



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5348

February Session, 2024



AN ACT CONCERNING PARAEDUCATORS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) Any person hired by a local
2 or regional board of education as a paraeducator shall have (1) earned a
3 secondary school diploma, or its equivalent, and (2) (A) completed at
4 least two years of study at an institution of higher education, (B) earned
5 at least an associate degree from an institution of higher education, or
6 (C) achieved a satisfactory score, as determined by the Commissioner of
7 Education, on a paraeducator assessment approved by the
8 commissioner. Each paraeducator shall be under the direct supervision
9 of a teacher or other certified or licensed professional and be a member
10 of an exclusive bargaining unit representing paraeducators.

11 (b) A paraeducator shall be responsible for providing assistance and
12 support in one or more areas including, but not limited to, (1) classroom
13 management, (2) instruction, (3) translation, bilingual instruction and
14 other language supports, (4) one-on-one tutoring, and (5) services
15 mandated by a student's individualized education program or plan
16 pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended
17 from time to time.

18 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-66r of the general statutes is

19 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
20 *2024*):

21 (a) Each regional educational service center shall develop, in
22 consultation with the Department of Education, a regional model for the
23 provision of special education services related to transportation,
24 training and therapeutic services to be used for the provision of such
25 special education services to all school districts served by such regional
26 educational service center. Each regional model shall take into account
27 the least restrictive environment for students receiving special
28 education and related services and include (1) a regional transportation
29 plan, developed in consultation with public transit districts, that
30 provides transportation to children requiring special education and
31 related services, (2) a regional educator training plan that provides
32 special education training to teachers, [school paraprofessionals]
33 paraeducators and administrators that includes, but need not be limited
34 to, instruction regarding classroom techniques to improve the provision
35 of special education and related services to children and the
36 implementation of scientific research-based interventions, (3) a regional
37 plan for the provision of therapeutic services, including, but not limited
38 to, speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy, and (4)
39 a plan for the provision of transportation, training and therapeutic
40 services in a manner that makes such services readily available to each
41 school district served by the regional educational service center rather
42 than by request of a school district.

43 Sec. 3. Section 10-74q of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
44 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
45 *1, 2024*):

46 (a) Not later than July 1, 2024, the Department of Education, in
47 consultation with the Departments of Developmental Services and
48 Aging and Disability Services and the regional educational service
49 centers, shall develop a training program for transition coordinators,
50 educators and [school paraprofessionals] paraeducators. Such training
51 program shall comply with the minimum standards established by the

52 State-wide Transition Services Coordinator pursuant to section 10-74o.

53 (b) Each regional educational service center shall provide the training
54 program developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section at no cost
55 to transition coordinators, educators and [school paraprofessionals]
56 paraeducators who provide transition services and any other educators
57 or school staff interested in becoming a transition coordinator or
58 providing transition services.

59 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 10-74r of the 2024 supplement to the
60 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
61 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

62 (b) Each educator and [school paraprofessional] paraeducator who
63 provides special education for students fourteen years of age or older
64 shall complete the training program developed by the Department of
65 Education pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-74q, as amended by
66 this act, provided (1) each such educator and [school paraprofessional]
67 paraeducator hired prior to the date upon which the training program
68 commences shall complete such training program during the five-year
69 period immediately following such date, and (2) each such educator and
70 [school paraprofessional] paraeducator hired after such date shall
71 complete such training program not later than one year from the date
72 such educator or [school paraprofessional] paraeducator is hired to
73 provide such services.

74 Sec. 5. Subdivision (10) of subsection (a) of section 10-76d of the 2024
75 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
76 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

77 (10) (A) Each local and regional board of education responsible for
78 providing special education and related services to a child or pupil shall
79 notify the parent or guardian of a child who requires or who may
80 require special education, a pupil if such pupil is an emancipated minor
81 or eighteen years of age or older who requires or who may require
82 special education or a surrogate parent appointed pursuant to section

83 10-94g, in writing, at least five school days before such board proposes
84 to, or refuses to, initiate or change the child's or pupil's identification,
85 evaluation or educational placement or the provision of a free
86 appropriate public education to the child or pupil.

87 (B) Upon request by a parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent,
88 the responsible local or regional board of education shall provide such
89 parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent an opportunity to meet with
90 a member of the planning and placement team designated by such
91 board prior to the referral planning and placement team meeting at
92 which the assessments and evaluations of the child or pupil who
93 requires or may require special education is presented to such parent,
94 guardian, pupil or surrogate parent for the first time. Such meeting shall
95 be for the sole purpose of discussing the planning and placement team
96 process and any concerns such parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate
97 parent has regarding the child or pupil who requires or may require
98 special education.

99 (C) Such parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent shall (i) be given
100 at least five school days' prior notice of any planning and placement
101 team meeting conducted for such child or pupil, (ii) have the right to be
102 present at and participate in all portions of such meeting at which an
103 educational program for such child or pupil is developed, reviewed or
104 revised, (iii) have the right to have (I) advisors of such person's own
105 choosing and at such person's own expense, (II) the [school
106 paraprofessional] paraeducator assigned to such child or pupil, if any,
107 (III) such child or pupil's birth-to-three service coordinator, if any, and
108 (IV) a language interpreter, including a registered interpreter for
109 persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind, who is present in
110 person or available by telephone or through an online technology
111 platform, or through an Internet web site or other electronic application
112 approved by the State Board of Education, provided by the responsible
113 local or regional board of education if there is an apparent need or upon
114 the request of such parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent, who
115 shall attend and participate or be available in all portions of such

116 meeting at which an educational program for such child or pupil is
117 developed, reviewed or revised, and (iv) have the right to have each
118 recommendation made in such child or pupil's birth-to-three
119 individualized transition plan, as required by section 17a-248e, if any,
120 addressed by the planning and placement team during such meeting at
121 which an educational program for such child or pupil is developed.

122 (D) Immediately upon the formal identification of any child as a child
123 requiring special education and at each planning and placement team
124 meeting for such child, the responsible local or regional board of
125 education shall inform the parent or guardian of such child or surrogate
126 parent or, in the case of a pupil who is an emancipated minor or eighteen
127 years of age or older, the pupil of (i) the laws relating to special
128 education, (ii) the rights of such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or
129 pupil under such laws and the regulations adopted by the State Board
130 of Education relating to special education, including the right of a
131 parent, guardian or surrogate parent to (I) withhold from enrolling such
132 child in kindergarten, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-
133 184, (II) have advisors and the [school paraprofessional] paraeducator
134 assigned to such child or pupil attend and participate in all portions of
135 such meeting at which an educational program for such child or pupil
136 is developed, reviewed or revised, in accordance with the provisions of
137 subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, (III) obtain the plain language
138 resources available on the Department of Education's Internet web site
139 pursuant to subsection (g) of section 10-76h explaining the hearing and
140 appeals process, as provided in section 10-76h, available to such child or
141 pupil if there is a disagreement about the individualized education
142 program, identification, evaluation or educational placement of or the
143 provision of a free appropriate public education to such child or pupil,
144 and (IV) receive information regarding free and low-cost legal
145 assistance, and (iii) any relevant information and resources relating to
146 individualized education programs created by the Department of
147 Education, including, but not limited to, information relating to
148 transition resources and services for high school students and the
149 Parent's Guide to Special Education in Connecticut developed by the

150 department. If such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil does not
151 attend a planning and placement team meeting, the responsible local or
152 regional board of education shall mail such information to such person.
153 Each responsible local or regional board of education shall provide a
154 child or pupil's individualized education program, any documents
155 relating to such program and all the information required pursuant to
156 this subparagraph translated into the primary language spoken by such
157 parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil if there is an apparent need
158 or upon the request of the parent guardian, surrogate parent or pupil.

159 (E) Each local and regional board of education shall have in effect at
160 the beginning of each school year an educational program for each child
161 or pupil who has been identified as eligible for special education, and
162 shall provide (i) the informational handout described in section 10-74v
163 to each child with an individualized education program or plan
164 pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and (ii) the
165 Parent's Guide to Special Education in Connecticut developed by the
166 Department of Education and the rights and resources available to such
167 child in the provision of special education and related services.

