



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 380

February Session, 2024



AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL DISCIPLINE.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (g) of section 10-233c of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2024*):

4 (g) On and after July 1, 2015, all suspensions pursuant to this section
5 shall be in-school suspensions, except a local or regional board of
6 education may authorize the administration of schools under its
7 direction to impose an out-of-school suspension on any pupil in (1)
8 grades three to twelve, inclusive, if, during the hearing held pursuant to
9 subsection (a) of this section, (A) the administration determines that the
10 pupil being suspended poses such a danger to persons or property or
11 such a disruption of the educational process that the pupil shall be
12 excluded from school during the period of suspension, or (B) the
13 administration determines that an out-of-school suspension is
14 appropriate for such pupil based on evidence of (i) previous disciplinary
15 problems that have led to suspensions or expulsion of such pupil, and
16 (ii) efforts by the administration to address such disciplinary problems
17 through means other than out-of-school suspension or expulsion,
18 including positive behavioral support strategies, or (2) grades preschool
19 to two, inclusive, if during the hearing held pursuant to subsection (a)

20 of this section, the administration (A) determines that an out-of-school
21 suspension is appropriate for such pupil based on evidence that such
22 pupil's conduct on school grounds is [of a violent or sexual nature that
23 endangers persons] behavior that causes serious physical harm, (B)
24 requires that such pupil receives services that are trauma-informed and
25 developmentally appropriate and align with any behavioral
26 intervention plan, individualized education program or plan pursuant
27 to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time
28 to time, for such pupil upon such pupil's return to school immediately
29 following the out-of-school suspension, and (C) considers whether to
30 convene a planning and placement team meeting for the purposes of
31 conducting an evaluation to determine whether such pupil may require
32 special education or related services. An out-of-school suspension
33 imposed under subdivision (2) of this subsection shall not exceed two
34 school days. An in-school suspension may be served in the school that
35 the pupil attends, or in any school building under the jurisdiction of the
36 local or regional board of education, as determined by such board.
37 Nothing in this section shall limit a person's duty as a mandated
38 reporter pursuant to section 17-101a to report suspected child abuse or
39 neglect.

40 Sec. 2. Section 10-233h of the general statutes is repealed and the
41 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

42 (a) If any person who is at least [seven] ten years of age but less than
43 twenty-one years of age and an enrolled student is arrested for [a
44 violation of section 53-206c, a class A misdemeanor or a felony]
45 possession of a firearm, as defined in 18 USC 921, as amended from time
46 to time, on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity, the
47 municipal police department or Division of State Police within the
48 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection that made
49 such arrest shall, not later than the end of the weekday following such
50 arrest, orally notify the superintendent of schools of the school district
51 in which such person resides or attends school of the identity of such
52 person and the offense or offenses for which he was arrested and shall,
53 within seventy-two hours of such arrest, provide written notification of

54 such arrest, containing a brief description of the incident, to such
55 superintendent. The superintendent shall maintain such written report
56 in a secure location and the information in such report shall be
57 maintained as confidential in accordance with section 46b-124. [The
58 superintendent may disclose such information only to the principal of
59 the school in which such person is a student or to the principal or
60 supervisory agent of any other school in which the superintendent
61 knows such person is a student. The principal or supervisory agent may
62 disclose such information only to special services staff or a consultant,
63 such as a psychiatrist, psychologist or social worker, for the purposes of
64 assessing the risk of danger posed by such person to himself, other
65 students, school employees or school property and effectuating an
66 appropriate modification of such person's educational plan or
67 placement, and for disciplinary purposes. If the arrest occurred during
68 the school year, such assessment shall be completed not later than the
69 end of the next school day. If an expulsion hearing is held pursuant to
70 section 10-233d, a representative of the municipal police department or
71 the Division of State Police, as appropriate, may testify and provide
72 reports and information on the arrest at such hearing, provided such
73 police participation is requested by any of the following: The local or
74 regional board of education, the impartial hearing board, the principal
75 of the school or the student or his parent or guardian. Such information
76 with respect to a child under eighteen years of age shall be confidential
77 in accordance with sections 46b-124 and 54-76l, and shall only be
78 disclosed as provided in this section and shall not be further disclosed.]

79 (b) If any person who is at least ten years of age but less than twenty-
80 one years of age and an enrolled student is arrested for a violation of
81 section 53-206c, a class A misdemeanor or a felony, other than
82 possession of a firearm as described in subsection (a) of this section, the
83 Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch shall provide a
84 written report of such arrest to the superintendent of schools of the
85 school district in which such person resides or attends school upon the
86 presentation of such arrest to the court. Such written report shall
87 include, but need not be limited to, the identity of such person, the

88 violation or violations for which such person has been arrested, a brief
89 description of the incident that is the basis for such violation and, if
90 applicable, the identity of the alleged victim if such alleged victim is
91 another enrolled student, and whether such person's arrest has been
92 diverted to the community-based diversion system, screened and found
93 to be eligible for nonjudicial handling or dismissed by the court. The
94 superintendent shall maintain such written report in a secure location
95 and the information in such report shall be maintained as confidential
96 in accordance with sections 46b-124 and 54-76l, and shall only be
97 disclosed as provided in this section and shall not be further disclosed.

