



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Governor's Bill No. 6866

LCO No. 4034



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:

Request of the Governor Pursuant
to Joint Rule 9

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EDUCATION.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Notwithstanding the provisions of
2 subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section 10-261 of the general statutes,
3 for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, the total
4 population for the town of Mansfield shall be nineteen thousand one
5 hundred sixty-nine for purposes of calculating grants under chapter 172
6 of the general statutes.

7 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 10-71 of the general statutes is
8 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
9 *2025*):

10 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, for the fiscal years
11 ending June 30, 2004, to June 30, 2022, inclusive, and for the fiscal years
12 ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, the amount of the grants
13 payable to towns, regional boards of education or regional educational
14 service centers in accordance with this section shall be reduced

15 proportionately if the total of such grants in such year exceeds the
16 amount appropriated for the purposes of this section for such year.

17 Sec. 3. Subsection (i) of section 10-217a of the general statutes is
18 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
19 *2025*):

20 (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, for the fiscal years
21 ending June 30, 2008, to June 30, [2025] 2027, inclusive, the amount of
22 the grants payable to local or regional boards of education in accordance
23 with this section shall be reduced proportionately if the total of such
24 grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for purposes of
25 this section.

26 Sec. 4. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 10-266m of the
27 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
28 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

29 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, for the fiscal years
30 ending June 30, 2004, to June 30, 2019, inclusive, and for the fiscal [years]
31 year ending June 30, 2024, [and June 30, 2025, inclusive] and each fiscal
32 year thereafter, the amount of transportation grants payable to local or
33 regional boards of education shall be reduced proportionately if the
34 total of such grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for
35 such grants for such year.

36 Sec. 5. Subsection (e) of section 10-66j of the general statutes is
37 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
38 *2025*):

39 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, for the fiscal years
40 ending June 30, 2004, to June 30, 2019, inclusive, and for the fiscal years
41 ending June 30, 2022, to June 30, [2025] 2027, inclusive, the amount of
42 grants payable to regional educational service centers shall be reduced
43 proportionately if the total of such grants in such year exceeds the
44 amount appropriated for such grants for such year.

45 Sec. 6. Subsection (c) of section 10-262i of the general statutes is
46 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
47 *2025*):

48 (c) (1) All aid distributed to a town pursuant to the provisions of this
49 section and section 10-262u shall be expended for educational purposes
50 only and shall be expended upon the authorization of the local or
51 regional board of education and in accordance with the provisions of
52 section 10-262u. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999, and each fiscal
53 year thereafter, and subject to the provisions of subdivision (2) of this
54 subsection, if a town receives an increase in funds pursuant to this
55 section over the amount it received for the prior fiscal year, such
56 increase shall not be used to supplant local funding for educational
57 purposes. The budgeted appropriation for education in any town
58 receiving an increase in funds pursuant to this section shall be not less
59 than the amount appropriated for education for the prior year plus such
60 increase in funds.

61 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year
62 thereafter, if a town receives an increase in funds pursuant to this section
63 over the amount it received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, such
64 increase shall be used for direct supports to classroom instruction that
65 may include, but need not be limited to, evidence-based programs
66 designed to address chronic absenteeism, student disengagement and
67 academic recovery. Any town whose increase is greater than one
68 hundred thousand dollars shall submit, at such time and in such manner
69 as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, a plan to the
70 Department of Education indicating how such increase will be
71 expended in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

72 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The Department of Education
73 shall, within available appropriations, administer a matching grant
74 program to provide support to local and regional boards of education
75 for the implementation of policies relating to the use of personal
76 technology devices in schools. Such support shall include, but not be

77 limited to, training for families about the use of such devices. A local or
78 regional board of education may apply for a grant under this section in
79 a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Education.

80 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) For the fiscal year ending June
81 30, 2027, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Department of Education
82 shall, within available appropriations, administer the Learner
83 Engagement and Attendance Program. Under the program, the
84 department shall provide grants to local and regional boards of
85 education for the purpose of implementing a home visiting program to
86 reduce chronic absenteeism in the school district. A local or regional
87 board of education may submit an application for a grant under this
88 section in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of
89 Education.

90 (b) In awarding grants under the program, the Department of
91 Education shall give priority to those school districts with the highest
92 levels of chronic absenteeism. The department shall award grants to at
93 least ten boards of education in any fiscal year that the department
94 awards grants under the program.

95 (c) Not later than December 31, 2028, and biennially thereafter, the
96 department shall prepare a report on the implementation of the
97 program. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to, an
98 evaluation of the success of the program in each school district that
99 received an award in either of the two prior fiscal years. In preparing
100 such report, the department may consult with organizations that have
101 expertise in reducing chronic absenteeism and increasing student
102 engagement.

103 Sec. 9. Subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of section 10-252a of the
104 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
105 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

106 (b) (1) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (2) of this
107 subsection, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year

108 thereafter, an interdistrict magnet school program operator that is not a
109 local or regional board of education shall be entitled to a grant in an
110 amount equal to the sum of (A) forty-two per cent of the difference
111 between (i) the product of the foundation and its total magnet school
112 program need students, and (ii) the per student amount such operator
113 received under section 10-264l, as amended by this act, for the fiscal year
114 ending June 30, 2024, multiplied by the number of students enrolled in
115 such program for the current fiscal year, [ending June 30, 2025,] and (B)
116 the amount described in subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision.

117 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year
118 thereafter, if (A) the quotient of the sum of the total revenue per pupil
119 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and the total number of such
120 students enrolled in such program of such operator during the fiscal
121 year ending June 30, 2024, is greater than (B) the quotient of the sum of
122 the adjusted total revenue per pupil and the number of such students
123 enrolled in such program of such operator during the current fiscal year,
124 [ending June 30, 2025,] then such operator shall be entitled to a grant in
125 an amount equal to the sum of (i) the amount described in subdivision
126 (1) of this subsection, and (ii) the product of the difference between the
127 amount described in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision and the
128 amount described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision and the total
129 number of students enrolled in such program of such operator during
130 the current fiscal year. [ending June 30, 2025.]