168 (F) (i) At each initial planning and placement team meeting for a child
169 or pupil, the responsible local or regional board of education shall
170 inform the parent, guardian, surrogate parent or pupil of the laws
171 relating to physical restraint and seclusion pursuant to section 10-236b,
172 as amended by this act, and the rights of such parent, guardian,
173 surrogate parent or pupil under such laws and the regulations adopted
174 by the State Board of Education relating to physical restraint and
175 seclusion and the right of such parent, guardian, surrogate parent or
176 pupil, during such meeting at which an educational program for such
177 child or pupil is developed, to have (I) such child or pupil's birth-to-
178 three service coordinator attend and participate in all portions of such
179 meeting, and (II) each recommendation made in the transition plan, as
180 required by section 17a-248e, by such child or pupil's birth-to-three
181 service coordinator addressed by the planning and placement team.

182 (ii) At the first planning and placement team meeting after a child

183 who requires special education and related services reaches the age of
184 fourteen, each responsible local or regional board of education shall
185 provide information to the child and the parent, guardian or surrogate
186 parent about the full range of decision-making supports, including
187 alternatives to guardianship and conservatorship, and the online
188 resource developed by the Department of Education pursuant to section
189 10-74s. The responsible local or regional board of education shall
190 continue to provide such information to the child and the parent,
191 guardian or surrogate parent at least annually thereafter.

192 (iii) Each responsible local or regional board of education shall
193 provide the notice created by the Mediation Services Coordinator
194 pursuant to subdivision (7) of subsection (a) of section 10-76z to each
195 parent, guardian or surrogate parent of any child who requires special
196 education by (I) distributing such notice to such parents, guardians or
197 surrogate parents at the beginning of each school year, and (II) reading
198 such notice out loud at the conclusion of the first planning and
199 placement team meeting at the beginning of each school year.

200 (G) Upon request by a parent, guardian, pupil or surrogate parent,
201 the responsible local or regional board of education shall provide the
202 results of the assessments and evaluations used in the determination of
203 eligibility for special education for a child or pupil to such parent,
204 guardian, surrogate parent or pupil at least three school days before the
205 referral planning and placement team meeting at which such results of
206 the assessments and evaluations will be discussed for the first time.

207 (H) Each local or regional board of education shall monitor the
208 development of each child who, pursuant to subsection (a) of section
209 17a-248e, has been (i) referred for a registration on a mobile application
210 designated by the Commissioner of Early Childhood, in partnership
211 with such child's parent, guardian or surrogate parent, or (ii) provided
212 a form for such child's parent, guardian or surrogate parent to complete
213 and submit to such local or regional board of education that screens for
214 developmental and social-emotional delays using a validated screening
215 tool, such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire and the Ages and Stages

216 Social-Emotional Questionnaire, or its equivalent. If such monitoring
217 results in suspecting a child of having a developmental delay, the board
218 shall schedule a planning and placement team meeting with such child's
219 parent, guardian or surrogate parent for the purposes of identifying
220 services for which such child may be eligible, including, but not limited
221 to, a preschool program under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities
222 Act, 20 USC 1471 et seq. If a parent, guardian or surrogate parent of any
223 child referred for a registration on the mobile application or provided a
224 form to complete and submit, pursuant to subsection (a) of section 17a-
225 248e, fails to complete such registration or complete and submit such
226 form after a period of six months from the date of such referral or
227 provision of such form, the board shall send a reminder, in the form and
228 manner determined by the board, to such parent, guardian or surrogate
229 parent to complete such registration or complete and submit such form.
230 The board shall send another reminder after a period of one year from
231 such referral or provision of such form if such registration remains
232 incomplete or such form is not submitted.

233 (I) Prior to any planning and placement team meeting for a child or
234 pupil in which an educational program for such child or pupil is
235 developed, reviewed or revised, if the parent, guardian, pupil or
236 surrogate parent has requested that the [school paraprofessional]
237 paraeducator assigned to such child or pupil attend such meeting, then
238 the responsible local or regional board of education shall provide (i)
239 adequate notice of such meeting to such [school paraprofessional]
240 paraeducator so that such [school paraprofessional] paraeducator may
241 adequately prepare for such meeting, and (ii) training, upon request of
242 such [school paraprofessional] paraeducator, on the role of such [school
243 paraprofessional] paraeducator at such meeting. Following such
244 meeting, such [school paraprofessional] paraeducator, or any other
245 paraprofessional who is providing special education or related services
246 to such child, shall review such educational program with a supervisor,
247 as needed, and be permitted to view such educational program in order
248 to be able to provide special education or related services to such child
249 or pupil in accordance with such educational program.

250 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 10-145t of the general statutes is
251 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
252 *2024*):

253 (a) For purposes of this section, "school support staff" means any
254 person employed by a local or regional board of education as a behavior
255 analyst or an assistant behavior analyst, as such terms are defined in
256 section 20-185i, an athletic coach, as defined in section 10-149d, or a
257 [school paraprofessional] paraeducator.

258 Sec. 7. Section 10-155j of the general statutes is repealed and the
259 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

260 The Department of Education shall, within available appropriations,
261 promote and encourage professional development activities for [school
262 paraprofessionals] paraeducators with instructional responsibilities.
263 Such activities may include, but shall not be limited to, providing local
264 and regional boards of education with training modules and curricula
265 for professional development for [paraprofessionals] paraeducators and
266 assisting boards of education in the effective use of [paraprofessionals]
267 paraeducators and the development of strategies to improve
268 communications between teachers and [paraprofessionals]
269 paraeducators in the provision of effective student instruction.

270 Sec. 8. Section 10-155k of the general statutes is repealed and the
271 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

272 On and after July 1, 2013, the Commissioner of Education shall
273 establish a School Paraprofessional Advisory Council, which on and
274 after July 1, 2021, shall be known as the School Paraeducator Advisory
275 Council, consisting of (1) one [school paraprofessional] paraeducator
276 from each state-wide bargaining representative organization that
277 represents [school paraprofessionals] paraeducators with instructional
278 responsibilities, (2) one representative from each of the exclusive
279 bargaining units for certified employees, chosen pursuant to section 10-
280 153b, (3) the most recent recipient of the Connecticut [Paraprofessional]

281 Paraeducator of the Year Award, (4) two representatives from the
282 regional educational service centers, appointed by the Commissioner of
283 Education, and (5) a school administrator, appointed by the Connecticut
284 Federation of School Administrators. The council shall hold quarterly
285 meetings and advise, at least quarterly, the Commissioner of Education,
286 or the commissioner's designee, of the needs for (A) professional
287 development and the training of [paraprofessionals] paraeducators and
288 the effectiveness of the content and the delivery of existing training for
289 such [paraprofessionals] paraeducators, (B) appropriate staffing
290 strategies for [paraprofessionals] paraeducators, and (C) other relevant
291 issues relating to [paraprofessionals] paraeducators. The council shall
292 report, annually, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on
293 the recommendations given to the commissioner, or the commissioner's
294 designee, pursuant to the provisions of this section, to the joint standing
295 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
296 relating to education.

