substantially
255 disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school, (17)
256 require, at the beginning of each school year, each school to provide all
257 school employees with a written or electronic copy of the school
258 district's safe school climate plan, and (18) require that all school
259 employees annually complete the training described in [section 10-220a
260 or] section 10-222j. The notification required pursuant to subdivision (8)
261 of this subsection and the invitation required pursuant to subdivision
262 (9) of this subsection shall include a description of the response of school
263 employees to such acts and any consequences that may result from the
264 commission of further acts of bullying.

265 Sec. 5. Section 10-233m of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
266 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
267 *1, 2024*):

268 Each local or regional board of education that assigns a school
269 resource officer to any school under the jurisdiction of such board shall
270 enter into a memorandum of understanding with a local law
271 enforcement agency regarding the role and responsibility of such school
272 resource officer. Such memorandum of understanding shall (1) be
273 maintained in a central location in the school district and posted on the
274 Internet web site of the school district and each school in which such
275 school resource officer is assigned, (2) include provisions addressing
276 daily interactions between students and school personnel with school
277 resource officers, and (3) include a graduated response model for
278 student discipline. Any such memorandum of understanding entered
279 into, extended, updated or amended (A) on or after July 1, 2021, shall
280 include a provision that requires all school resource officers to complete,
281 while in the performance of their duties as school resource officers and
282 during periods when such school resource officers are assigned to be at
283 the school, any separate training specifically related to social-emotional
284 learning and restorative practices provided to certified employees of the
285 school pursuant to [sections] section 10-148a₂ [and 10-220a,] and (B) on

286 or after July 1, 2023, shall include provisions specifying a school
287 resource officer's duties concerning, and procedures for, the restraint of
288 students, use of firearms, school-based arrests and reporting of any
289 investigations and behavioral interventions of challenging behavior or
290 conflict that escalates to violence or constitutes a crime, pursuant to the
291 provisions of section 10-233p, provided such provisions are in
292 accordance with any laws or policies concerning the duties of police
293 officers. For the purposes of this section, "school resource officer" means
294 a sworn police officer of a local law enforcement agency who has been
295 assigned to a school pursuant to an agreement between the local or
296 regional board of education and the chief of police of a local law
297 enforcement agency.

298 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 22a-226e of the 2024 supplement to
299 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
300 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

301 (a) (1) On and after January 1, 2014, each commercial food wholesaler
302 or distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor, supermarket,
303 resort or conference center that is located not more than twenty miles
304 from an authorized source-separated organic material composting
305 facility and that generates an average projected volume of not less than
306 one hundred four tons per year of source-separated organic materials
307 shall: (A) Separate such source-separated organic materials from other
308 solid waste; and (B) ensure that such source-separated organic materials
309 are recycled at any authorized source-separated organic material
310 composting facility that has available capacity and that will accept such
311 source-separated organic material.

312 (2) On and after January 1, 2020, each commercial food wholesaler or
313 distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor, supermarket,
314 resort or conference center that is located not more than twenty miles
315 from an authorized source-separated organic material composting
316 facility and that generates an average projected volume of not less than
317 fifty-two tons per year of source-separated organic materials shall: (A)
318 Separate such source-separated organic materials from other solid

319 waste; and (B) ensure that such source-separated organic materials are
320 recycled at any authorized source-separated organic material
321 composting facility that has available capacity and that will accept such
322 source-separated organic material.

323 (3) On and after January 1, 2022, each commercial food wholesaler or
324 distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor, supermarket,
325 resort or conference center that is located not more than twenty miles
326 from either an authorized source-separated organic material
327 composting facility an authorized transfer station or any collection
328 location authorized to receive source-separated organic materials, and
329 that generates an average projected volume of not less than twenty-six
330 tons per year of source-separated organic materials shall: (A) Separate
331 such source-separated organic materials from other solid waste; and (B)
332 ensure that such source-separated organic materials are recycled at any
333 authorized source-separated organic material composting facility that
334 has available capacity and that will accept such source-separated
335 organic material.