131 (c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year
132 thereafter, an interdistrict magnet school operator that is a local or
133 regional board of education shall be entitled to a grant in an amount
134 equal to the sum of (1) forty-two per cent of the difference between (A)
135 the sum of (i) the sending town adjustment factors for each sending
136 town, and (ii) the product of the number of in-district students enrolled
137 in the interdistrict magnet school program of such board and the per
138 student amount of the grant under section 10-264l, as amended by this
139 act, for an in-district student enrolled in such interdistrict magnet school
140 program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and (B) the appropriate

141 per student amounts, for in-district students and out-of-district
142 students, such operator received under section 10-264l, as amended by
143 this act, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, multiplied by the
144 appropriate numbers of in-district students and out-of-district students
145 enrolled in such program for the current fiscal year, [ending June 30,
146 2025,] and (2) the amount described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision
147 (1) of this subsection.

148 (d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year
149 thereafter, a local or regional board of education that operates a regional
150 agricultural science and technology center shall be entitled to a grant in
151 an amount equal to the sum of (1) forty-two per cent of the difference
152 between (A) the sum of (i) the sending town adjustment factors for each
153 sending town, and (ii) the product of the number of in-district students
154 enrolled in such center and five thousand two hundred, and (B) five
155 thousand two hundred multiplied by the number of students enrolled
156 in such center for the current fiscal year, [ending June 30, 2025,] and (2)
157 the amount described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this
158 subsection.

159 Sec. 10. Subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 10-264l of the
160 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
161 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

162 (c) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year
163 thereafter, each interdistrict magnet school operator shall be paid a
164 grant equal to the amount the operator is entitled to receive under the
165 provisions of section 10-252a, as amended by this act.

166 Sec. 11. Subsections (j) to (m), inclusive, of section 10-264l of the
167 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
168 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

169 (j) (1) After accommodating students from participating districts in
170 accordance with an approved enrollment agreement, an interdistrict
171 magnet school operator that has unused student capacity may enroll

172 directly into its program any interested student. A student from a
173 district that is not participating in an interdistrict magnet school or the
174 interdistrict student attendance program pursuant to section 10-266aa
175 to an extent determined by the Commissioner of Education shall be
176 given preference. The local or regional board of education otherwise
177 responsible for educating such student shall contribute funds to support
178 the operation of the interdistrict magnet school in an amount equal to
179 the per student tuition, if any, charged to participating districts, except
180 (A) for the fiscal [year] years ending June 30, 2025, [and each fiscal year
181 thereafter] to June 30, 2027, inclusive, such per student tuition charged
182 to such participating districts shall not exceed fifty-eight per cent the per
183 student tuition charged during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and
184 (B) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, and each fiscal year
185 thereafter, such per student tuition charged to such participating
186 districts shall not exceed the amount calculated pursuant to subdivision
187 (2) of this subsection.

188 (2) (A) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, the maximum amount
189 of the per student tuition that may be charged to participating districts
190 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, may be adjusted in accordance
191 with any change in the consumer price index for all urban consumers
192 for the preceding two calendar years, less food and energy, as published
193 by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
194 Such adjusted tuition amount shall be published by the Department of
195 Education not later than April 1, 2027.

196 (B) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2029, the per student tuition
197 charged to participating districts shall be the amount calculated
198 pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

199 (C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2030, and each fiscal year
200 thereafter, the maximum amount of the per student tuition that may be
201 charged to participating districts during the prior two fiscal years may
202 be adjusted in accordance with any change in the consumer price index
203 for all urban consumers for the preceding two calendar years, less food

204 and energy, as published by the United States Department of Labor,
205 Bureau of Labor Statistics. Such adjusted amount shall be charged to
206 participating districts for two fiscal years. Such adjusted tuition amount
207 shall be published by the Department of Education not later than April
208 first of the fiscal year prior to when such adjusted tuition amount will
209 be charged.

210 (k) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, and each fiscal year
211 thereafter, any tuition charged to a local or regional board of education
212 by (A) a regional educational service center operating an interdistrict
213 magnet school, (B) the Hartford school district operating the Great Path
214 Academy on behalf of Manchester Community College, or (C) any
215 interdistrict magnet school operator described in section 10-264s, for any
216 student enrolled in kindergarten to grade twelve, inclusive, in such
217 interdistrict magnet school shall be in an amount equal to the difference
218 between (i) the average per pupil expenditure of the magnet school for
219 the prior fiscal year, and (ii) the amount of any per pupil state subsidy
220 calculated under subsection (c) of this section plus any revenue from
221 other sources calculated on a per pupil basis, except for the fiscal [year]
222 years ending June 30, 2025, [and each fiscal year thereafter] to June 30,
223 2027, inclusive, the per student tuition charged to a local or regional
224 board of education shall not exceed fifty-eight per cent the per student
225 tuition charged during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and for the
226 fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, and each fiscal year thereafter, the per
227 student tuition charged to a local or regional board of education shall
228 not exceed the amount calculated pursuant to subdivision (3) of this
229 subsection. If any such board of education fails to pay such tuition, the
230 commissioner may withhold from such board's town or towns a sum
231 payable under section 10-262i in an amount not to exceed the amount of
232 the unpaid tuition to the magnet school and pay such money to the fiscal
233 agent for the magnet school as a supplementary grant for the operation
234 of the interdistrict magnet school program. In no case shall the sum of
235 such tuitions exceed the difference between (I) the total expenditures of
236 the magnet school for the prior fiscal year, and (II) the total per pupil

237 state subsidy calculated under subsection (c) of this section plus any
238 revenue from other sources. The commissioner may conduct a
239 comprehensive financial review of the operating budget of a magnet
240 school to verify such tuition rate.

