



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Substitute Bill No. 6573



AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY.

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

1 Section 1. Section 4d-80 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (a) There is established a Commission for Educational Technology
4 within the Department of Administrative Services. The commission
5 shall consist of the following members or their designees: (1) The
6 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the Commissioner of
7 Administrative Services, the Commissioner of Education, the
8 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, the
9 president of The University of Connecticut and the president of the
10 Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, the State Librarian and the
11 Consumer Counsel, (2) one member each representing the Connecticut
12 Conference of Independent Colleges, the Connecticut Association of
13 Boards of Education, the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, the
14 Connecticut Council of Small Towns, [and] the Connecticut Library
15 Association, the Connecticut Association of Public School
16 Superintendents and the Connecticut Educators Computer Association,
17 (3) a secondary school teacher designated by the Connecticut Education
18 Association and an elementary school teacher designated by the
19 American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut, [(3)] (4) four members

20 who represent business or have expertise in information technology,
21 two of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be
22 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives and one of
23 whom shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate,
24 ~~[(4)]~~ (5) one member who is a chief elected official of a municipality, who
25 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, and ~~[(5)]~~ (6) one
26 member who is a representative of small business who shall be
27 appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives. The
28 commission shall convene a meeting at least once during each calendar
29 quarter.

30 (b) The Governor shall appoint a chairperson from among the
31 members of the commission or their designees. Subject to the provisions
32 of chapter 67, and within available appropriations, the commission may
33 appoint an executive director and such other employees as may be
34 necessary for the discharge of the duties of the commission.
35 Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the executive
36 director shall have the option to elect participation in the state
37 employees retirement system, or the alternate retirement program
38 established for eligible employees in higher education or the teachers'
39 retirement system.

40 (c) The commission shall:

41 (1) Be the principal educational technology policy advisor for state
42 government;

43 (2) Develop, oversee and direct the attainment of state-wide
44 technology goals including:

45 (A) Connecting all institutions of higher education, libraries, public
46 elementary and secondary schools, regional educational service centers
47 and other parties through a state-wide high speed, flexible network that
48 will allow for video, voice and data transmission;

49 (B) Wiring all school classrooms and connecting them to the Internet
50 and to the state-wide ~~[high speed]~~ high-speed network through wired,

51 wireless, or any other digital transmission technology providing [high
52 speed] high-speed connectivity;

53 (C) Providing access for all public schools, public libraries and
54 libraries at institutions of higher education to a core set of on-line full
55 text resources and to the ability to purchase collaboratively for other
56 collections in order to maximize buying power;

57 (D) Ensuring, in cooperation with the State Board of Education,
58 competency in computing skills by the sixth grade for all students;

59 (E) Ensuring competency in specific computing skills and the
60 integration of technology into the curriculum for all public school
61 teachers;

62 (F) Ensuring that institutions of higher education offer a wide range
63 of course and degree programs via the Internet and through other
64 synchronous and asynchronous methods;

65 (3) Coordinate the activities of all state agencies, educational
66 institutions and other parties involved in the creation and management
67 of a reliable and secure network that will offer connectivity and allow
68 for the transmission of video, voice and data transmission to every
69 library, school, regional educational service center and institution of
70 higher education;

71 (4) Be the liaison between the Governor and the General Assembly
72 and local, state and federal organizations and entities with respect to
73 educational technology matters;

74 (5) Develop and maintain a long-range plan and make related
75 recommendations for the coordination of educational technology. The
76 plan shall (A) establish clear goals and a strategy for using
77 telecommunications and information technology to improve education,
78 (B) include a professional development strategy to ensure that teachers
79 and faculty know how to use the new technologies to improve
80 education, (C) include an assessment of the telecommunications,

81 hardware, software and other services that will be needed to improve
82 education, and (D) include an evaluation process that monitors progress
83 towards the specified goals;

84 (6) Measure the availability and usage of Internet access sites
85 available to the public, including, but not limited to, those maintained
86 by state and local government agencies, libraries, schools, institutions of
87 higher education, nonprofit organizations, businesses and other
88 organizations and recommend strategies for reducing the disparities in
89 Internet accessibility and usage across the state and among all potential
90 users;

91 (7) Establish methods and procedures to ensure the maximum
92 involvement of members of the public, educators, librarians,
93 representatives of higher education, the legislature and local officials in
94 educational technology matters and organize, as necessary, advisory
95 boards consisting of individuals with expertise in a particular discipline
96 significant to the work of the commission;

97 (8) On or before January [1, 2001, and] first, annually, [thereafter, the
98 commission shall] report, in accordance with section 11-4a, on its
99 activities, progress made in the attainment of the state-wide technology
100 goals as outlined in the long-range plan and any recommendations to
101 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
102 cognizance of matters relating to education and appropriations and the
103 budgets of state agencies, the State Board of Education, and the Board
104 of Regents for Higher Education. The report shall include
105 recommendations for adjustments to the funding formula for grants
106 pursuant to section 10-262n if there are school districts that are at a
107 disadvantage in terms of wiring their schools and the use of technology
108 in their schools;

109 (9) Enter into such contractual agreements, in accordance with
110 established procedures, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions
111 of this section;

112 (10) Take any other action necessary to carry out the provisions of this
113 section.

114 (d) The Commission for Educational Technology may request any
115 office, department, board, commission or other agency of the state to
116 supply such reports, information and assistance as may be necessary or
117 appropriate in order to carry out its duties and requirements.

118 (e) For purposes of this section, educational technology [shall
119 include] includes, but is not [be] limited to: (1) Computer-assisted
120 instruction; (2) information retrieval and data transfer; (3)
121 telecommunications related to voice, data and video transmission of
122 instruction related materials and courses; (4) the development and
123 acquisition of educational software; and (5) the instructional uses of the
124 Internet and other technologies.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2021	4d-80

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsec. (c)(8), the beginning of the first sentence was rewritten for statutory consistency.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*