336 (4) On and after January 1, 2025, each commercial food wholesaler or
337 distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor, supermarket,
338 resort, conference center or institution that generates an average
339 projected volume of not less than twenty-six tons per year of source-
340 separated organic materials shall: (A) Separate such source-separated
341 organic materials from other solid waste; and (B) ensure that such
342 source-separated organic materials are recycled at any authorized
343 source-separated organic material composting facility that has available
344 capacity and that will accept such source-separated organic material.
345 For the purposes of this section "institution" means any establishment
346 engaged in providing hospitality, entertainment or rehabilitation and
347 health care services, and any hospital [, public or private educational
348 facility] or correctional facility.

349 (5) On and after July 1, 2026, each public or private educational
350 facility that is located not more than twenty miles from either an
351 authorized source-separated organic material composting facility and

352 that generates an average projected volume of not less than twenty-six
353 tons per year of source-separated organic materials shall: (A) Separate
354 such source-separated organic materials from other solid waste; and (B)
355 ensure that such source-separated organic materials are recycled at any
356 authorized source-separated organic material composting facility that
357 has available capacity and that will accept such source-separated
358 organic material.

359 Sec. 7. Section 10-221a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
360 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
361 *1, 2024*):

362 (a) For classes graduating from 1988 to 2003, inclusive, no local or
363 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
364 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily
365 completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than four of which
366 shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics, not fewer than
367 three in social studies, not fewer than two in science, not fewer than one
368 in the arts or vocational education and not fewer than one in physical
369 education.

370 (b) For classes graduating from 2004 to 2022, inclusive, no local or
371 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
372 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily
373 completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than four of which
374 shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics, not fewer than
375 three in social studies, including at least a one-half credit course on
376 civics and American government, not fewer than two in science, not
377 fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and not fewer than
378 one in physical education.

379 (c) [Commencing with] For classes graduating [in] from 2023 [, and
380 for each graduating class thereafter] to 2026, inclusive, no local or
381 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
382 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily
383 completed a minimum of twenty-five credits, including not fewer than:

384 (1) Nine credits in the humanities, including civics and the arts; (2) nine
385 credits in science, technology, engineering and mathematics; (3) one
386 credit in physical education and wellness; (4) one credit in health and
387 safety education, as described in section 10-16b; and (5) one credit in
388 world languages, subject to the provisions of subsection [(h)] (g) of this
389 section. A local or regional board of education may require a student to
390 complete a one credit mastery-based diploma assessment in order to
391 graduate from high school or be granted a diploma.

392 [(d) Commencing with classes graduating in 2025, and for each
393 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education shall
394 permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to
395 any student who has not satisfied the requirements of section 10-221z
396 and not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty-five credits,
397 including not fewer than: (1) Nine credits in the humanities, including
398 civics and the arts; (2) nine credits in science, technology, engineering
399 and mathematics; (3) one credit in physical education and wellness; (4)
400 one credit in health and safety education, as described in section 10-16b;
401 and (5) one credit in world languages, subject to the provisions of
402 subsection (h) of this section. A local or regional board of education may
403 require a student to complete a one credit mastery-based diploma
404 assessment in order to graduate from high school or be granted a
405 diploma.]

406 [(e)] (d) Commencing with classes graduating in 2027, and for each
407 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education shall
408 permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to
409 any student who has not satisfied the requirements of section 10-221z,
410 as amended by this act, and not satisfactorily completed a minimum of
411 twenty-five credits, including not fewer than: (1) Nine credits in the
412 humanities, including civics and the arts; (2) nine credits in science,
413 technology, engineering and mathematics; (3) one credit in physical
414 education and wellness; (4) one credit in health and safety education, as
415 described in section 10-16b; (5) one credit in world languages, subject to
416 the provisions of subsection [(h)] (g) of this section; and (6) one-half
417 credit in personal financial management and financial literacy, which

418 may count towards the requirement described in subdivision (1) or (2)
419 of this subsection or as an elective credit. [A local or regional board of
420 education may require a student to complete a one credit mastery-based
421 diploma assessment in order to graduate from high school or be granted
422 a diploma.]