241 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, and each fiscal year
242 thereafter, a regional educational service center operating an
243 interdistrict magnet school offering a preschool program that is not
244 located in the Sheff region shall charge tuition to the parent or guardian
245 of a child enrolled in such preschool program in an amount up to four
246 thousand fifty-three dollars, except such regional educational service
247 center shall (A) not charge tuition to such parent or guardian with a
248 family income at or below seventy-five per cent of the state median
249 income, [and] (B) for the fiscal [year] years ending June 30, 2025, [and
250 each fiscal year thereafter] to June 30, 2027, inclusive, charge tuition to
251 such parent or guardian in an amount not to exceed fifty-eight per cent
252 of the tuition charged during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and
253 (C) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, and each fiscal year
254 thereafter, charge tuition to such parent or guardian in an amount not
255 to exceed the amount calculated pursuant to subdivision (3) of this
256 subsection. The Department of Education shall, within available
257 appropriations, be financially responsible for any unpaid tuition
258 charged to such parent or guardian with a family income at or below
259 seventy-five per cent of the state median income. The commissioner
260 may conduct a comprehensive financial review of the operating budget
261 of any such magnet school charging such tuition to verify such tuition
262 rate.

263 (3) (A) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, the maximum amount
264 of the tuition that may be charged pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2)
265 of this subsection during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, may be
266 adjusted in accordance with any change in the consumer price index for
267 all urban consumers for the preceding two calendar years, less food and
268 energy, as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau
269 of Labor Statistics. Such adjusted tuition amount shall be published by

270 the Department of Education not later than April 1, 2027.

271 (B) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2029, the amount of the tuition
272 charged pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection shall be
273 the amount calculated pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

274 (C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2030, and each fiscal year
275 thereafter, the maximum amount of the tuition that may be charged
276 pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection during the prior
277 two fiscal years may be adjusted in accordance with any change in the
278 consumer price index for all urban consumers for the preceding two
279 calendar years, less food and energy, as published by the United States
280 Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Such adjusted amount
281 shall be charged pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection
282 for two fiscal years. Such adjusted tuition amount shall be published by
283 the Department of Education not later than April first of the fiscal year
284 prior to when such adjusted tuition amount will be charged.

285 (l) A participating district shall provide opportunities for its students
286 to attend an interdistrict magnet school in a number that is at least equal
287 to the number specified in any written agreement with an interdistrict
288 magnet school operator or in a number that is at least equal to the
289 average number of students that the participating district enrolled in
290 such magnet school during the previous three school years.

291 (m) (1) On or before May 15, 2010, and annually thereafter, each
292 interdistrict magnet school operator shall provide written notification to
293 any school district that is otherwise responsible for educating a student
294 who resides in such school district and will be enrolled in an interdistrict
295 magnet school under the operator's control for the following school
296 year. Such notification shall include (A) the number of any such
297 students, by grade, who will be enrolled in an interdistrict magnet
298 school under the control of such operator, (B) the name of the school in
299 which such student has been placed, and (C) the amount of tuition to be
300 charged to the local or regional board of education for such student.

301 Such notification shall represent an estimate of the number of students
302 expected to attend such interdistrict magnet schools in the following
303 school year, but shall not be deemed to limit the number of students
304 who may enroll in such interdistrict magnet schools for such year.

305 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and each school year
306 thereafter, any interdistrict magnet school operator that is a local or
307 regional board of education and did not charge tuition to another local
308 or regional board of education for the school year commencing July 1,
309 2014, may not charge tuition to such board unless (A) such operator
310 receives authorization from the Commissioner of Education to charge
311 the proposed tuition, and (B) if such authorization is granted, such
312 operator provides written notification on or before September first of
313 the school year prior to the school year in which such tuition is to be
314 charged to such board of the tuition to be charged to such board for each
315 student that such board is otherwise responsible for educating and is
316 enrolled at the interdistrict magnet school under such operator's control,
317 except (i) for the fiscal [year] years ending June 30, 2025, [and each fiscal
318 year thereafter] to June 30, 2027, inclusive, the amount of such tuition
319 charged to such other local or regional board of education shall not
320 exceed fifty-eight per cent the per student tuition charged during the
321 fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and (ii) for the fiscal year ending June
322 30, 2028, and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount of such tuition
323 charged to such other local or regional board of education shall not
324 exceed the amount calculated pursuant to subdivision (3) of this
325 subsection. In deciding whether to authorize an interdistrict magnet
326 school operator to charge tuition under this subdivision, the
327 commissioner shall consider [(i)] (I) the average per pupil expenditure
328 of such operator for each interdistrict magnet school under the control
329 of such operator, and [(ii)] (II) the amount of any per pupil state subsidy
330 and any revenue from other sources received by such operator. The
331 commissioner may conduct a comprehensive financial review of the
332 operating budget of the magnet school of such operator to verify that
333 the tuition is appropriate. The provisions of this subdivision shall not

334 apply to any interdistrict magnet school operator that is a regional
335 educational service center or assisting the state in meeting its obligations
336 pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any
337 related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the
338 Commissioner of Education.

339 (3) (A) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, the maximum amount
340 of the tuition that may be charged to another local or regional board of
341 education during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, may be adjusted
342 in accordance with any change in the consumer price index for all urban
343 consumers for the preceding two calendar years, less food and energy,
344 as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor
345 Statistics. Such adjusted tuition amount shall be published by the
346 Department of Education not later than April 1, 2027.

