



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 6882

LCO No. 5579



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING MANDATE RELIEF.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Department of Education
2 shall develop a biennial review process to examine the laws governing
3 education in the general statutes and regulations of Connecticut state
4 agencies for the purpose of identifying obsolete or duplicative mandates
5 on the department or local and regional boards of education. The
6 department may provide an opportunity for public comment or seek
7 input from students, parents, educators, boards of education and other
8 education stakeholders while conducting such review. Not later than
9 January 1, 2024, and every two years thereafter, the Commissioner of
10 Education shall submit a report that includes recommendations for the
11 repeal or revision of such obsolete or duplicative mandates to the joint
12 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
13 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
14 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

15 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) There is established an Education
16 Mandates Review Task Force. The task force shall be responsible for

17 reviewing mandates on the Department of Education and local and
18 regional boards of education in the general statutes, regulations of
19 Connecticut state agencies and federal law for the purpose of
20 identifying those mandates which are overly burdensome or have the
21 effect of limiting or restricting the provision of instruction or services to
22 students. The task force shall provide a detailed analysis of each such
23 mandate so identified, including the specific statutory or regulation
24 citation for such mandate and how such mandate is imposed on the
25 department or board of education. The task force may provide
26 recommendations for the repeal of or amendment to any such statute or
27 regulation.

28 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

29 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
30 who shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association of Boards
31 of Education;

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

35 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
36 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut
37 Education Association;

38 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
39 a representative of the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut;

40 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
41 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut
42 Association of Schools;

43 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
44 a representative of the Connecticut Association of School Business
45 Officials;

46 (7) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing

47 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
48 relating to education; and

49 (8) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

50 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
51 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
52 of the General Assembly.

53 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
54 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
55 be filled by the appointing authority.

56 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
57 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
58 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
59 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
60 days after the effective date of this section.

61 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
62 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
63 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

64 (g) Not later than February 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a report
65 on its review and analysis of such mandates, and any recommendations
66 for repeal of or amendment to such mandates, to the joint standing
67 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
68 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
69 of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
70 submits such report or July 1, 2024, whichever is later.

71 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is
72 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
73 *2023*):

74 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-
75 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil
76 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or

77 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such
78 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)
79 the nature and the relationship of alcohol and drugs, as defined in
80 subdivision (17) of section 21a-240, to health and personality
81 development, and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health
82 and mental health risk reduction education that includes, but need not
83 be limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the
84 relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually
85 transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in
86 section 19a-581, violence, teen dating violence, domestic violence and
87 child abuse, (3) school violence prevention, conflict resolution, the
88 prevention of and response to youth suicide and the identification and
89 prevention of and response to bullying, as defined in subsection (a) of
90 section 10-222d, except that (A) those boards of education that
91 implement any evidence-based model approach that is approved by the
92 Department of Education and is consistent with subsection (c) of section
93 10-145a, sections 10-222d, 10-222g and 10-222h, subsection (g) of section
94 10-233c and sections 1 and 3 of public act 08-160, shall not be required
95 to provide in-service training on the identification and prevention of
96 and response to bullying, and (B) such school violence prevention
97 training be in a manner prescribed in a school security and safety plan,
98 in accordance with the provisions of section 10-222n, (4)
99 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other emergency life saving
100 procedures, (5) the requirements and obligations of a mandated
101 reporter, (6) the detection and recognition of, and evidence-based
102 structured literacy interventions for, students with dyslexia, as defined
103 in section 10-3d, (7) culturally responsive pedagogy and practice,
104 including, but not limited to, the video training module relating to
105 implicit bias and anti-bias in the hiring process in accordance with the
106 provisions of section 10-156hh, and (8) the principles and practices of
107 social-emotional learning and restorative practices. Each local or
108 regional board of education may allow any [paraprofessional]
109 paraeducator or noncertified employee to participate, on a voluntary
110 basis, in any in-service training program provided pursuant to this
111 section.

112 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 10-221a of the general statutes is
 113 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
 114 *passage*):

115 (c) Commencing with classes graduating in 2023, and for each
 116 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education shall
 117 permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to
 118 any student who has not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty-
 119 five credits, including not fewer than: (1) Nine credits in the humanities,
 120 including civics and the arts; (2) nine credits in science, technology,
 121 engineering and mathematics; (3) one credit in physical education and
 122 wellness; (4) one credit in health and safety education, as described in
 123 section 10-16b; and (5) one credit in world languages, subject to the
 124 provisions of subsection (g) of this section. [; and (6) a one credit
 125 mastery-based diploma assessment.]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-220a(a)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	10-221a(c)

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) require the Department of Education to conduct a review of the education laws every two years to identify obsolete and duplicative mandates on the department and boards of education; (2) establish the Education Mandates Review Task Force to review and make recommendations concerning the repeal of or amendment to education mandates that are overly burdensome; (3) align existing in-service training requirements concerning school violence prevention training with those required under school security and safety plans; and (4) eliminate the completion of a capstone project as part of the high school graduation requirements.

[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.]