423 ~~[(f)]~~ (e) Commencing with classes graduating in 2023, and for each
424 graduating class thereafter, local and regional boards of education shall
425 provide adequate student support and remedial services for students
426 beginning in grade seven. Such student support and remedial services
427 shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of the high
428 school graduation requirements described in subsections (c) ~~[to (e),~~
429 ~~inclusive,]~~ and (d) of this section, if such student is unable to
430 satisfactorily complete any of the required courses or exams. Such
431 student support and remedial services shall include, but not be limited
432 to, (1) allowing students to retake courses in summer school or through
433 an on-line course; (2) allowing students to enroll in a class offered at a
434 constituent unit of the state system of higher education, as defined in
435 section 10a-1, pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection ~~[(i)]~~ (h) of this
436 section; (3) allowing students who received a failing score, as
437 determined by the Commissioner of Education, on an end of the school
438 year exam to take an alternate form of the exam; and (4) allowing those
439 students whose individualized education programs state that such
440 students are eligible for an alternate assessment to demonstrate
441 competency on any of the five core courses through success on such
442 alternate assessment.

443 ~~[(g)]~~ (f) Any student who presents a certificate from a physician or
444 advanced practice registered nurse stating that, in the opinion of the
445 physician or advanced practice registered nurse, participation in
446 physical education is medically contraindicated because of the physical
447 condition of such student, shall be excused from the physical education
448 requirement, provided the credit for physical education may be fulfilled
449 by an elective.

450 ~~[(h)]~~ (g) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of

451 the local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of
452 the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject
453 matter of the specified course requirements. The local or regional board
454 of education may permit a student to graduate during a period of
455 expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the
456 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to
457 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student
458 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when the
459 planning and placement team for such student determines the
460 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, a credit
461 shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute class period
462 for each school day of a school year except for a credit or part of a credit
463 toward high school graduation earned (1) at an institution accredited by
464 the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher
465 Education or regionally accredited, (2) through on-line coursework that
466 is in accordance with a policy adopted pursuant to subsection [(i)] (h) of
467 this section, or (3) through a demonstration of mastery based on
468 competency and performance standards, in accordance with guidelines
469 adopted by the State Board of Education.

470 [(i)] (h) Only courses taken in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, and
471 that are in accordance with the state-wide subject matter content
472 standards, adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to section
473 10-4, shall satisfy the graduation requirements set forth in this section,
474 except that a local or regional board of education may grant a student
475 credit (1) toward meeting the high school graduation requirements
476 upon the successful demonstration of mastery of the subject matter
477 content described in this section achieved through educational
478 experiences and opportunities that provide flexible and multiple
479 pathways to learning, including cross-curricular graduation
480 requirements, career and technical education, virtual learning, work-
481 based learning, service learning, dual enrollment and early college,
482 courses taken in middle school, internships and student-designed
483 independent studies, provided such demonstration of mastery is in
484 accordance with such state-wide subject matter content standards; (2)

485 toward meeting a specified course requirement upon the successful
486 completion in grade seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of
487 which corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course
488 requirement in grades nine to twelve, inclusive; (3) toward meeting the
489 high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of
490 a world language course (A) in grade six, seven or eight, (B) through on-
491 line coursework, or (C) offered privately through a nonprofit provider,
492 provided such student achieves a passing grade on an examination
493 prescribed, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of
494 Education and such credits do not exceed four; (4) toward meeting the
495 high school graduation requirement upon achievement of a passing
496 grade on a subject area proficiency examination identified and
497 approved, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of
498 Education, regardless of the number of hours the student spent in a
499 public school classroom learning such subject matter; (5) toward
500 meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful
501 completion of coursework during the school year or summer months at
502 an institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education
503 or Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited. One three-credit
504 semester course, or its equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-
505 half credit for purposes of this section; (6) toward meeting the high
506 school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of on-
507 line coursework, provided the local or regional board of education has
508 adopted a policy in accordance with this subdivision for the granting of
509 credit for on-line coursework. Such a policy shall ensure, at a minimum,
510 that (A) the workload required by the on-line course is equivalent to that
511 of a similar course taught in a traditional classroom setting, (B) the
512 content is rigorous and aligned with curriculum guidelines approved
513 by the State Board of Education, where appropriate, (C) the course
514 engages students and has interactive components, which may include,
515 but are not limited to, required interactions between students and their
516 teachers, participation in on-line demonstrations, discussion boards or
517 virtual labs, (D) the program of instruction for such on-line coursework
518 is planned, ongoing and systematic, and (E) the courses are (i) taught by
519 teachers who are certified in the state or another state and have received

520 training on teaching in an on-line environment, or (ii) offered by
521 institutions of higher education that are accredited by the Board of
522 Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or
523 regionally accredited; or (7) toward meeting the high school graduation
524 requirement upon the successful completion of a credit recovery
525 program approved by the Commissioner of Education.