98 (c) (1) The superintendent may disclose a written report described in
99 subsection (a) or (b) of this section only to the principal of the school in
100 which such person is a student or to the principal or supervisory agent
101 of any other school in which the superintendent knows such person is a
102 student.

103 (2) Upon receipt of such written report, the principal or supervisory
104 agent may disclose such report only to special services staff or a
105 consultant, such as a psychiatrist, psychologist or social worker, for the
106 purposes of assessing the risk of danger posed by such person to such
107 person's self, other students, school employees or school property and
108 effectuating an appropriate modification of such person's educational
109 plan or placement, and for disciplinary purposes. Such person shall not
110 be prevented from attending class prior to the holding of an informal
111 hearing pursuant to section 10-233c, as amended by this act, or an
112 expulsion hearing pursuant to section 10-233d.

113 (3) An informal hearing pursuant to section 10-233c, as amended by
114 this act, or an expulsion hearing pursuant to section 10-233d shall not be
115 held for any person whose written report indicates that such person's
116 arrest has been diverted to the community-based diversion system,
117 screened and found to be eligible for nonjudicial handling or dismissed
118 by the court.

119 (d) If an expulsion hearing is held pursuant to section 10-233d, a

120 representative of the municipal police department or the Division of
121 State Police, as appropriate, may testify and provide reports and
122 information on such violation at such hearing, provided such police
123 participation is requested by any of the following: The local or regional
124 board of education, the impartial hearing board, the principal of the
125 school or the student or his parent or guardian. Such information with
126 respect to a child under eighteen years of age shall be confidential in
127 accordance with sections 46b-124 and 54-76l, and shall only be disclosed
128 as provided in this section and shall not be further disclosed.

129 Sec. 3. Section 10-233p of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
130 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
131 *1, 2024*):

132 Each school resource officer, as defined in section 10-233m, shall
133 submit to the chief of police of such school resource officer's local law
134 enforcement agency a report for each investigation or behavioral
135 intervention of challenging behavior or conflict that escalates to violence
136 or constitutes a crime conducted by such school resource officer not later
137 than five school days after conducting such investigation or behavioral
138 intervention. The chief of police shall submit such report to the
139 superintendent of schools for the school district in which such
140 investigation or behavioral intervention occurred in accordance with
141 the provisions of the memorandum of understanding entered into
142 pursuant to section 10-233m, but shall be not less frequently than
143 monthly. If the chief of police of the school resource officer's local law
144 enforcement agency is not certified by the Police Officer Standards and
145 Training Council pursuant to section 7-294d, such school resource
146 officer shall submit such report directly to the superintendent of schools
147 for the school district in which such investigation or behavioral
148 intervention occurred in the same manner specified in this section for
149 the chief of police to submit such report. Such superintendent shall
150 submit such report to the local or regional board of education of the
151 school district. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to, (1)
152 the date, time and location of such investigation or behavioral
153 intervention, (2) the name and badge number of such school resource

154 officer, (3) the race, ethnicity, gender, age and disability status for each
155 student involved in such investigation or behavioral intervention, (4)
156 the reason for and nature of such investigation or behavioral
157 intervention, (5) the disposition of such investigation or behavioral
158 intervention, and (6) whether any student involved in such
159 investigation or behavioral intervention was (A) searched, (B) apprised
160 of such student's constitutional rights, (C) issued a citation or a
161 summons, (D) arrested, or (E) detained, including the amount of time
162 such student was detained. For purposes of this section, "investigation
163 or behavioral intervention" means a circumstance in which a school
164 resource officer is conducting (i) a fact-finding inquiry concerning
165 student behavior or school safety, including, but not limited to,
166 emergency circumstances, or (ii) an intervention to resolve violent or
167 nonviolent student behavior or conflicts.