347 (B) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2029, the amount of the tuition
348 charged to another local or regional board of education shall be the
349 amount calculated pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

350 (C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2030, and each fiscal year
351 thereafter, the maximum amount of the tuition that may be charged to
352 another local or regional board of education during the prior two fiscal
353 years may be adjusted in accordance with any change in the consumer
354 price index for all urban consumers for the preceding two calendar
355 years, less food and energy, as published by the United States
356 Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Such adjusted amount
357 shall be charged to such other local or regional board of education
358 districts for two fiscal years. Such adjusted tuition amount shall be
359 published by the Department of Education not later than April first of
360 the fiscal year prior to when such adjusted tuition amount will be
361 charged.

362 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) Not later than two weeks following an enrollment lottery for
363 an interdistrict magnet school conducted by a magnet school operator,
364 the parent or guardian of a student (A) who will enroll in such

365 interdistrict magnet school in the following school year, or (B) whose
366 name has been placed on a waiting list for enrollment in such
367 interdistrict magnet school for the following school year, shall provide
368 written notification of such prospective enrollment or waiting list
369 placement to the school district in which such student resides and is
370 otherwise responsible for educating such student.

371 Sec. 12. Section 10-264o of the general statutes is repealed and the
372 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

373 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, interdistrict
374 magnet schools that begin operations on or after July 1, 2008, pursuant
375 to the decision in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related
376 stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the Commissioner of
377 Education, may operate without district participation agreements and
378 enroll students from any district through a lottery designated by the
379 commissioner.

380 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, and each fiscal year
381 thereafter, any tuition charged to a local or regional board of education
382 by a regional educational service center or by Goodwin University
383 Magnet Schools operating an interdistrict magnet school assisting the
384 state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in *Sheff v.*
385 *O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect,
386 as determined by the Commissioner of Education, for any student
387 enrolled in kindergarten to grade twelve, inclusive, in such interdistrict
388 magnet school shall be in an amount equal to the difference between (1)
389 the average per pupil expenditure of the magnet school for the prior
390 fiscal year, and (2) the amount of any per pupil state subsidy calculated
391 under subsection (c) of section 10-264l, as amended by this act, plus any
392 revenue from other sources calculated on a per pupil basis, except (A)
393 for the fiscal [year] years ending June 30, 2025, [and each fiscal year
394 thereafter] to June 30, 2027, inclusive, the per student tuition charged to
395 a local or regional board of education shall not exceed fifty-eight per
396 cent of the per student tuition charged during the fiscal year ending June

397 30, 2024, and (B) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, and each fiscal
398 year thereafter, the per student tuition charged to a local or regional
399 board of education shall not exceed the amount calculated pursuant to
400 subsection (e) of this section. If any such board of education fails to pay
401 such tuition, the commissioner may withhold from such board's town
402 or towns a sum payable under section 10-262i in an amount not to
403 exceed the amount of the unpaid tuition to the magnet school and pay
404 such money to the fiscal agent for the magnet school as a supplementary
405 grant for the operation of the interdistrict magnet school program. In no
406 case shall the sum of such tuitions exceed the difference between [(A)]
407 (i) the total expenditures of the magnet school for the prior fiscal year,
408 and [(B)] (ii) the total per pupil state subsidy calculated under
409 subsection (c) of section 10-264l, as amended by this act, plus any
410 revenue from other sources. The commissioner may conduct a
411 comprehensive review of the operating budget of a magnet school to
412 verify such tuition rate.

413 (c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, and each fiscal year
414 thereafter, a regional educational service center or Goodwin University
415 Magnet Schools operating an interdistrict magnet school assisting the
416 state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in *Sheff v.*
417 *O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect,
418 as determined by the Commissioner of Education, and offering a
419 preschool program shall (1) for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2025, to
420 June 30, 2027, inclusive, charge tuition to the parent or guardian of a
421 child enrolled in such preschool program in an amount not to exceed
422 fifty-eight per cent the per child tuition charged during the fiscal year
423 ending June 30, 2024, and (2) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, and
424 each fiscal year thereafter, charge tuition to the parent or guardian of a
425 child enrolled in such preschool program in an amount calculated
426 pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, except such regional
427 educational service center or Goodwin University Magnet Schools shall
428 not charge tuition to such parent or guardian with a family income at or
429 below seventy-five per cent of the state median income. The Department

430 of Education shall, within available appropriations, be financially
431 responsible for any unpaid tuition charged to such parent or guardian
432 with a family income at or below seventy-five per cent of the state
433 median income. The commissioner may conduct a comprehensive
434 financial review of the operating budget of any such magnet school
435 charging such tuition to verify such tuition rate.

436 (d) [For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal year
437 thereafter, any] Any interdistrict magnet school operator described in
438 section 10-264s that offers a preschool program shall (1) for the fiscal
439 years ending June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2027, inclusive, charge tuition to
440 the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in such preschool program in
441 an amount not to exceed fifty-eight per cent the per child tuition charged
442 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and (2) for the fiscal year
443 ending June 30, 2028, and each fiscal year thereafter, charge tuition to
444 the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in such preschool program in
445 an amount calculated pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, except
446 such interdistrict magnet school operator shall not charge tuition to such
447 parent or guardian with a family income at or below seventy-five per
448 cent of the state median income. The Department of Education shall,
449 within available appropriations, be financially responsible for any
450 unpaid tuition charged to such parent or guardian with a family income
451 at or below seventy-five per cent of the state median income. The
452 commissioner may conduct a comprehensive financial review of the
453 operating budget of any such interdistrict magnet school operator
454 charging such tuition to verify such tuition rate.

455 (e) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, the maximum amount
456 of the tuition that may be charged under this section during the fiscal
457 year ending June 30, 2027, may be adjusted in accordance with any
458 change in the consumer price index for all urban consumers for the
459 preceding two calendar years, less food and energy, as published by the
460 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Such
461 adjusted tuition amount shall be published by the Department of
462 Education not later than April 1, 2027.