526 [(j)] (i) A local or regional board of education may offer one-half credit
527 in community service which, if satisfactorily completed, shall qualify for
528 high school graduation credit pursuant to this section, provided such
529 community service is supervised by a certified school administrator or
530 teacher and consists of not less than fifty hours of actual service that may
531 be performed at times when school is not regularly in session and not
532 less than ten hours of related classroom instruction. [For purposes of
533 this section, community service does not include partisan political
534 activities.] The State Board of Education shall assist local and regional
535 boards of education in meeting the requirements of this section. [The
536 State Board of Education shall award a community service recognition
537 award to any student who satisfactorily completes fifty hours or more
538 of community service in accordance with the provisions of this
539 subsection.]

540 [(k)] (j) (1) A local or regional board of education may award a
541 diploma to a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103,
542 which veteran or person served during World War II or the Korean
543 hostilities, as described in section 51-49h, or during the Vietnam Era, as
544 defined in section 27-103, withdrew from high school prior to
545 graduation in order to serve in the armed forces of the United States and
546 did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such service.

547 (2) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma to
548 any person who (A) withdrew from high school prior to graduation to
549 work in a job that assisted the war effort during World War II, December
550 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, inclusive, (B) did not receive a diploma as
551 a consequence of such work, and (C) has been a resident of the state for
552 at least fifty consecutive years.

553 (3) (A) A local or regional board of education under whose
554 jurisdiction a student would otherwise be attending school if such
555 student were not educated under the oversight of the education unit of
556 the Department of Children and Families established pursuant to
557 section 17a-3b, shall award a diploma to any such student seventeen
558 years of age or older who satisfactorily completes the minimum credits
559 required pursuant to this section for students graduating in the year in
560 which such diploma is awarded.

561 (B) If no such local or regional board of education can be identified,
562 the Department of Children and Families shall determine whether a
563 student educated under the oversight of the education unit of the
564 department who is seventeen years of age or older has satisfactorily
565 completed the minimum credits required pursuant to this section for
566 students graduating in the year in which a diploma is sought by such
567 student and the department shall award a diploma to any such student
568 who has met such requirement.

569 [(l)] (k) For the school year commencing July 1, 2012, and each school
570 year thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall create a
571 student success plan for each student enrolled in a public school,
572 beginning in grade six. Such student success plan shall include a
573 student's career and academic choices in grades six to twelve, inclusive.
574 Beginning in grade six, such student success plan shall provide evidence
575 of career exploration in each grade including, but not limited to, careers
576 in manufacturing. The Department of Education shall revise and issue
577 to local and regional boards of education guidance regarding changes
578 to such student success plans. On and after July 1, 2020, in creating such
579 student success plans, consideration shall be given to career and
580 academic choices in computer science, science, technology, engineering
581 and mathematics. On and after July 1, 2021, such student success plans
582 shall be created, if possible, in collaboration with each student and the
583 parent or guardian of such student. On and after July 1, 2022, such
584 student success plans shall, to the extent it does not conflict with the
585 career choices of the student or such student's parent or guardian,
586 include an academic plan that is in compliance with the challenging

587 curriculum policy adopted by the local or regional board of education
588 pursuant to section 10-221x, as amended by this act. On and after July 1,
589 2024, in creating such student success plans, consideration shall be given
590 to enrollment opportunities in the Technical Education and Career
591 System.

592 [(m)] (l) Commencing with classes graduating in 2018, and for each
593 graduating class thereafter, a local or regional board of education may
594 affix the Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy, as described in subsection
595 (f) of section 10-5, to a diploma awarded to a student who has achieved
596 a high level of proficiency in English and one or more foreign languages,
597 as defined in said subsection (f). The local or regional board of education
598 shall include on such student's transcript a designation that the student
599 received the Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy.

