



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 363

LCO No. 2379



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING ASSORTED REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-16b of the 2024 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

4 (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall
5 include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally
6 qualified teachers: [, the] The arts; career education; consumer
7 education; personal financial management and financial literacy; health
8 and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and
9 development, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary
10 resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-
11 16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not
12 limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in
13 performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast
14 cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health, physical,
15 mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention,

16 substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use
17 and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe use of social
18 media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the dangers of gang
19 membership, and accident prevention; language arts, including reading,
20 writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical
21 education; science, which shall include the climate change curriculum
22 described in subsection (d) of this section; social studies, including, but
23 not limited to, citizenship, economics, geography, government, history
24 and Holocaust and genocide education and awareness in accordance
25 with the provisions of section 10-18f; African-American and black
26 studies in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16ss; Puerto
27 Rican and Latino studies in accordance with the provisions of section
28 10-16ss; Native American studies, in accordance with the provisions of
29 section 10-16vv; computer programming instruction; recycling and
30 renewable energy; and in addition, on at least the secondary level, one
31 or more world languages; vocational education; and the black and
32 Latino studies course in accordance with the provisions of sections 10-
33 16tt and 10-16uu. For purposes of this subsection, world languages shall
34 include American Sign Language, provided such subject matter is
35 taught by a qualified instructor under the supervision of a teacher who
36 holds a certificate issued by the State Board of Education. For purposes
37 of this subsection, the "arts" means any form of visual or performing
38 arts, which may include, but not be limited to, dance, music, art and
39 theatre; and "reading" means evidence-based instruction that focuses on
40 competency in oral language, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency,
41 vocabulary, rapid automatic name or letter name fluency and reading
42 comprehension.

43 (b) If a local or regional board of education requires its pupils to take
44 a course in a world language, the parent or guardian of a pupil
45 identified as deaf or hard of hearing may request in writing that such
46 pupil be exempted from such requirement and, if such a request is
47 made, such pupil shall be exempt from such requirement.

48 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall on September 1,
49 1982, and annually thereafter at such time and in such manner as the

50 Commissioner of Education shall request, attest to the State Board of
51 Education that such local or regional board of education offers at least
52 the program of instruction required pursuant to this section, and that
53 such program of instruction is planned, ongoing and systematic.

54 (d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum
55 materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional
56 boards of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to
57 this section. The State Board of Education, within available
58 appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist
59 and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (1)
60 Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; (2) the historical
61 events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (3) African-American
62 and black studies; (4) Puerto Rican and Latino studies; (5) Native
63 American studies; (6) personal financial management, including, but
64 not limited to, financial literacy as developed in the plan provided under
65 section 10-16pp; (7) training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the
66 use of automatic external defibrillators; (8) labor history and law,
67 including organized labor, the collective bargaining process, existing
68 legal protections in the workplace, the history and economics of free
69 market capitalism and entrepreneurialism, and the role of labor and
70 capitalism in the development of the American and world economies;
71 (9) climate change consistent with the Next Generation Science
72 Standards; (10) topics approved by the state board upon the request of
73 local or regional boards of education as part of the program of
74 instruction offered pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; [and] (11)
75 instruction relating to the Safe Haven Act, sections 17a-57 to 17a-61,
76 inclusive; and (12) recycling and renewable energy, including, but not
77 limited to, protocols for recycling and reducing food waste. The
78 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall be available
79 to each local and regional board of education for the development of
80 curriculum on climate change as described in this subsection.

81 Sec. 2. Section 10-16b of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes,
82 as amended by section 32 of public act 22-80, section 3 of public act 23-
83 21, section 7 of public act 23-150 and section 19 of public act 23-160, is

84 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
85 *2025*):