297 Sec. 9. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-156gg of the 2024
298 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
299 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

300 (2) "Minority candidate" means an individual who is a minority and
301 employed by a local or regional board of education as a [school
302 paraprofessional] paraeducator or an associate instructor;

303 Sec. 10. Section 10-212a of the general statutes is repealed and the
304 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

305 (a) (1) A school nurse or, in the absence of such nurse, any other nurse
306 licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 378, including a nurse
307 employed by, or providing services under the direction of a local or
308 regional board of education at, a school-based health clinic, who shall
309 administer medical preparations only to students enrolled in such
310 school-based health clinic in the absence of a school nurse, the principal,
311 any teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational
312 therapist employed by a school district, or coach of intramural and

313 interscholastic athletics of a school may administer, subject to the
314 provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection, medicinal preparations,
315 including such controlled drugs as the Commissioner of Consumer
316 Protection may, by regulation, designate, to any student at such school
317 pursuant to the written order of a physician licensed to practice
318 medicine, or a dentist licensed to practice dental medicine in this or
319 another state, or an optometrist licensed to practice optometry in this
320 state under chapter 380, or an advanced practice registered nurse
321 licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a, or a physician
322 assistant licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-12d, and the
323 written authorization of a parent or guardian of such child. The
324 administration of medicinal preparations by a nurse licensed pursuant
325 to the provisions of chapter 378, a principal, teacher, licensed athletic
326 trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a
327 school district, or coach shall be under the general supervision of a
328 school nurse. No such school nurse or other nurse, principal, teacher,
329 licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist
330 employed by a school district, coach or [school paraprofessional]
331 paraeducator administering medication pursuant to this section shall be
332 liable to such student or a parent or guardian of such student for civil
333 damages for any personal injuries that result from acts or omissions of
334 such school nurse or other nurse, principal, teacher, licensed athletic
335 trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by a
336 school district, coach or [school paraprofessional] paraeducator
337 administering medication pursuant to this section in administering such
338 preparations that may constitute ordinary negligence. This immunity
339 does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton
340 negligence.

341 (2) Each local and regional board of education that allows a school
342 nurse or, in the absence of such nurse, any other nurse licensed pursuant
343 to the provisions of chapter 378, including a nurse employed by, or
344 providing services under the direction of a local or regional board of
345 education at, a school-based health clinic, who shall administer medical
346 preparations only to students enrolled in such school-based health clinic

347 in the absence of a school nurse, the principal, any teacher, licensed
348 athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by
349 a school district, coach of intramural and interscholastic athletics or
350 [school paraprofessional] paraeducator of a school to administer
351 medicine or that allows a student to possess, self-administer or possess
352 and self-administer medicine, including medicine administered
353 through the use of an asthmatic inhaler or an automatic prefilled
354 cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment, shall adopt
355 written policies and procedures, in accordance with this section and the
356 regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, that shall
357 be approved by the school medical advisor, if any, or other qualified
358 licensed physician. Once so approved, such administration of
359 medication shall be in accordance with such policies and procedures.

360 (3) A director of a school readiness program as defined in section 10-
361 16p or a before or after school program exempt from licensure by the
362 Department of Public Health pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection
363 (b) of section 19a-77, or the director's designee, may administer
364 medications to a child enrolled in such a program in accordance with
365 regulations adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with
366 the provisions of chapter 54. No individual administering medications
367 pursuant to this subdivision shall be liable to such child or a parent or
368 guardian of such child for civil damages for any personal injuries that
369 result from acts or omissions of such individual in administering such
370 medications which may constitute ordinary negligence. This immunity
371 shall not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton
372 negligence.

373 (b) Each school wherein any controlled drug is administered under
374 the provisions of this section shall keep such records thereof as are
375 required of hospitals under the provisions of subsections (f) and (h) of
376 section 21a-254 and shall store such drug in such manner as the
377 Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall, by regulation, require.

378 (c) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
379 Commissioner of Public Health, shall adopt regulations, in accordance

380 with the provisions of chapter 54, determined to be necessary by the
381 board to carry out the provisions of this section, including, but not
382 limited to, regulations that (1) specify conditions under which a coach
383 of intramural and interscholastic athletics may administer medicinal
384 preparations, including controlled drugs specified in the regulations
385 adopted by the commissioner, to a child participating in such intramural
386 and interscholastic athletics, (2) specify conditions and procedures for
387 the administration of medication by school personnel to students,
388 including, but not limited to, (A) the conditions and procedures for the
389 storage and administration of epinephrine by school personnel to
390 students for the purpose of emergency first aid to students who
391 experience allergic reactions and who do not have a prior written
392 authorization for the administration of epinephrine, in accordance with
393 the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section, and (B)
394 the conditions and procedures for the storage and administration of
395 opioid antagonists by school personnel to students who experience an
396 opioid-related drug overdose and who do not have a prior written
397 authorization for the administration of an opioid antagonist, in
398 accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of
399 this section, and (3) specify conditions for the possession, self-
400 administration or possession and self-administration of medication by
401 students, including permitting a child diagnosed with: (A) Asthma to
402 retain possession of an asthmatic inhaler at all times while attending
403 school for prompt treatment of the child's asthma and to protect the
404 child against serious harm or death provided a written authorization for
405 self-administration of medication signed by the child's parent or
406 guardian and an authorized prescriber is submitted to the school nurse;
407 and (B) an allergic condition to retain possession of an automatic
408 prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable equipment at
409 all times, including while attending school or receiving school
410 transportation services, for prompt treatment of the child's allergic
411 condition and to protect the child against serious harm or death
412 provided a written authorization for self-administration of medication
413 signed by the child's parent or guardian and an authorized prescriber is
414 submitted to the school nurse. The regulations shall require

415 authorization pursuant to: (i) The written order of a physician licensed
416 to practice medicine in this or another state, a dentist licensed to practice
417 dental medicine in this or another state, an advanced practice registered
418 nurse licensed under chapter 378, a physician assistant licensed under
419 chapter 370, a podiatrist licensed under chapter 375, or an optometrist
420 licensed under chapter 380; and (ii) the written authorization of a parent
421 or guardian of such child.

422 (d) (1) (A) With the written authorization of a student's parent or
423 guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order of a qualified medical
424 professional, a school nurse and a school medical advisor, if any, may
425 jointly approve and provide general supervision to an identified [school
426 paraprofessional] paraeducator to administer medication, including,
427 but not limited to, medication administered with a cartridge injector, to
428 a specific student with a medically diagnosed allergic condition that
429 may require prompt treatment in order to protect the student against
430 serious harm or death.

431 (2) A school nurse or, in the absence of a school nurse, a qualified
432 school employee shall maintain epinephrine in cartridge injectors for the
433 purpose of emergency first aid to students who experience allergic
434 reactions and do not have a prior written authorization of a parent or
435 guardian or a prior written order of a qualified medical professional for
436 the administration of epinephrine. A school nurse or a school principal
437 shall select qualified school employees to administer such epinephrine
438 under this subdivision, and there shall be at least one such qualified
439 school employee on the grounds of the school during regular school
440 hours in the absence of a school nurse. A school nurse or, in the absence
441 of such school nurse, such qualified school employee may administer
442 such epinephrine under this subdivision, provided such administration
443 of epinephrine is in accordance with policies and procedures adopted
444 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such administration of
445 epinephrine by a qualified school employee shall be limited to situations
446 when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. No qualified school
447 employee shall administer such epinephrine under this subdivision

448 unless such qualified school employee annually completes the training
449 program described in section 10-212g. The parent or guardian of a
450 student may submit, in writing, to the school nurse and school medical
451 advisor, if any, that epinephrine shall not be administered to such
452 student under this subdivision.

453 (3) In the case of a student with a medically diagnosed life-
454 threatening allergic condition, (A) with the written authorization of
455 such student's parent or guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order
456 of a qualified medical professional, such student may possess, self-
457 administer or possess and self-administer medication, including, but
458 not limited to, medication administered with a cartridge injector, to
459 protect such student against serious harm or death.

460 (4) For purposes of this subsection, (A) "cartridge injector" means an
461 automatic prefilled cartridge injector or similar automatic injectable
462 equipment used to deliver epinephrine in a standard dose for
463 emergency first aid response to allergic reactions, (B) "qualified school
464 employee" means a principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed
465 physical or occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach
466 or [school paraprofessional] paraeducator, and (C) "qualified medical
467 professional" means (i) a physician licensed under chapter 370, (ii) an
468 optometrist licensed to practice optometry under chapter 380, (iii) an
469 advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance
470 with section 20-94a, or (iv) a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in
471 accordance with section 20-12d.