463 (2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2029, the amount of the tuition
464 charged under this section shall be the amount calculated pursuant to
465 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

466 (3) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2030, and each fiscal year
467 thereafter, the maximum amount of the tuition that may be charged
468 under this section during the prior two fiscal years may be adjusted in
469 accordance with any change in the consumer price index for all urban
470 consumers for the preceding two calendar years, less food and energy,
471 as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor
472 Statistics. Such adjusted amount shall be the tuition amount charged
473 under this section for two fiscal years. Such adjusted tuition amount
474 shall be published by the Department of Education not later than April
475 first of the fiscal year prior to when such adjusted tuition amount will
476 be charged.

477 Sec. 13. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-65 of the general statutes
478 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
479 *1, 2025*):

480 (a) Each local or regional school district operating an agricultural
481 science and technology education center approved by the State Board of
482 Education for program, educational need, location and area to be served
483 shall be eligible for the following grants: (1) In accordance with the
484 provisions of chapter 173, through progress payments in accordance
485 with the provisions of section 10-287i, (A) for projects for which an
486 application was filed prior to July 1, 2011, ninety-five per cent, and (B)
487 for projects for which an application was filed on or after July 1, 2011,
488 eighty per cent of the net eligible costs of constructing, acquiring,
489 renovating and equipping approved facilities to be used exclusively for
490 such agricultural science and technology education center, for the
491 expansion or improvement of existing facilities or for the replacement
492 or improvement of equipment therein, and (2) subject to the provisions
493 of section 10-65b, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and each fiscal
494 year thereafter, a grant equal to the amount such board is entitled to

495 receive under the provisions of section 10-252a, as amended by this act.

496 (b) (1) Each local or regional board of education not maintaining an
497 agricultural science and technology education center shall provide
498 opportunities for its students to enroll in one or more such centers. If a
499 local or regional board of education provided opportunities for students
500 to enroll in more than one center for the school year commencing July 1,
501 2007, such board of education shall continue to provide such
502 opportunities to students in accordance with this subsection.

503 (2) The board of education operating an agricultural science and
504 technology education center may charge, subject to the provisions of
505 section 10-65b, tuition for a school year in an amount not to exceed fifty-
506 nine and two-tenths per cent of the foundation level pursuant to
507 subdivision (9) of section 10-262f, per student for the fiscal year in which
508 the tuition is paid, except that (A) such board may charge tuition for (i)
509 students enrolled under shared-time arrangements on a pro rata basis,
510 and (ii) special education students which shall not exceed the actual
511 costs of educating such students minus the amounts received pursuant
512 to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section and subsection (c) of
513 this section, [and] (B) for the fiscal [year] years ending June 30, 2025,
514 [and each fiscal year thereafter] to June 30, 2027, inclusive, such board
515 may charge such tuition in an amount not to exceed fifty-eight per cent
516 of the amount such board charged during the fiscal year ending June 30,
517 2024, and (C) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, and each fiscal year
518 thereafter, such board may charge such tuition in an amount calculated
519 pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection. Any tuition paid by such
520 board for special education students in excess of the tuition paid for
521 non-special-education students shall be reimbursed pursuant to section
522 10-76g.

523 (3) (A) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, the board of education
524 operating an agricultural science and technology center may adjust the
525 maximum amount of the tuition that may be charged during the fiscal
526 year ending June 30, 2027, in accordance with any change in the

527 consumer price index for all urban consumers for the preceding two
528 calendar years, less food and energy, as published by the United States
529 Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, subject to the
530 provisions of section 10-65b. Such adjusted tuition amount shall be
531 published by the Department of Education not later than April 1, 2027.

532 (B) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2029, the board of education
533 operating an agricultural science and technology center shall charge
534 tuition in an amount equal to the amount calculated pursuant to
535 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

536 (C) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2030, and each fiscal year
537 thereafter, the board of education operating an agricultural science and
538 technology center may adjust the maximum amount of tuition that may
539 be charged during the prior two fiscal years in accordance with any
540 change in the consumer price index for all urban consumers for the
541 preceding two calendar years, less food and energy, as published by the
542 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, subject
543 to the provisions of section 10-65b. Such board shall charge such
544 adjusted amount for two fiscal years. Such adjusted tuition amount shall
545 be published by the Department of Education not later than April first
546 of the fiscal year prior to when such adjusted tuition amount will be
547 charged.

548 Sec. 14. Section 10-221w of the general statutes is repealed and the
549 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

550 (a) As used in this section:

551 (1) "Advanced course or program" means an honors class, advanced
552 placement class, International Baccalaureate program, Cambridge
553 International program, dual enrollment, dual credit, early college or any
554 other advanced or accelerated course or program offered by a local or
555 regional board of education in grades nine to twelve, inclusive; and

556 (2) "Prior academic performance" means the course or courses that a

557 student has taken, the grades received for such course or courses and a
558 student's grade point average.

559 (b) Not later than July 1, 2022, each local and regional board of
560 education shall adopt a policy, or revise an existing policy, concerning
561 the eligibility criteria for student enrollment in an advanced course or
562 program. Such policy shall provide for multiple methods by which a
563 student may satisfy the eligibility criteria for enrollment in an advanced
564 course or program, including, but not limited to, recommendations
565 from teachers, administrators, school counselors or other school
566 personnel. Such eligibility criteria shall not be based exclusively on a
567 student's prior academic performance and any use of a student's prior
568 academic performance shall rely on evidence-based indicators of how a
569 student will perform in an advanced course or program.

570 (c) Any policy adopted or revised and implemented under this
571 section shall be in accordance with guidance provided by the
572 Department of Education.

573 (d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and each fiscal year
574 thereafter, the Commissioner of Education shall, within available
575 appropriations, establish a fee-waiver grant program to expand
576 opportunities for high-need high school students to access advanced
577 courses or programs. A local or regional board of education may apply,
578 in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, for
579 reimbursement for any fees charged to such board for any high-need
580 student who enrolls in an advanced course or program.