86 (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall
87 include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally
88 qualified teachers: [~~the~~] The arts; career education; consumer
89 education; personal financial management and financial literacy; health
90 and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and
91 development, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary
92 resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-
93 16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not
94 limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in
95 performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast
96 cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health, physical,
97 mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention,
98 substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use
99 and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe use of social
100 media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the dangers of gang
101 membership, and accident prevention; language arts, including reading,
102 writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical
103 education; science, which may include the climate change curriculum
104 described in subsection (d) of this section; social studies, including, but
105 not limited to, civics and media literacy, citizenship, economics,
106 geography, government, history and Holocaust and genocide education
107 and awareness in accordance with the provisions of section 10-18f;
108 African-American and black studies in accordance with the provisions
109 of section 10-16ss; Puerto Rican and Latino studies in accordance with
110 the provisions of section 10-16ss; Native American studies, in
111 accordance with the provisions of section 10-16vv; Asian American and
112 Pacific Islander studies, in accordance with the provisions of section [10-
113 66ww] 10-16ww; computer programming instruction; recycling and
114 renewable energy; and in addition, on at least the secondary level, one
115 or more world languages; vocational education; and the black and
116 Latino studies course in accordance with the provisions of sections 10-
117 16tt and 10-16uu. For purposes of this subsection, world languages shall

118 include American Sign Language, provided such subject matter is
119 taught by a qualified instructor under the supervision of a teacher who
120 holds a certificate issued by the State Board of Education. For purposes
121 of this subsection, the "arts" means any form of visual or performing
122 arts, which may include, but not be limited to, dance, music, art and
123 theatre; and "reading" means evidence-based instruction that focuses on
124 competency in oral language, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency,
125 vocabulary, rapid automatic name or letter name fluency and reading
126 comprehension.

127 (b) If a local or regional board of education requires its pupils to take
128 a course in a world language, the parent or guardian of a pupil
129 identified as deaf or hard of hearing may request in writing that such
130 pupil be exempted from such requirement and, if such a request is
131 made, such pupil shall be exempt from such requirement.

132 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall on September 1,
133 1982, and annually thereafter at such time and in such manner as the
134 Commissioner of Education shall request, attest to the State Board of
135 Education that such local or regional board of education offers at least
136 the program of instruction required pursuant to this section, and that
137 such program of instruction is planned, ongoing and systematic.

138 (d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum
139 materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional
140 boards of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to
141 this section. The State Board of Education, within available
142 appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist
143 and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (1)
144 Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; (2) the historical
145 events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (3) African-American
146 and black studies; (4) Puerto Rican and Latino studies; (5) Native
147 American studies; (6) Asian American and Pacific Islander studies; (7)
148 personal financial management, including, but not limited to, financial
149 literacy as developed in the plan provided under section 10-16pp; (8)
150 training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automatic

151 external defibrillators; (9) labor history and law, including organized
152 labor, the collective bargaining process, existing legal protections in the
153 workplace, the history and economics of free market capitalism and
154 entrepreneurialism, and the role of labor and capitalism in the
155 development of the American and world economies; (10) climate change
156 consistent with the Next Generation Science Standards; (11) topics
157 approved by the state board upon the request of local or regional boards
158 of education as part of the program of instruction offered pursuant to
159 subsection (a) of this section; [and] (12) instruction relating to the Safe
160 Haven Act, sections 17a-57 to 17a-61, inclusive; and (13) recycling and
161 renewable energy, including, but not limited to, protocols for recycling
162 and reducing food waste. The Department of Energy and
163 Environmental Protection shall be available to each local and regional
164 board of education for the development of curriculum on climate
165 change as described in this subsection.

166 Sec. 3. Section 10-211f of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
167 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
168 *1, 2024*):

169 For the school year commencing July 1, 2024, and each school year
170 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall annually
171 approve and provide professional development programs or activities
172 for all school nurses and nurse practitioners appointed by or under
173 contract with such board. [Each board shall provide] As part of such
174 professional development programs or activities [related to] provided
175 by each local and regional board of education under this section, each
176 new school nurse or nurse practitioner shall receive and complete (1)
177 training and instruction in the implementation of individualized
178 education programs and plans pursuant to Section 504 of the
179 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to time, [to any new
180 school nurse or nurse practitioner] not later than thirty days after such
181 school nurse or nurse practitioner has been appointed by or entered into
182 a contract with such board, and (2) an orientation to school health
183 services, developed by an association that represents nurses in the state,
184 not later than six months after such nurse or nurse practitioner has been

185 appointed by or entered into a contract with such board.