472 (e) (1) With the written authorization of a student's parent or
473 guardian, and (2) pursuant to a written order of the student's physician
474 licensed under chapter 370 or the student's advanced practice registered
475 nurse licensed under chapter 378, a school nurse or a school principal
476 shall select, and a school nurse shall provide general supervision to, a
477 qualified school employee to administer medication with injectable
478 equipment used to administer glucagon to a student with diabetes that
479 may require prompt treatment in order to protect the student against
480 serious harm or death. Such authorization shall be limited to situations

481 when the school nurse is absent or unavailable. No qualified school
482 employee shall administer medication under this subsection unless (A)
483 such qualified school employee annually completes any training
484 required by the school nurse and school medical advisor, if any, in the
485 administration of medication with injectable equipment used to
486 administer glucagon, (B) the school nurse and school medical advisor,
487 if any, have attested, in writing, that such qualified school employee has
488 completed such training, and (C) such qualified school employee
489 voluntarily agrees to serve as a qualified school employee. For purposes
490 of this subsection, "injectable equipment used to administer glucagon"
491 means an injector or injectable equipment used to deliver glucagon in
492 an appropriate dose for emergency first aid response to diabetes. For
493 purposes of this subsection, "qualified school employee" means a
494 principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or
495 occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or [school
496 paraprofessional] paraeducator.

497 (f) (1) (A) With the written authorization of a student's parent or
498 guardian, and (B) pursuant to the written order of a physician licensed
499 under chapter 370 or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed
500 under chapter 378, a school nurse and a school medical advisor, if any,
501 shall select, and a school nurse shall provide general supervision to, a
502 qualified school employee to administer antiepileptic medication,
503 including by rectal syringe, to a specific student with a medically
504 diagnosed epileptic condition that requires prompt treatment in
505 accordance with the student's individual seizure action plan. Such
506 authorization shall be limited to situations when the school nurse is
507 absent or unavailable. No qualified school employee shall administer
508 medication under this subsection unless (i) such qualified school
509 employee annually completes the training program described in
510 subdivision (2) of this subsection, (ii) the school nurse and school
511 medical advisor, if any, have attested, in writing, that such qualified
512 school employee has completed such training, (iii) such qualified school
513 employee receives monthly reviews by the school nurse to confirm such
514 qualified school employee's competency to administer antiepileptic

515 medication under this subsection, and (iv) such qualified school
516 employee voluntarily agrees to serve as a qualified school employee. For
517 purposes of this subsection, "qualified school employee" means a
518 principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or
519 occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or [school
520 paraprofessional] paraeducator.

521 (2) The Department of Education, in consultation with the School
522 Nurse Advisory Council, established pursuant to section 10-212f, and
523 the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut, shall develop an
524 antiepileptic medication administrating training program. Such training
525 program shall include instruction in (A) an overview of childhood
526 epilepsy and types of seizure disorders, (B) interpretation of individual
527 student's emergency seizure action plan and recognition of individual
528 student's seizure activity, (C) emergency management procedures for
529 seizure activity, including administration techniques for emergency
530 seizure medication, (D) when to activate emergency medical services
531 and postseizure procedures and follow-up, (E) reporting procedures
532 after a student has required such delegated emergency seizure
533 medication, and (F) any other relevant issues or topics related to
534 emergency interventions for students who experience seizures.

535 (g) (1) A school nurse or, in the absence of a school nurse, a qualified
536 school employee may maintain opioid antagonists for the purpose of
537 emergency first aid to students who experience an opioid-related drug
538 overdose and do not have a prior written authorization of a parent or
539 guardian or a prior written order of a qualified medical professional for
540 the administration of such opioid antagonist. A school nurse or a school
541 principal shall select qualified school employees to administer such
542 opioid antagonist under this subdivision, and there shall be at least one
543 such qualified school employee on the grounds of the school during
544 regular school hours in the absence of a school nurse. A school nurse or,
545 in the absence of such school nurse, such qualified school employee may
546 administer such opioid antagonist under this subdivision, provided
547 such administration of the opioid antagonist is in accordance with

548 policies and procedures adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of this
549 section. Such administration of an opioid antagonist by a qualified
550 school employee shall be limited to situations when the school nurse is
551 absent or unavailable. No school nurse or qualified school employee
552 shall administer such opioid antagonist under this subdivision unless
553 such school nurse or qualified school employee completes a training
554 program in the distribution and administration of an opioid antagonist
555 developed by the Department of Education, Department of Public
556 Health and the Department of Consumer Protection, or under an
557 agreement entered into pursuant to section 21a-286. The parent or
558 guardian of a student may submit a request, in writing, to the school
559 nurse and school medical advisor, if any, that an opioid antagonist shall
560 not be administered to such student under this subdivision.

561 (2) Not later than October 1, 2022, the Department of Education, in
562 consultation with the Departments of Consumer Protection and Public
563 Health, shall develop guidelines for use by local and regional boards of
564 education on the storage and administration of opioid antagonists in
565 schools in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

566 (3) For purposes of this subsection, (A) "opioid antagonist" means
567 naloxone hydrochloride or any other similarly acting and equally safe
568 drug approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for the
569 treatment of a drug overdose, (B) "qualified school employee" means a
570 principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or
571 occupational therapist employed by a school district, coach or [school
572 paraprofessional] paraeducator, and (C) "qualified medical
573 professional" means (i) a physician licensed under chapter 370, (ii) an
574 optometrist licensed to practice optometry under chapter 380, (iii) an
575 advanced practice registered nurse licensed to prescribe in accordance
576 with section 20-94a, or (iv) a physician assistant licensed to prescribe in
577 accordance with section 20-12d.

578 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the 2024 supplement to
579 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
580 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

581 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-
582 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil
583 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or
584 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such
585 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)
586 the nature and the relationship of alcohol and drugs, as defined in
587 section 21a-240, to health and personality development, and procedures
588 for discouraging their abuse, (2) health and mental health risk reduction
589 education that includes, but need not be limited to, the prevention of
590 risk-taking behavior by children and the relationship of such behavior
591 to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, including
592 HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in section 19a-581, violence, teen
593 dating violence, domestic violence and child abuse, (3) school violence
594 prevention, conflict resolution, the prevention of and response to youth
595 suicide and the identification and prevention of and response to
596 bullying, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10-222d, as amended by
597 this act, except that (A) those boards of education that implement any
598 evidence-based model approach that is approved by the Department of
599 Education and is consistent with subsection (c) of section 10-145a,
600 sections 10-222d, as amended by this act, 10-222g and 10-222h,
601 subsection (g) of section 10-233c and sections 1 and 3 of public act 08-
602 160, shall not be required to provide in-service training on the
603 identification and prevention of and response to bullying, and (B) such
604 school violence prevention training shall be in a manner prescribed in a
605 school security and safety plan, in accordance with the provisions of
606 section 10-222n, (4) cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other emergency
607 life saving procedures, (5) the requirements and obligations of a
608 mandated reporter, (6) the detection and recognition of, and evidence-
609 based structured literacy interventions for, students with dyslexia, as
610 defined in section 10-3d, (7) culturally responsive pedagogy and
611 practice, including, but not limited to, the video training module
612 relating to implicit bias and anti-bias in the hiring process in accordance
613 with the provisions of section 10-156hh, (8) the principles and practices
614 of social-emotional learning and restorative practices, (9) the laws
615 governing the implementation of planning and placement team

616 meetings and concerning plans pursuant to Section 504 of the
617 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to time, (10) an annual
618 update of the new state and federal policies concerning special
619 education, recommendations and best practices, and (11) emergency
620 response to students who experience a seizure in a school, including,
621 but not limited to, the recognition of the signs and symptoms of
622 seizures, the appropriate steps for seizure first aid, information about
623 seizure action plans for students and, for those authorized to administer
624 medication under section 10-212a, as amended by this act, the
625 administration of seizure rescue medication or prescribed electrical
626 stimulation using a Vagus Nerve Stimulator magnet. Each local or
627 regional board of education shall allow any [school] paraeducator or
628 noncertified employee to participate, on a voluntary basis, in any in-
629 service training program provided pursuant to this section.