581 (e) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and each fiscal year
582 thereafter, the Commissioner of Education may, within available
583 appropriations, pay up to five hundred thousand dollars in a fiscal year
584 to the State Education Resource Center for programming that provides
585 direct support to local and regional boards of education in the
586 articulation and expansion of dual credit courses. In expending such
587 funds under this subsection, the State Education Resource Center shall

588 give priority to providing funds to alliance districts.

589 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) The Department of Education
590 shall, within available appropriations, establish the competitive student
591 support grant program. Under the program, the department shall
592 award grants to municipalities, local and regional boards of education
593 and not-for-profit organizations that are exempt from taxation under
594 Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any
595 subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States,
596 as amended from time to time, for after school, before school, summer
597 and other wrap-around programming for students that prioritize one or
598 more of the following: (1) Academic growth and recovery, (2) mental,
599 social and emotional health, (3) trade, vocational or career education,
600 and (4) building connections and service opportunities within the
601 community.

602 (b) The department shall post an application for participation in the
603 program on the department's Internet web site every two years. In
604 considering whether to award a grant under the program, the
605 department shall give priority to those applications that include
606 programming that (1) utilizes evidence-based interventions and models,
607 (2) contains identifiable and measurable outcomes, (3) demonstrates a
608 need for such programming, and (4) includes the number of students
609 being served by such programming.

610 (c) The department shall award grants for a two-year period.
611 Following such two-year period, the department shall conduct and
612 publish an evaluation of the programming that received grants under
613 the program during such two-year period.

614 (d) The department may reserve up to three per cent of the
615 appropriation for this section for the purposes of administration and
616 evaluation.

617 Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section, "high-
618 dosage tutoring" means tutoring that contains one or more of the

619 following elements:

620 (1) One tutor per group of four or fewer students;

621 (2) Is provided for a minimum of three sessions per week and for at
622 least thirty minutes per tutoring session;

623 (3) Occurs during the regular school day and is not a before or after
624 school program or an at-home, on-demand program;

625 (4) Supplements core academic instruction and does not replace core
626 instruction;

627 (5) Is provided in person by an in-person tutor;

628 (6) Is provided by high-quality tutors that may include certified
629 teachers, paraeducators, community providers, private tutoring
630 providers or other individuals who have received training to provide
631 tutoring services;

632 (7) Uses a high-quality curriculum and instructional materials that
633 are aligned with academic standards and core classroom, grade-level
634 content approved by the State Board of Education;

635 (8) Is data driven and, where applicable, includes state-provided
636 interim assessment blocks and other materials that are aligned with the
637 state's summative assessment;

638 (9) Provides tutors with training and professional learning
639 opportunities throughout the school year; and

640 (10) Requires collaboration between tutors and regular classroom
641 educators to ensure such tutoring is instructionally aligned with
642 classroom content.

643 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and each fiscal year
644 thereafter, the Department of Education shall, within available
645 appropriations, establish a competitive high-dosage tutoring matching

646 grant program for local and regional boards of education to accelerate
647 student learning by supporting the implementation of high-dosage
648 tutoring programs.

649 (c) The Commissioner of Education shall develop an application for
650 local and regional boards of education to apply for grants under this
651 section and shall develop the criteria for reviewing and approving such
652 grant applications. The commissioner may award a grant under this
653 section to any program that provides high-dosage tutoring and such
654 grant shall be for a two-year period.

655 (d) Not later than January 31, 2029, the commissioner shall develop a
656 report on the implementation and outcomes of the competitive high-
657 dosage tutoring matching grant program for the two-year period in
658 which grants were awarded. The commissioner shall submit such report
659 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
660 cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the
661 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

662 (e) The department may retain up to three per cent of the total amount
663 appropriated for the purposes of this section for grant administration,
664 technical assistance and program evaluation purposes.

665 Sec. 17. Section 17a-248g of the general statutes is repealed and the
666 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

667 (a) Subject to the provisions of this section, funds appropriated to the
668 lead agency for purposes of section 17a-248, sections 17a-248b to 17a-
669 248f, inclusive, this section and sections 38a-490a and 38a-516a shall not
670 be used to satisfy a financial commitment for services that would have
671 been paid from another public or private source but for the enactment
672 of said sections, except for federal funds available pursuant to Part C of
673 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1431 et seq.,
674 except that whenever considered necessary to prevent the delay in the
675 receipt of appropriate early intervention services by the eligible child or
676 family in a timely fashion, funds provided under said sections may be

677 used to pay the service provider pending reimbursement from the
678 public or private source that has ultimate responsibility for the payment.

679 (b) Nothing in section 17a-248, sections 17a-248b to 17a-248f,
680 inclusive, this section and sections 38a-490a and 38a-516a shall be
681 construed to permit the Department of Social Services or any other state
682 agency to reduce medical assistance pursuant to this chapter or other
683 assistance or services available to eligible children. Notwithstanding
684 any provision of the general statutes, costs incurred for early
685 intervention services that otherwise qualify as medical assistance that
686 are furnished to an eligible child who is also eligible for benefits
687 pursuant to this chapter shall be considered medical assistance for
688 purposes of payments to providers and state reimbursement to the
689 extent that federal financial participation is available for such services.

690 (c) Providers of early intervention services shall, in the first instance
691 and where applicable, seek payment from all third-party payers prior to
692 claiming payment from the birth-to-three system for services rendered
693 to eligible children, provided, for the purpose of seeking payment from
694 the Medicaid program or from other third-party payers as agreed upon
695 by the provider, the obligation to seek payment shall not apply to a
696 payment from a third-party payer who is not prohibited from applying
697 such payment, and who will apply such payment, to an annual or
698 lifetime limit specified in the third-party payer's policy or contract.

699 (d) The commissioner, in consultation with the Office of Policy and
700 Management and the Insurance Commissioner, shall adopt regulations,
701 pursuant to chapter 54, providing public reimbursement for deductibles
702 and copayments imposed under an insurance policy or health benefit
703 plan to the extent that such deductibles and copayments are applicable
704 to early intervention services.