186 Sec. 4. Section 10-227 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
187 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
188 *1, 2024*):

189 (a) Each board of education shall cause the superintendent to make
190 returns not later than September first of each year to the Commissioner
191 of Education of the receipts, expenditures and statistics, as prescribed
192 by the commissioner, provided each such board may submit revisions
193 to the returns in such form and with such documentation as required by
194 the commissioner [no] not later than [December] January thirty-first of
195 each year following the September submission. Such reports or returns
196 required shall be filed in accordance with the instructions furnished by
197 the commissioner, shall be certified [no] not later than [December]
198 January thirty-first of each year by the independent public accountant
199 selected pursuant to section 7-392 for the purpose of auditing municipal
200 accounts, and shall be subject to Department of Education verification.
201 If the returns and statistics and revisions called for by said commissioner
202 are not filed on or before the days specified in this section or if the
203 returns are not certified as required by the commissioner on or before
204 [December] January thirty-first, each local and regional board of
205 education required by law to make separate returns, whose returns and
206 statistics or revisions are delayed until after those days, shall forfeit of
207 the total sum which is paid for such board of education from the State
208 Treasurer an amount to be determined by the State Board of Education,
209 which amount shall be not less than one thousand dollars nor more than
210 ten thousand dollars. The amount so forfeited shall be withheld from a
211 subsequent grant payment as determined by the commissioner.
212 Notwithstanding the penalty provision of this section, the
213 Commissioner of Education may waive said forfeiture for good cause.

214 (b) Not later than [February 15, 2024] March 15, 2025, and annually
215 thereafter, the Department of Education shall publish on its Internet
216 web site the data contained in the reports and returns filed pursuant to
217 subsection (a) of this section by education program type, expense

218 function, expense object and funding source, including, but not limited
219 to, federal, combined state and local and combined private and other
220 sources for the school and district level. The department shall develop
221 and publish a guide that contains definitions for each category of
222 expenditure and funding source.

223 (c) Not later than [February] March 15, 2025, and annually thereafter,
224 the Department of Education shall develop and publish the data
225 contained in the reports and returns filed pursuant to subsection (a) of
226 this section in a format that allows financial comparisons between
227 school districts and schools, including student enrollment and
228 demographic statistics as of October first of the school year in which
229 such reports and returns were filed.

230 Sec. 5. Subsection (d) of section 10-76d of the 2024 supplement to the
231 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
232 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

233 (d) To meet its obligations under sections 10-76a to 10-76g, inclusive,
234 any local or regional board of education may make agreements with
235 another such board or subject to the consent of the parent or guardian
236 of any child affected thereby, make agreements, or on and after July 1,
237 2019, enter into a contract with any private provider of special education
238 services, as defined in section 10-91g, private school, or public or private
239 agency or institution, including a group home to provide the necessary
240 programs or services, but no expenditures made pursuant to a contract
241 with a private provider of special education services, private school,
242 agency or institution for such special education shall be paid under the
243 provisions of section 10-76g, unless (1) such contract includes a
244 description of the educational program and other treatment the child is
245 to receive, a statement of minimal goals and objectives which it is
246 anticipated such child will achieve, an estimated time schedule for
247 returning the child to the community or transferring such child to
248 another appropriate facility, and an explanation of how the tuition or
249 costs for services provided under the agreement or contract are to be
250 calculated, (2) subject to the provisions of this subsection, the