630 Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the 2024 supplement to
631 the general statutes, as amended by section 60 of public act 23-167, is
632 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
633 *2025*):

634 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-
635 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil
636 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or
637 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such
638 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)
639 the nature and the relationship of alcohol and drugs, as defined in
640 [subdivision (17) of] section 21a-240, to health and personality
641 development, and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health
642 and mental health risk reduction education that includes, but need not
643 be limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the
644 relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually
645 transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in
646 section 19a-581, violence, teen dating violence, domestic violence and
647 child abuse, (3) school violence prevention, conflict resolution, the
648 prevention of and response to youth suicide and the identification and

649 prevention of and response to bullying, as defined in section 10-222aa,
650 except that (A) those boards of education that implement any evidence-
651 based model approach that is approved by the Department of Education
652 and is consistent with subsection (c) of section 10-145a, subsection (g) of
653 section 10-233c and sections 1 and 3 of public act 08-160, shall not be
654 required to provide in-service training on the identification and
655 prevention of and response to bullying, and (B) such school violence
656 prevention training shall be in a manner prescribed in a school security
657 and safety plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-222n, (4)
658 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other emergency life saving
659 procedures, (5) the requirements and obligations of a mandated
660 reporter, (6) the detection and recognition of, and evidence-based
661 structured literacy interventions for, students with dyslexia, as defined
662 in section 10-3d, (7) culturally responsive pedagogy and practice,
663 including, but not limited to, the video training module relating to
664 implicit bias and anti-bias in the hiring process in accordance with the
665 provisions of section 10-156hh, [and] (8) the principles and practices of
666 social-emotional learning and restorative practices, (9) the laws
667 governing the implementation of planning and placement team
668 meetings and concerning plans pursuant to Section 504 of the
669 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to time, (10) an annual
670 update of the new state and federal policies concerning special
671 education, recommendations and best practices, and (11) emergency
672 response to students who experience a seizure in a school, including,
673 but not limited to, the recognition of the signs and symptoms of
674 seizures, the appropriate steps for seizure first aid, information about
675 seizure action plans for students and, for those authorized to administer
676 medication under section 10-212a, as amended by this act, the
677 administration of seizure rescue medication or prescribed electrical
678 stimulation using a Vagus Nerve Stimulator magnet. Each local or
679 regional board of education may allow any [paraprofessional]
680 paraeducator or noncertified employee to participate, on a voluntary
681 basis, in any in-service training program provided pursuant to this
682 section.

683 Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 10-221o of the general statutes is
684 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
685 *2024*):

686 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each school year
687 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall adopt a
688 policy, as the board deems appropriate, concerning the circumstances
689 when a school employee may prevent or otherwise restrict a student
690 from participating in the entire time devoted to physical exercise in the
691 regular school day, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, as a form
692 of discipline. Such policy shall (1) permit such prevention or restriction
693 (A) when a student poses a danger to the health or safety of other
694 students or school personnel, or (B) when such prevention or restriction
695 is limited to the period devoted to physical exercise that is the shortest
696 in duration if there are two or more periods devoted to physical exercise
697 in a school day, provided the period of time devoted to physical exercise
698 that such student may participate in during such school day is at least
699 twenty minutes in duration, (2) only permit such prevention or
700 restriction once during a school week, unless such student is a danger
701 to the health or safety of other students or school personnel, (3) not
702 include any provisions that such board determines are unreasonably
703 restrictive or punitive, (4) distinguish between (A) discipline imposed
704 prior to the start of such time devoted to physical exercise and discipline
705 imposed during such time devoted to physical exercise, and (B)
706 discipline that (i) prevents or otherwise restricts a student from
707 participating in such time devoted to physical exercise prior to such time
708 devoted to physical exercise, and (ii) methods used to redirect a
709 student's behavior during such time devoted to physical exercise, and
710 (5) not permit such prevention or restriction if a student does not
711 complete such student's work on time or for such student's academic
712 performance. For purposes of this section, "school employee" means (A)
713 a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school
714 superintendent, guidance counselor, school counselor, psychologist,
715 social worker, nurse, physician, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator
716 or coach employed by a local or regional board of education or working

717 in a public elementary, middle or high school; or (B) any other
718 individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular
719 contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of
720 students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high school,
721 pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of education.

722 Sec. 14. Section 10-221u of the general statutes is repealed and the
723 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

724 Not later than October 1, 2013, each local and regional board of
725 education shall adopt a policy, as the board deems appropriate,
726 concerning the issue regarding any school employee being involved in
727 requiring any student enrolled in grades kindergarten to twelve,
728 inclusive, to engage in physical activity as a form of discipline during
729 the regular school day. For purposes of this section, "school employee"
730 means (1) a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school
731 superintendent, guidance counselor, school counselor, psychologist,
732 social worker, nurse, physician, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator
733 or coach employed by a local or regional board of education or working
734 in a public elementary, middle or high school; or (2) any other
735 individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular
736 contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of
737 students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high school,
738 pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of education.

739 Sec. 15. Subdivision (8) of subsection (a) of section 10-222d of the
740 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
741 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

742 (8) "School employee" means (A) a teacher, substitute teacher, school
743 administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, school
744 counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, [school
745 paraprofessional] paraeducator or coach employed by a local or regional
746 board of education or working in a public elementary, middle or high
747 school; or (B) any other individual who, in the performance of his or her
748 duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to

749 or on behalf of students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high
750 school, pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of
751 education;

752 Sec. 16. Subsections (d) to (g), inclusive, of section 10-223e of the
753 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
754 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

755 (d) (1) For those schools classified as category three schools, the
756 department may require such schools to (A) develop and implement
757 plans consistent with this section and federal law to elevate the school
758 from low achieving status, and (B) be the subject of actions as described
759 in the state-wide performance management and support plan, prepared
760 in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of
761 this section.

762 (2) For those schools classified as category three schools, the
763 department may require the local or regional board of education for
764 such schools to collaborate with the regional educational service center
765 that serves the area in which such schools are located to develop plans
766 to ensure such schools provide (A) early education opportunities, (B)
767 summer school, (C) extended school day or year programming, (D)
768 weekend classes, (E) tutorial assistance to their students, or (F)
769 professional development to their administrators, principals, teachers
770 and [paraprofessionals] paraeducators. In requiring any educational
771 program authorized by this subdivision, the Commissioner of
772 Education may limit the offering of such program to the subgroup of
773 students that have failed to reach performance benchmarks or those in
774 transitional or milestone grades or those who are otherwise at
775 substantial risk of educational failure as described in the state-wide
776 performance management and support plan, prepared in accordance
777 with the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section.

778 (e) (1) (A) Any school or school district identified as in need of
779 improvement pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this
780 section and requiring corrective action pursuant to the requirements of

781 the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, shall be designated and
782 listed as a low achieving school or school district and shall be subject to
783 intensified supervision and direction by the State Board of Education.

784 (B) Any school classified as a category four school or category five
785 school or a school designated as a focus school shall be designated as
786 low achieving and shall be subject to intensified supervision and
787 direction by the State Board of Education.

788 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of this title or any regulation
789 adopted pursuant to said title, except as provided in subdivision (3) of
790 this subsection, in carrying out the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
791 subsection and this subdivision, the State Board of Education shall take
792 any of the following actions to improve student performance of the
793 school district, a particular school in the district or among student
794 subgroups, and remove the school or district from the list of schools or
795 districts designated and listed as a low achieving school or district
796 pursuant to said subdivision (1), and to address other needs of the
797 school or district: (A) Require an operations audit to identify possible
798 programmatic savings and an instructional audit to identify any deficits
799 in curriculum and instruction or in the learning environment of the
800 school or district; (B) require the local or regional board of education for
801 such school or district to use state and federal funds for critical needs,
802 as directed by the State Board of Education; (C) provide incentives to
803 attract highly qualified teachers and principals; (D) direct the transfer
804 and assignment of teachers and principals; (E) require additional
805 training and technical assistance for parents and guardians of children
806 attending the school or a school in the district and for teachers,
807 principals, and central office staff members hired by the district; (F)
808 require the local or regional board of education for the school or district
809 to implement model curriculum, including, but not limited to,
810 recommended textbooks, materials and supplies approved by the
811 Department of Education; (G) identify schools for reconstitution, as may
812 be phased in by the commissioner, as state or local charter schools,
813 schools established pursuant to section 10-74g, innovation schools