705 (e) The commissioner shall not charge a fee for early intervention
706 services to the parents or legal guardians of eligible children.

707 (f) With respect to early intervention services rendered prior to June

708 16, 2021, the commissioner shall develop and implement procedures to
709 hold a recipient harmless for the impact of pursuit of payment for such
710 services against lifetime insurance limits.

711 (g) Notwithstanding any provision of title 38a relating to the
712 permissible exclusion of payments for services under governmental
713 programs, no such exclusion shall apply with respect to payments made
714 pursuant to section 17a-248, sections 17a-248b to 17a-248f, inclusive, this
715 section and sections 38a-490a and 38a-516a. Except as provided in this
716 subsection, nothing in this section shall increase or enhance coverages
717 provided for within an insurance contract subject to the provisions of
718 section 10-94f, subsection (a) of section 10-94g, sections 17a-248, 17a-
719 248b to 17a-248f, inclusive, this section, and sections 38a-490a and 38a-
720 516a.

721 [(h) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year
722 thereafter, the commissioner shall make a general administrative
723 payment to providers in the amount of two hundred dollars for each
724 child with an individualized family service plan on the first day of the
725 billing month and whose plan accounts for less than nine hours of
726 service during such billing month, provided at least one service is
727 provided by such provider during such billing month.]

728 Sec. 18. Section 10-183t of the general statutes is repealed and the
729 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

730 (a) The board shall offer one or more health benefit plans to: Any
731 member receiving retirement benefits or a disability allowance from the
732 system; the spouse or surviving spouse of such member, and a disabled
733 dependent of such member if there is no spouse or surviving spouse,
734 provided such member, spouse, surviving spouse, or disabled
735 dependent is participating in Medicare Part A hospital insurance and
736 Medicare Part B medical insurance. The board may offer one or more
737 basic plans, the cost of which to any such member, spouse, surviving
738 spouse or disabled dependent shall be one-third of the basic plan's

739 premium equivalent, and one or more optional plans, provided such
740 member, spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent shall pay one-
741 third of the basic plan's premium equivalent plus the difference in cost
742 between any such basic plans and any such optional plans. The board
743 shall designate those plans which are basic and those plans which are
744 optional for the purpose of determining such cost and the amount to be
745 charged or withheld from benefit payments for such plans. The
746 surviving spouse of a member, or a disabled dependent of a member if
747 there is no surviving spouse, shall not be ineligible for participation in
748 any such plan solely because such surviving spouse or disabled
749 dependent is not receiving benefits from the system. With respect to any
750 person participating in any such plan, the state shall appropriate to the
751 board one-third of the cost of such basic plan or plans, or one-third of
752 the cost of the rate in effect during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998,
753 whichever is greater, except that, for the fiscal years ending June 30,
754 2026, and June 30, 2027, the state shall appropriate twenty-five per cent
755 of the cost of the basic plan.

756 (b) (1) Any member who (A) is receiving retirement benefits or a
757 disability allowance from the system, the spouse or surviving spouse of
758 such member, or a disabled dependent of such member if there is no
759 spouse or surviving spouse, and who is not participating in Medicare
760 Part A hospital insurance and Medicare Part B medical insurance, and
761 (B) meets the state's eligibility criteria for health insurance or is eligible
762 to participate in the group health insurance plan offered by such
763 member's last employing board of education, may fully participate in
764 any or all group health insurance plans maintained for active teachers
765 by such member's last employing board of education, or by the state in
766 the case of a member who was employed by the state, upon payment to
767 such board of education or to the state, as applicable, by such member,
768 spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent, of the premium
769 charged for the member's form of coverage. Such premium shall be no
770 greater than that charged for the same form of coverage for active
771 teachers.

772 (2) The member's spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent
773 shall not be ineligible for participation in any such plan solely because
774 such spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent is not receiving
775 benefits from the system. No person shall be ineligible for participation
776 in such plans for failure to enroll in such plans at the time the member's
777 retirement benefit or disability allowance became effective.

778 (3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to impair or alter the
779 provisions of any collective bargaining agreement relating to the
780 payment by a board of education of group health insurance premiums
781 on behalf of any member receiving benefits from the system. Prior to the
782 cancellation of coverage for any member, spouse, surviving spouse or
783 disabled dependent for failure to pay the required premiums or cost
784 due, the board of education or the state, if applicable, shall notify the
785 Teachers' Retirement Board of its intention to cancel such coverage at
786 least thirty days prior to the date of cancellation. Absent any contractual
787 provisions to the contrary, the payments made pursuant to subsection
788 (c) of this section shall be first applied to any cost borne by the member,
789 spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent participating in any
790 such plan.

791 (4) As used in this subsection, "last employing board of education"
792 means the board of education by which such member was employed
793 when such member filed his or her initial application for retirement, and
794 "health insurance plans" means hospital, medical, major medical, dental,
795 prescription drug or auditory benefit plans that are available to active
796 teachers.

797 (c) (1) On and after July 1, 2022, the board shall pay a subsidy of two
798 hundred twenty dollars, to the board of education or to the state, if
799 applicable, on behalf of any member who is receiving retirement
800 benefits or a disability allowance from the system, the spouse of such
801 member, the surviving spouse of such member, or a disabled dependent
802 of such member if there is no spouse or surviving spouse, who is
803 participating in a health insurance plan maintained by a board of

804 education or by the state, if applicable. Such payment shall not exceed
805 the actual cost of such insurance.