251 educational needs of the child for whom such special education is being
252 provided cannot be met by public school arrangements in the opinion
253 of the commissioner who, before granting approval of such contract for
254 purposes of payment, shall consider such factors as the particular needs
255 of the child, the appropriateness and efficacy of the program offered by
256 such private school, agency or institution, and the economic feasibility
257 of comparable alternatives, and (3) commencing with the 1987-1988
258 school year and for each school year thereafter, each such private
259 provider of special education services, private school, agency or
260 institution has been approved for special education by the
261 Commissioner of Education or by the appropriate agency for facilities
262 located out of state, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section.
263 Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection or
264 any regulations adopted by the State Board of Education setting
265 placement priorities, placements pursuant to this section and payments
266 under section 10-76g may be made pursuant to such a contract if the
267 public arrangements are more costly than the private provider of special
268 education services, private school, institution or agency, provided the
269 private provider of special education services, private school, institution
270 or agency meets the educational needs of the child and its program is
271 appropriate and efficacious. Payment pursuant to the provisions of
272 section 10-76g for any contract that meets the requirements of this
273 subsection shall commence at the start of the school year in which such
274 private provider of special education services, private school, agency or
275 institution is approved by the Commissioner of Education and is
276 providing such special education services. Notwithstanding the
277 provisions of this subsection to the contrary, nothing in this subsection
278 shall (A) require the removal of a child from a nonapproved facility if
279 the child was placed there prior to July 7, 1987, pursuant to the
280 determination of a planning and placement team that such a placement
281 was appropriate and such placement was approved by the
282 Commissioner of Education, or (B) prohibit the placement of a child at
283 a nonapproved facility if a planning and placement team determines
284 prior to July 7, 1987, that the child be placed in a nonapproved facility
285 for the 1987-1988 school year. Each child placed in a nonapproved

286 facility as described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (3) of
287 this subsection may continue at the facility provided the planning and
288 placement team or hearing officer appointed pursuant to section 10-76h
289 determines that the placement is appropriate. Expenditures incurred by
290 any local or regional board of education to maintain children in
291 nonapproved facilities as described in said subparagraphs (A) and (B)
292 shall be paid pursuant to the provisions of section 10-76g. Any local or
293 regional board of education may enter into a contract with the owners
294 or operators of any sheltered workshop or rehabilitation center for
295 provision of an education occupational training program for children
296 requiring special education who are at least sixteen years of age,
297 provided such workshop or institution shall have been approved by the
298 appropriate state agency. Whenever any child is identified by a local or
299 regional board of education as a child requiring special education and
300 such board of education determines that the requirements for special
301 education could be met by a program provided within the district or by
302 agreement with another board of education except for the child's need
303 for services other than educational services such as medical, psychiatric
304 or institutional care or services, such board of education may meet its
305 obligation to furnish special education for such child by paying the
306 reasonable cost of special education instruction in a private provider of
307 special education services, private school, hospital or other institution
308 provided such board of education or the commissioner concurs that
309 placement in such institution is necessary and proper and no state
310 institution is available to meet such child's needs. Any such private
311 provider of special education services, private school, hospital or other
312 institution receiving such reasonable cost of special education
313 instruction by such board of education shall submit all required
314 documentation to such board of education for purposes of submitting
315 claims to the Medicaid School Based Child Health Program
316 administered by the Department of Social Services.

317 Sec. 6. Section 10-357e of the general statutes is repealed and the
318 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

319 The Commissioner of Education [may] shall allocate funds to allow

320 the State Education Resource Center, established pursuant to section 10-
321 357a, to provide professional development services, technical assistance
322 and evaluation activities, policy analysis and other forms of assistance
323 to local and regional boards of education, the Department of Education,
324 state and local charter schools, as defined in section 10-66aa, the
325 Technical Education and Career System, established pursuant to section
326 10-95, providers of school readiness programs, as defined in section 10-
327 16p, and other educational entities and providers. The State Education
328 Resource Center shall expend such funds in accordance with procedures
329 and conditions prescribed by the commissioner.

330 Sec. 7. Section 10-145aa of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
331 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
332 *1, 2024*):

333 [On and after July 1, 2022, the] The preservice performance
334 assessment, edTPA, as adopted by the State Board of Education on
335 December 7, 2016, shall be used exclusively as an accountability tool for
336 teacher preparation programs, as defined in section 10-10a, offered at
337 institutions of higher education in the state. The results of such
338 preservice performance assessment shall not be used by (1) the State
339 Board of Education to deny an application for the issuance of an initial
340 educator certificate under section 10-145b, or (2) an institution of higher
341 education to deny successful completion of a teacher preparation
342 program.