814 established pursuant to section 10-74h, or schools based on other models
815 for school improvement, or for management by an entity other than the
816 local or regional board of education for the district in which the school
817 is located; (H) direct the local or regional board of education for the
818 school or district to develop and implement a plan addressing deficits
819 in achievement and in the learning environment as recommended in the
820 instructional audit; (I) assign a technical assistance team to the school or
821 district to guide school or district initiatives and report progress to the
822 Commissioner of Education; (J) establish instructional and learning
823 environment benchmarks for the school or district to meet as it
824 progresses toward removal from the list of low achieving schools or
825 districts; (K) provide funding to any proximate district to a district
826 designated as a low achieving school district so that students in a low
827 achieving district may attend public school in a neighboring district; (L)
828 direct the establishment of learning academies within schools that
829 require continuous monitoring of student performance by teacher
830 groups; (M) require a local or regional board of education to (i) undergo
831 training designed to improve the operational efficiency and
832 effectiveness of the board of education as leaders of its district
833 improvement plans by distinguishing and making clear the proper roles
834 and different functions of the board of education, including the
835 responsibility of developing the improvement plans and education
836 policy for the district, and the school and district-level administrators,
837 including the responsibility of implementing such improvement plans
838 and policies, and (ii) submit an annual action plan to the Commissioner
839 of Education outlining how, when and in what manner their
840 effectiveness shall be monitored; (N) require the appointment of (i) a
841 superintendent, approved by the Commissioner of Education, or (ii) a
842 district improvement officer, selected by the commissioner, whose
843 authority is consistent with the provisions of section 138 of public act
844 11-61, and whose term shall be for one school year, except that the State
845 Board of Education may extend such period; or (O) any combination of
846 the actions described in this subdivision or similar, closely related
847 actions.

848 (3) If a directive of the State Board of Education pursuant to
849 subparagraph (C), (D), (E), (G) or (L) of subdivision (2) of this subsection
850 or a directive to implement a plan pursuant to subparagraph (H) of said
851 subdivision (2) affects working conditions, such directive shall be
852 carried out in accordance with the provisions of sections 10-153a to 10-
853 153n, inclusive.

854 (f) The State Board of Education shall monitor the progress of each
855 school or district designated as a low achieving school or district
856 pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of this section and provide
857 notice to the local or regional board of education for each such school or
858 district of the school or district's progress toward meeting the
859 benchmarks established by the State Board of Education pursuant to
860 subsection (e) of this section. If a school or district fails to make
861 acceptable progress toward meeting such benchmarks established by
862 the State Board of Education or fails to make adequate yearly progress
863 pursuant to the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-
864 110, for two consecutive years while designated as a low achieving
865 school district, the State Board of Education, after consultation with the
866 Governor and chief elected official or officials of the district, may (1)
867 request that the General Assembly enact legislation authorizing that
868 control of the district be reassigned to the State Board of Education or
869 other authorized entity, or (2) notwithstanding the provisions of chapter
870 146, any special act, charter or ordinance, grant the Commissioner of
871 Education the authority to reconstitute the local or regional board of
872 education for such school district in accordance with the provisions of
873 subsection (i) of this section.

874 (g) Any school district or elementary school after two successive
875 years of failing to make adequate yearly progress shall be designated as
876 a low achieving school district or school and shall be evaluated by the
877 Commissioner of Education. After such evaluation, the commissioner
878 may require that such school district or school provide full-day
879 kindergarten classes, summer school, extended school day, weekend
880 classes, tutorial assistance to its students or professional development

881 to its administrators, principals, teachers and [paraprofessional teacher
882 aides] paraeducators if (1) on any subpart of the mastery examination
883 administered to students in grade three, pursuant to section 10-14n,
884 thirty per cent or more of the students in any subgroup, as defined by
885 the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, do not achieve the level of
886 proficiency or higher, or (2) the commissioner determines that it would
887 be in the best educational interests of the school or the school district to
888 have any of these programs. In ordering any educational program
889 authorized by this subsection, the commissioner may limit the offering
890 of the program to the subgroup of students that have failed to achieve
891 proficiency as determined by this subsection, those in particular grades
892 or those who are otherwise at substantial risk of educational failure. The
893 costs of instituting the ordered educational programs shall be borne by
894 the identified low achieving school district or the school district in
895 which an identified low achieving school is located. The commissioner
896 shall not order an educational program that costs more to implement
897 than the total increase in the amount of the grant that a town receives
898 pursuant to section 10-262i in any fiscal year above the prior fiscal year.

899 Sec. 17. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 10-223j of the
900 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
901 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

902 (4) The provisions of subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of this
903 subsection shall not apply to a school described in said subdivisions if
904 (A) such school consists of a single grade level, or (B) such school is
905 under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education that has
906 adopted a similar school governance council model on or before July 1,
907 2011, that consists of parents, teachers from each grade level or subject
908 area, administrators and [paraprofessionals] paraeducators and such
909 school governance council model is being administered at such school
910 at the time such school is so identified as in need of improvement or so
911 designated as a low achieving school.

912 Sec. 18. Subsection (o) of section 10-236b of the 2024 supplement to
913 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu

914 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

915 (o) (1) Each local or regional board of education shall provide training
916 regarding the physical restraint and seclusion of students to the
917 members of the crisis intervention team for each school in the district,
918 identified pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. A local or
919 regional board of education may provide such training to any teacher,
920 as defined in section 10-144d, administrator, as defined in section 10-
921 144e, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator or other school employee,
922 as defined in section 10-222d, as amended by this act, designated by the
923 school principal and who has direct contact with students. Such training
924 shall be provided during the school year commencing July 1, 2017, and
925 each school year thereafter, and shall include, but not be limited to:

926 (A) An overview of the relevant laws and regulations regarding the
927 use of physical restraint and seclusion on students and the proper uses
928 of physical restraint and seclusion. For the school year commencing July
929 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, such overview shall be provided by the
930 Department of Education, in a manner and form as prescribed by the
931 Commissioner of Education;

932 (B) The creation of a plan by which each local and regional board of
933 education shall provide training regarding the prevention of incidents
934 requiring physical restraint or seclusion of students. Such plan shall be
935 implemented not later than July 1, 2018. The Department of Education
936 may, within available appropriations, provide ongoing monitoring and
937 support to local or regional boards of education regarding the
938 formulation and implementation of the plan; and

939 (C) The creation of a plan by which each local or regional board of
940 education shall provide training regarding the proper means of physical
941 restraint or seclusion of a student, including, but not limited to, (i)
942 various types of physical restraint and seclusion; (ii) the differences
943 between life-threatening physical restraint and other varying levels of
944 physical restraint; (iii) the differences between permissible physical
945 restraint and pain compliance techniques; and (iv) monitoring methods

946 to prevent harm to a student who is physically restrained or in seclusion.
947 Such plan shall be implemented not later than July 1, 2018;

948 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2017, and each school year
949 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall require each
950 school in the district to identify a crisis intervention team consisting of
951 any teacher, as defined in section 10-144d, administrator, as defined in
952 section 10-144e, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator or other school
953 employee, as defined in section 10-222d, as amended by this act,
954 designated by the school principal and who has direct contact with
955 students. Such teams shall respond to any incident in which the use of
956 physical restraint or seclusion may be necessary as an emergency
957 intervention to prevent immediate or imminent injury to a student or to
958 others. Each member of the crisis intervention team shall be recertified
959 in the use of physical restraint and seclusion pursuant to subparagraph
960 (C) of subdivision (1) of this subsection or chapter 814e on an annual
961 basis. Each local and regional board of education shall maintain a list of
962 the members of the crisis intervention team for each school.