806 (2) With respect to any person participating in any such plan
807 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the state shall appropriate to
808 the board one-third of the cost of the subsidy, except that, for the fiscal
809 [year] years ending June 30, 2013, June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, the
810 state shall appropriate twenty-five per cent of the cost of the subsidy.
811 On and after July 1, 2018, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, and
812 for each fiscal year thereafter, fifty per cent of the total amount
813 appropriated by the state in each such fiscal year for the state's share of
814 the cost of such subsidies shall be paid to the board on or before July
815 first of such fiscal year, and the remaining fifty per cent of such total
816 amount shall be paid to the board on or before December first of such
817 fiscal year.

818 (3) No payment to a board of education pursuant to this subsection
819 may be used to reduce the amount of any premium payment on behalf
820 of any such member, spouse, surviving spouse, or disabled dependent,
821 made by such board pursuant to any agreement in effect on July 1, 1990.
822 On and after July 1, 2022, the board shall pay a subsidy of four hundred
823 forty dollars per month on behalf of the member, spouse or the
824 surviving spouse of such member who: (A) Has attained the normal
825 retirement age to participate in Medicare, (B) is not eligible for Medicare
826 Part A without cost, and (C) contributes at least four hundred forty
827 dollars per month towards his or her medical and prescription drug
828 plan provided by the board of education.

829 (d) The Treasurer shall establish a separate retired teachers' health
830 insurance premium account within the Teachers' Retirement Fund.
831 Commencing July 1, 1989, and annually thereafter all health benefit plan
832 contributions withheld under this chapter in excess of five hundred
833 thousand dollars shall, upon deposit in the Teachers' Retirement Fund,
834 be credited to such account. Interest derived from the investment of
835 funds in the account shall be credited to the account. Funds in the

836 account shall be used for (1) payments to boards of education pursuant
837 to subsection (c) of this section and for payment of premiums on behalf
838 of members, spouses of members, surviving spouses of members or
839 disabled dependents of members participating in one or more health
840 insurance plans pursuant to subsection (a) of this section in an amount
841 equal to the difference between the amount paid pursuant to subsection
842 (a) of this section and the amount paid pursuant to subsection (c) of this
843 section, and (2) payments for professional fees associated with the
844 administration of the health benefit plans offered pursuant to this
845 section. If, during any fiscal year, there are insufficient funds in the
846 account for the purposes of all such payments, the General Assembly
847 shall appropriate sufficient funds to the account for such purpose.

848 (e) (1) Not later than the first business day of February, May, August
849 and November of each year, each employer shall submit to the board, in
850 a format required by the board, any information the board determines
851 to be necessary concerning additions, deletions and premium changes
852 for the health insurance subsidy program described in subsection (c) of
853 this section. Any report received by the board after the due date shall be
854 processed in the following quarterly cycle. An employer's failure to
855 timely submit a quarterly report shall result in a delay of the subsidy for
856 that quarter and the board shall pay the subsidy as a retroactive subsidy,
857 as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

858 (2) Retroactive subsidy payments shall be limited to six months prior
859 to the first day of the month in which the board receives an untimely
860 report that includes newly eligible retired members or dependents. The
861 board shall pay the subsidy retroactively to the effective date of the
862 disability, provided any eligible members or dependents are added to
863 the report not later than the first quarter following the board's approval
864 of the disability and the member's disability allowance is initiated
865 within four months of board approval. The employer shall hold any
866 member or dependent harmless for any costs associated with, arising
867 from or out of the loss of the benefit of the subsidy as a result of the
868 employer's untimely or inaccurate filing of the quarterly report.

869 Sec. 19. Section 32 of public act 24-78 is repealed and the following is
870 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

871 (a) As part of Early Start CT, the Commissioner of Early Childhood
872 shall establish a state-funded competitive program in which contracts
873 are entered into with nonprofit agencies and local and regional boards
874 of education, which are federal Head Start grant recipients, to assist in
875 (1) establishing extended-day and full-day, year-round, Head Start
876 programs or expanding existing Head Start programs to extended-day
877 or full-day, year-round programs, (2) enhancing program quality, (3)
878 increasing the number of children served in those programs that are
879 both Head Start and Early Head Start grant recipients or delegates, (4)
880 increasing the number of Early Head Start children served above those
881 who are federally funded, and (5) increasing the hours for children
882 currently receiving Early Head Start services. Nonprofit agencies or
883 boards of education seeking contracts pursuant to this section shall
884 make application to the commissioner on such forms and at such times
885 as the commissioner shall prescribe. The commissioner shall include
886 contract provisions that mandate at least twenty-five per cent of the
887 funding for such contracts shall be for the purpose of enhancing
888 program quality. All contracts entered into under this section shall be
889 funded within the limits of available appropriations or otherwise from
890 federal funds and private donations. All Head Start programs funded
891 pursuant to this section shall be in compliance with federal Head Start
892 program performance standards.

893 (b) The Commissioner may, within available appropriations, allocate
894 funds pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to Head Start on Housing
895 in a manner consistent with the objectives of such funds.

896 Sec. 20. Subsection (a) of section 10-500 of the general statutes is
897 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
898 *2025*):

899 (a) There is established an Office of Early Childhood. The office shall

900 be under the direction of the Commissioner of Early Childhood, whose
 901 appointment shall be made by the Governor. Such appointment shall be
 902 in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-8, inclusive. The
 903 commissioner shall be responsible for implementing the policies and
 904 directives of the office. The commissioner shall have the authority to
 905 designate any employee as his or her agent to exercise all or part of the
 906 authority, powers and duties of the commissioner in his or her absence.
 907 [Said office shall be within the Department of Education for
 908 administrative purposes only.]

909 Sec. 21. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) Sections 7-127d to 7-127g, inclusive, of
 910 the general statutes are repealed.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-71(d)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-217a(i)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-266m(a)(4)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-66j(e)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-262i(c)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-252a(b) to (d)
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-264l(c)(1)
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-264l(j) to (m)
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-264o
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-65(a) and (b)
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-221w
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	17a-248g
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	10-183t
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	PA 24-78, Sec. 32
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-500(a)
Sec. 21	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

[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.]