343 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Each local and regional board of
344 education shall conform the design of any school playground designed
345 on or after July 1, 2024, to the principles of universal design. Such
346 playgrounds shall include, at a minimum, (1) play spaces that appeal to
347 a variety of senses and allow multiple forms of play, (2) landform
348 designed to encourage unstructured play, (3) multiple options for
349 accessing play spaces and equipment that allow for varying levels of
350 ability, and (4) sensory-engaging materials and use of trees and other
351 plantings. As used in this section, "universal design" means a concept of
352 designing spaces with the goal of maximizing usability and access,

353 without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

354 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2025,
355 each regional board of education shall establish a parent council for each
356 school under such board's governance with a sufficient number of
357 parents or guardians of a student enrolled in such schools on such
358 council to adequately represent each town served by such board.

359 (b) Parents or guardians shall be elected to the council by the parents
360 or guardians of students attending such school who reside in the same
361 town as the elected parent or guardian. Each parent or guardian elected
362 to a parent council pursuant to this section shall serve a term of two
363 years from the date of election and no parent or guardian shall serve
364 more than four terms on the council.

365 (c) The parent council shall have the following responsibilities: (1)
366 Analyzing school achievement data and school needs; (2) reviewing the
367 fiscal objectives of the draft budget for the school and providing advice
368 to the principal of the school; (3) participating in the hiring process for
369 the school principal or other administrators of the school by conducting
370 interviews of candidates and reporting on such interviews to the
371 superintendent of schools for the school district and the regional board
372 of education; (4) assisting the principal of the school in making
373 programmatic and operational changes for improving the school's
374 achievement, including program changes, adjustments to school hours
375 and days of operation and enrollment goals for the school; (5) working
376 with the school administration to develop and approve a school
377 compact for parents, guardians and students that includes an outline of
378 the criteria and responsibilities for enrollment and school membership
379 consistent with the school's goals and academic focus, and the ways that
380 parents, guardians and school personnel can build a partnership to
381 improve student learning; (6) developing and approving a written
382 parent involvement policy that outlines the role of parents and
383 guardians in the school; (7) utilizing records relating to information
384 about parents and guardians of students maintained by the regional
385 board of education for the sole purpose of the election described in

386 subsection (b) of this section. Such information shall be confidential and
 387 shall only be disclosed as provided in this subdivision and shall not be
 388 further disclosed; (8) working with the principal of the school to
 389 develop, conduct and report the results of an annual survey of parents,
 390 guardians and teachers on issues related to the school climate and
 391 conditions; and (9) providing advice on any other major policy matters
 392 affecting the school to the principal of the school, except on any matters
 393 relating to provisions of any collective bargaining agreement between
 394 the exclusive bargaining unit for teachers pursuant to section 10-153b of
 395 the general statutes and the regional board of education.

396 (d) A regional board of education shall provide appropriate training
 397 and instruction to parents and guardians on the parent council at each
 398 school to aid such parents and guardians in the execution of their duties.

399 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) Each local and regional board of
 400 education shall permit any student of an interdistrict magnet school
 401 who resides in the school district governed by such board to participate
 402 in any intramural or interscholastic athletics, as defined in section 10-
 403 149h of the general statutes, sponsored or sanctioned by such board,
 404 regardless of whether such interdistrict magnet school sponsors or
 405 sanctions any intramural or interscholastic athletics.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-16b
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-16b
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-211f
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-227
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-76d(d)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-357e
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-145aa
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) require a curriculum on recycling and renewable energy, (2) require new school nurses to complete an orientation, (3) extend the dates by one month by which an annual audit is required of school district receipts, expenditures and statistics and by which the Department of Education posts data from such report, (4) require payments for special education services provided by a private provider to commence from the start of the school year in which such provider is approved by the Department of Education, (5) require the Department of Education to fund the State Education Resource Center, (6) prohibit institutions of higher education from using edTPA scores as a condition of successful completion of a teacher preparation program, (7) require school playgrounds designed after July 1, 2024, to comply with the principles of universal design, (8) require regional boards of education to establish a parent council for each school under its governance, and (9) allow magnet school students to participate in intramural or interscholastic athletics in the school district in which such student resides.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]