963 Sec. 19. Subsection (o) of section 10-236b of the 2024 supplement to
964 the general statutes, as amended by section 67 of public act 23-167, is
965 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
966 *2025*):

967 (o) (1) Each local or regional board of education shall provide training
968 regarding the physical restraint and seclusion of students to the
969 members of the crisis intervention team for each school in the district,
970 identified pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. A local or
971 regional board of education may provide such training to any teacher,
972 as defined in section 10-144d, administrator, as defined in section 10-
973 144e, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator or other school employee,
974 as defined in section 10-222aa, designated by the school principal and
975 who has direct contact with students. Such training shall be provided
976 during the school year commencing July 1, 2017, and each school year
977 thereafter, and shall include, but not be limited to:

978 (A) An overview of the relevant laws and regulations regarding the
979 use of physical restraint and seclusion on students and the proper uses
980 of physical restraint and seclusion. For the school year commencing July
981 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, such overview shall be provided by the
982 Department of Education, in a manner and form as prescribed by the
983 Commissioner of Education;

984 (B) The creation of a plan by which each local and regional board of
985 education shall provide training regarding the prevention of incidents
986 requiring physical restraint or seclusion of students. Such plan shall be
987 implemented not later than July 1, 2018. The Department of Education
988 may, within available appropriations, provide ongoing monitoring and
989 support to local or regional boards of education regarding the
990 formulation and implementation of the plan; and

991 (C) The creation of a plan by which each local or regional board of
992 education shall provide training regarding the proper means of physical
993 restraint or seclusion of a student, including, but not limited to, (i)
994 various types of physical restraint and seclusion; (ii) the differences
995 between life-threatening physical restraint and other varying levels of
996 physical restraint; (iii) the differences between permissible physical
997 restraint and pain compliance techniques; and (iv) monitoring methods
998 to prevent harm to a student who is physically restrained or in seclusion.
999 Such plan shall be implemented not later than July 1, 2018;

1000 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2017, and each school year
1001 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall require each
1002 school in the district to identify a crisis intervention team consisting of
1003 any teacher, as defined in section 10-144d, administrator, as defined in
1004 section 10-144e, [school paraprofessional] paraeducator or other school
1005 employee, as defined in section 10-222aa, designated by the school
1006 principal and who has direct contact with students. Such teams shall
1007 respond to any incident in which the use of physical restraint or
1008 seclusion may be necessary as an emergency intervention to prevent
1009 immediate or imminent injury to a student or to others. Each member of
1010 the crisis intervention team shall be recertified in the use of physical

1011 restraint and seclusion pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1)
1012 of this subsection or chapter 814e on an annual basis. Each local and
1013 regional board of education shall maintain a list of the members of the
1014 crisis intervention team for each school.

1015 Sec. 20. Subsection (a) of section 10-239e of the general statutes is
1016 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1017 *2024*):

1018 (a) The demonstration board shall authorize the parents or legal
1019 guardian of scholarship recipients to use the demonstration
1020 scholarships at any public or private school in which the scholarship
1021 recipient is enrolled provided such public or private school: (1) Meets
1022 all educational, fiscal, health and safety standards required by law, (2)
1023 does not discriminate against the admission of students and the hiring
1024 of teachers on the basis of race, color or economic status and has filed a
1025 certificate with the State Board of Education that the school is in
1026 compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (3) in no case
1027 levies or requires any tuition, fee or charge above the value of the
1028 education scholarship, (4) is free from sectarian control or influence
1029 except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, (5) provides public
1030 access to all financial and administrative records and provides to the
1031 parent or guardian of each eligible child in the demonstration area
1032 comprehensive information, in written form, on the courses of study
1033 offered, curriculum, materials and textbooks, the qualifications of
1034 teachers, administrators and [paraprofessionals] paraeducators, the
1035 minimum school day, the salary schedules, financial reports of money
1036 spent per pupil and such other information as may be required by the
1037 demonstration board, (6) provides periodic reports to the parents on the
1038 average progress of the pupils enrolled, and (7) meets any additional
1039 requirements established for all participating schools by the
1040 demonstration board.

1041 Sec. 21. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 17a-812 of the
1042 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1043 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1044 (1) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall provide,
1045 upon written request from any interested school district, the services of
1046 teachers who instruct students who are visually impaired, based on the
1047 levels established in the individualized education or service plan. The
1048 Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services shall also make
1049 available resources, including, but not limited to, the braille and large
1050 print library, to all teachers of public and nonpublic school children. The
1051 commissioner may also provide vision-related professional
1052 development and training to all school districts and cover the actual cost
1053 for [paraprofessionals] paraeducators from school districts to
1054 participate in agency-sponsored braille training programs. The
1055 commissioner shall utilize education consultant positions, funded by
1056 moneys appropriated from the General Fund, to supplement new
1057 staffing that will be made available through the educational aid for
1058 children who are blind or visually impaired account, which shall be
1059 governed by formal written policies established by the commissioner.

1060 Sec. 22. Section 31-51rr of the general statutes is repealed and the
1061 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1062 (a) Each political subdivision of the state shall grant any employee of
1063 such political subdivision who is (1) a party to a marriage in which the
1064 other party is of the same sex as the employee, and who has been
1065 employed for at least twelve months by such employer and for at least
1066 one thousand two hundred fifty hours of service with such employer
1067 during the previous twelve-month period the same family and medical
1068 leave benefits under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, P.L. 103-
1069 3, and 29 CFR 825.112, as are provided to an employee who is a party to
1070 a marriage in which the other party is of the opposite sex of such
1071 employee, or (2) on or after the effective date of regulations adopted
1072 pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, a [school paraprofessional in
1073 an educational setting] paraeducator who has been employed in an
1074 educational setting for at least twelve months by such employer and for
1075 at least nine hundred fifty hours of service with such employer during
1076 the previous twelve-month period the same family and medical leave

1077 benefits provided under subdivision (1) of this subsection to an
1078 employee who has been employed for at least twelve months by such
1079 employer and for at least one thousand two hundred fifty hours of
1080 service with such employer during the previous twelve-month period.

1081 (b) (1) Any employee of a political subdivision of the state who has
1082 worked at least twelve months and one thousand two hundred fifty
1083 hours for such employer during the previous twelve-month period, or
1084 (2) on or after the effective date of regulations adopted pursuant to
1085 subsection (f) of this section, a [school paraprofessional in an
1086 educational setting] paraeducator who has been employed in an
1087 educational setting for at least twelve months by such employer and for
1088 at least nine hundred fifty hours of service with such employer during
1089 the previous twelve-month period may request leave in order to serve
1090 as an organ or bone marrow donor, provided such employee may be
1091 required, prior to the inception of such leave, to provide sufficient
1092 written certification from the physician of such employee, a physician
1093 assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse of the proposed organ
1094 or bone marrow donation and the probable duration of the employee's
1095 recovery from such donation.

1096 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing leave in
1097 addition to the total of twelve workweeks of leave during any twelve-
1098 month period provided under the federal Family and Medical Leave
1099 Act, P.L. 103-3.

1100 (d) The Labor Department shall enforce compliance with the
1101 provisions of this section.

1102 (e) For the purposes of subdivision (2) of subsections (a) and (b) of
1103 this section, no hours of service worked by a [paraprofessional]
1104 paraeducator prior to the effective date of regulations adopted pursuant
1105 to subsection (f) of this section shall be included in the requisite nine
1106 hundred fifty hours of service.

1107 (f) The Labor Commissioner shall adopt regulations for the provision

1108 of family and medical leave benefits to [school paraprofessionals]
1109 paraeducators employed in an educational setting pursuant to this
1110 section.