600 Sec. 8. Section 10-221z of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
601 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
602 *1, 2024*):

603 (a) No local or regional board of education shall permit any student
604 to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to any student
605 pursuant to section 10-221a, as amended by this act, unless such student
606 has (1) completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, (2)
607 completed and submitted to a public institution of higher education an
608 application for institutional financial aid for students without legal
609 immigration status established pursuant to section 10a-161d, or (3)
610 completed a waiver, in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b)
611 of this section and on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of
612 Education, signed by such minor student's parent or legal guardian or
613 by such student if such student is a legally emancipated minor or
614 eighteen years of age or older.

615 (b) Any waiver completed by a student pursuant to subdivision (3)
616 of subsection (a) of this section shall require the parent, legal guardian
617 or student to affirm that such parent, legal guardian or student
618 understands the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and shall not

619 require the parent, legal guardian or student to state any reasons for
620 choosing not to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or
621 the application for institutional financial aid for students without legal
622 immigration status. On and after March fifteenth of the school year, a
623 principal, school counselor, teacher or other certified educator may
624 complete such waiver on behalf of any student who has not satisfied any
625 of the requirements described in subsection (a) of this section, if such
626 principal, school counselor, teacher or other certified educator affirms
627 that they have made a good faith effort to contact the parent, legal
628 guardian or student about completion of the Free Application for
629 Federal Student Aid or an application for institutional financial aid for
630 students without legal immigration status.

631 (c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any student
632 enrolled in an incorporated or endowed high school or academy
633 approved pursuant to section 10-34 and who is not a resident of the
634 state.

635 Sec. 9. Subsection (b) of section 10-76ll of the 2024 supplement to the
636 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
637 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

638 (b) On or before July 1, 2015, the State Board of Education shall draft
639 a written bill of rights for parents of children receiving special education
640 services to guarantee that the rights of such parents and children are
641 adequately safeguarded and protected during the provision of special
642 education and related services until such children have graduated from
643 high school or at the end of the school year during which such children
644 reaches age twenty-two, whichever occurs first, under this chapter. Such
645 bill of rights shall inform parents of: (1) The right to request
646 consideration of the provision of transition services for a child receiving
647 special education services who is eighteen until such child has
648 graduated from high school or at the end of the school year during
649 which such child reaches age twenty-two, whichever occurs first, (2) the
650 right to receive transition resources and materials from the department
651 and the local or regional board of education responsible for such child,

652 (3) the requirement that the local or regional board of education
653 responsible for such child shall create a student success plan for each
654 student enrolled in a public school, beginning in grade six, pursuant to
655 subsection [(l)] (k) of section 10-221a, as amended by this act, and (4) the
656 right of such child to receive realistic and specific postgraduation goals
657 as part of such child's individualized education program.

658 Sec. 10. Subsection (b) of section 10-221x of the 2024 supplement to
659 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
660 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

661 (b) Each local and regional board of education shall create an
662 academic plan for each student identified under the criteria described in
663 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section. In creating an academic
664 plan for a student, such plan shall be designed to enroll such student in
665 one or more advanced course or programs and allow such student to
666 earn college credit or result in career readiness. Each academic plan shall
667 be aligned with (1) the courses or programs offered by the local or
668 regional board of education, (2) such student's student success plan
669 created pursuant to subsection [(l)] (k) of section 10-221a, as amended
670 by this act, (3) the high school graduation requirements under section
671 10-221a, as amended by this act, and (4) any other policies or standards
672 adopted by the board relating to the eligibility for student enrollment in
673 advanced courses or programs. A student, or the parent or guardian of
674 a student, may decline to implement the provisions of an academic plan
675 created for such student.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2024	10-220a(a)
Sec. 3	July 1, 2025	10-220a(a)
Sec. 4	July 1, 2024	10-222d(b)
Sec. 5	July 1, 2024	10-233m
Sec. 6	July 1, 2024	22a-226e(a)
Sec. 7	July 1, 2024	10-221a