1111 Sec. 23. Subsection (a) of section 46a-11b of the general statutes is
1112 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1113 *2024*):

1114 (a) Any physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of chapter
1115 370, any resident physician or intern in any hospital in this state,
1116 whether or not so licensed, any registered nurse, any person paid for
1117 caring for persons in any facility and any licensed practical nurse,
1118 medical examiner, dental hygienist, dentist, occupational therapist,
1119 optometrist, chiropractor, psychologist, podiatrist, social worker, school
1120 teacher, school principal, school guidance counselor, school counselor,
1121 [school paraprofessional] paraeducator, licensed behavior analyst,
1122 mental health professional, physician assistant, licensed or certified
1123 substance abuse counselor, licensed marital and family therapist, speech
1124 and language pathologist, clergyman, police officer, pharmacist,
1125 physical therapist, licensed professional counselor or sexual assault
1126 counselor or domestic violence counselor, as defined in section 52-146k,
1127 who has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any person with
1128 intellectual disability or any person who receives services from the
1129 Department of Social Services' Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder
1130 Services has been abused or neglected shall, as soon as practicable but
1131 not later than forty-eight hours after such person has reasonable cause
1132 to suspect or believe that a person with intellectual disability or any
1133 person who receives services from the Department of Social Services'
1134 Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Services has been abused or
1135 neglected, report such information or cause a report to be made in any
1136 reasonable manner to the commissioner, or the commissioner's
1137 designee. An unsuccessful attempt to make an initial report to the
1138 commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, on a weekend, holiday
1139 or after normal business hours shall not be construed as a violation of
1140 this section if reasonable attempts are made by a person required to

1141 report under this subsection to reach the commissioner, or the
1142 commissioner's designee, as soon as practicable after the initial attempt.
1143 The initial report shall be followed up by a written report not later than
1144 five calendar days after the initial report was made. Any person
1145 required to report under this subsection who fails to make such report
1146 shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars. For purposes of this
1147 subsection, "reasonable manner" and "reasonable attempts" mean efforts
1148 that include, but are not limited to, efforts to reach the commissioner, or
1149 the commissioner's designee, by phone, in person or by electronic mail.

1150 Sec. 24. Subdivision (13) of section 53a-65 of the 2024 supplement to
1151 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1152 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1153 (13) "School employee" means: (A) A teacher, substitute teacher,
1154 school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor,
1155 school counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, [school
1156 paraprofessional] paraeducator or coach employed by a local or regional
1157 board of education or a private elementary, middle or high school or
1158 working in a public or private elementary, middle or high school; or (B)
1159 any other person who, in the performance of his or her duties, has
1160 regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf
1161 of students enrolled in (i) a public elementary, middle or high school,
1162 pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of education, or
1163 (ii) a private elementary, middle or high school, pursuant to a contract
1164 with the supervisory agent of such private school.

1165 Sec. 25. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than September 1, 2024, the
1166 Department of Education shall distribute the amount allocated to the
1167 department for paraeducator professional development for the fiscal
1168 year ending June 30, 2023, from the federal funds designated for the
1169 state pursuant to the provisions of Section 602 of Subtitle M of Title IX
1170 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, as amended from
1171 time to time, to each local or regional board of education, on a pro rata
1172 basis for the number of paraeducators employed by such board, to cover
1173 the cost of providing professional development and in-service training

1174 to paraeducators.

1175 Sec. 26. Section 203 of public act 23-204 is repealed and the following
1176 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

1177 (a) As used in this section:

1178 (1) "Health benefit plan" has the same meaning as provided in section
1179 38a-1080 of the general statutes, and

1180 (2) "Partnership plan" has the same meaning as provided in section 3-
1181 123aaa of the general statutes.

1182 (b) For the fiscal [year] years ending June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025,
1183 the Comptroller shall establish a program to provide a subsidy, within
1184 available appropriations, to each paraeducator who (1) opens a health
1185 savings account, pursuant to Section 223 of the Internal Revenue Code
1186 of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the
1187 United States, as amended from time to time, or is eligible for Medicare
1188 and enrolls in a high deductible health plan, and (2) is employed by a
1189 local or regional board of education. [, and (3) applies for such program
1190 in the form and manner prescribed by the Comptroller.] Such subsidy
1191 shall be in an amount up to a certain percentage, as specified by the
1192 Comptroller, of the [initial investment made by such paraeducator to
1193 open a health savings account,] deductible for the health plan in which
1194 such paraeducator is enrolled, minus the amount of any employer
1195 contributions to a health savings account or health reimbursement
1196 account, and not exceeding an amount specified by the Comptroller. No
1197 paraeducator may receive more than one subsidy pursuant to this
1198 section. The Comptroller may work with the local or regional board of
1199 education that employs such paraeducator to distribute such subsidy.

1200 (c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the Comptroller shall
1201 establish a program to provide a subsidy, from any funds appropriated
1202 for such purpose, to each local or regional board of education that
1203 provides coverage to paraeducators and their dependents under a
1204 health benefit plan or a partnership plan for such fiscal year or any

1205 portion thereof. Such subsidy shall be (1) in an amount not more than
1206 ten per cent of the aggregate premium cost, inclusive of the employee
1207 and employer shares, paid by such board of education for coverage
1208 under such health benefit plan or partnership plan, divided by the
1209 number of paraeducators employed by such board of education and
1210 enrolled in health coverage, and (2) used to offset the employee's share
1211 of such premium that is deducted from the payroll check of each
1212 paraeducator employed by such board of education during any pay
1213 period during such fiscal year. The provisions of this subsection shall
1214 not apply to a local or regional board of education that provides
1215 coverage under a high deductible health plan, as that term is used in
1216 subsection (f) of section 38a-520 of the general statutes.

1217 (d) Not later than October 1, 2024, each local and regional board of
1218 education shall report to the Comptroller information concerning the
1219 health benefit plan through which it provides coverage to employees.
1220 Such information shall include (1) the premium cost for coverage under
1221 such plan, (2) the level of coverage provided under such plan, (3) the
1222 number of employees covered under such plan, and (4) any other
1223 information requested by the Comptroller.

1224 (e) The Comptroller shall conduct a cost-benefit analysis of each local
1225 or regional board of education providing coverage for employees under
1226 a partnership plan in lieu of the coverage provided by such board of
1227 education under its current health benefit plan. Such analysis shall
1228 include, but need not be limited to, a comparison of the costs incurred
1229 by such board of education and its employees and the level of coverage
1230 provided under each plan. Not later than January 1, 2025, the
1231 Comptroller shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
1232 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of
1233 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
1234 education and to each local or regional board of education on such cost-
1235 benefit analysis.

1236 Sec. 27. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Any collective bargaining
1237 agreement entered into, amended or extended on and after July 1, 2025,

1238 between a local or regional board of education and the representatives
1239 of the exclusive bargaining unit for paraeducators shall establish a
1240 minimum salary for a full-time paraeducator that is not less than forty-
1241 five thousand dollars annually.

1242 Sec. 28. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) For the fiscal year ending June
1243 30, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Office of Policy and Management
1244 shall create an independent appropriation for the purposes of providing
1245 a paraeducator salary enhancement subsidy to local and regional boards
1246 of education. The office shall use the funds available in such
1247 independent appropriation to provide a subsidy to each local or
1248 regional board of education in an amount equal to the difference
1249 between the annual salary, as of July 1, 2024, of a paraeducator
1250 employed by such board on said date and the minimum salary required
1251 pursuant to section 27 of this act for each paraeducator employed by
1252 such board of education. Any such subsidy provided to a local or
1253 regional board of education under this section shall not be combined
1254 with any other state grant provided to local or regional boards of
1255 education under any provision of the general statutes.

1256 Sec. 29. (NEW) (*Effective from July 1, 2024*) (a) Notwithstanding any
1257 provision of the general statutes, each local and regional board of
1258 education shall pay for each paraeducator employed by such board the
1259 full employee contribution required pursuant to the municipal
1260 employees' retirement system or any other retirement system in which
1261 such board participates, provided such payment shall not exceed the
1262 amount of the full employee contribution required pursuant to the
1263 municipal employees' retirement system.

1264 (b) The Comptroller shall annually pay to each local or regional board
1265 of education not less than fifty per cent of the cost to such board for the
1266 payment of the employee contribution for retirement benefits pursuant
1267 to subsection (a) of this section.

1268 Sec. 30. Section 3-123l of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
1269 is repealed. (*Effective from passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-66r(a)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-74q
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-74r(b)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-76d(a)(10)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-145t(a)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-155j
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-155k
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-156gg(a)(2)
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-212a
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-220a(a)
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-220a(a)
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-221o(b)
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-221u
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-222d(a)(8)
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-223e(d) to (g)
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-223j(a)(4)
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-236b(o)
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-236b(o)
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-239e(a)
Sec. 21	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	17a-812(b)(1)
Sec. 22	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	31-51rr
Sec. 23	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	46a-11b(a)
Sec. 24	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	53a-65(13)
Sec. 25	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 26	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	PA 23-204, Sec. 203
Sec. 27	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 28	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 29	<i>from July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 30	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

ED

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

APP