168 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-222q of the 2024 supplement to the
169 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
170 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

171 (a) There is established a social and emotional learning and school
172 climate advisory collaborative. The collaborative shall (1) collect
173 information concerning the school climate improvement efforts of local
174 and regional boards of education, (2) document any needs articulated
175 by local and regional boards of education for technical assistance and
176 training relating to fostering positive school climates, (3) identify best
177 practices for promoting positive school climates, (4) direct resources to
178 support state-wide and local initiatives on issues relating to fostering
179 and improving positive school climates and improving access to social
180 and emotional learning in schools, (5) develop an assessment for
181 screening students in grades three to twelve, inclusive, to determine
182 whether such students are at risk for suicide, (6) develop a biennial state-
183 wide school climate survey, as described in subsection (c) of section 2 of
184 public act 19-166, (7) develop a model positive school climate policy, as
185 described in subsection (a) of section 2 of public act 19-166, (8) develop
186 a plain language explanation of the rights and remedies available under
187 sections 10-4a and 10-4b for distribution to parents and guardians

188 pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of section 10-222d, and
189 provide such explanation to each local and regional board of education
190 not later than January 1, 2021, (9) develop school climate survey
191 standards, including, but not limited to, standards for the collection of
192 data on diversity, equity and inclusion and for the reduction in
193 disparities in data collection between school districts, (10) develop a
194 model school climate improvement plan, and [(9)] (11) perform other
195 functions concerning social and emotional learning and fostering
196 positive school climates.

197 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 10-222q of the 2024 supplement to the
198 general statutes, as amended by section 65 of public act 23-167, is
199 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
200 *2025*):

201 (a) There is established a social and emotional learning and school
202 climate advisory collaborative. The collaborative shall (1) collect
203 information concerning the school climate improvement efforts of local
204 and regional boards of education, (2) document any needs articulated
205 by local and regional boards of education for technical assistance and
206 training relating to fostering positive school climates, (3) identify best
207 practices for promoting positive school climates, (4) direct resources to
208 support state-wide and local initiatives on issues relating to fostering
209 and improving positive school climates and improving access to social
210 and emotional learning in schools, (5) develop an assessment for
211 screening students in grades three to twelve, inclusive, to determine
212 whether such students are at risk for suicide, (6) develop a biennial state-
213 wide school climate survey, as described in subsection (c) of section 2 of
214 public act 19-166, (7) adopt a Connecticut school climate policy, as
215 defined in section 10-222aa, as amended by this act, (8) develop a plain
216 language explanation of the rights and remedies available under
217 sections 10-4a and 10-4b for distribution to parents and guardians, and
218 provide such explanation to each local and regional board of education
219 not later than January 1, 2021, (9) develop standards for a school climate
220 survey, including, but not limited to, standards for the collection of data
221 on diversity, equity and inclusion and for the reduction in disparities in

222 data collection between school districts, (10) develop a model school
223 climate improvement plan, and [(9)] (11) perform other functions
224 concerning social and emotional learning and fostering positive school
225 climates.

226 Sec. 6. Subdivision (12) of section 10-222aa of the 2024 supplement to
227 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
228 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

229 (12) "School climate survey" means a research-based, validated and
230 developmentally appropriate survey administered to students, school
231 employees and families of students, in the predominant languages of
232 the members of the school community, that (A) measures and identifies
233 school climate needs and tracks progress through a school climate
234 improvement plan, and (B) (i) meets the school climate survey standards
235 developed by the social and emotional learning and school climate
236 advisory collaborative, established pursuant to section 10-222q, as
237 amended by this act, or (ii) is the state-wide school climate survey
238 developed by said collaborative.

239 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 10-222hh of the 2024 supplement to
240 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
241 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

242 (a) For the school year commencing July 1, 2025, and each school year
243 thereafter, the school climate specialist, as described in section 10-222ee,
244 for each school, in collaboration with the school climate coordinator, as
245 described in section 10-222dd, shall develop, and update as necessary, a
246 school climate improvement plan. Such plan shall be based on the
247 results of the school climate survey, administered pursuant to section
248 10-222gg, any recommendations from the school climate committee, as
249 described in section 10-222ff, the protocols and supports, described in
250 subsection (b) of this section and any other data the school climate
251 specialist and school climate coordinator deemed relevant. Such plan
252 [shall be submitted] may incorporate the model school climate
253 improvement plan developed by the social and emotional learning and

254 school climate advisory collaborative, established pursuant to section
255 10-222q, as amended by this act. The school climate specialist submit
256 such plan to the school climate coordinator for review and approval on
257 or before December thirty-first of each school year. Upon approval of
258 such plan, a written or electronic copy of such plan shall be made
259 available to members of the school community and such plan shall be
260 used in the prevention of, identification of and response to challenging
261 behavior.

262 Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 10-222h of the general statutes is
263 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
264 *2024*):

265 (b) On or before February 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, the
266 department shall, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a,
267 submit a report on the status of its efforts pursuant to this section
268 including, but not limited to, (1) the number of verified acts of bullying
269 in the state, including, but not limited to, the number of such acts
270 directed at a student based on actual or perceived membership in a
271 protected class, (2) an analysis of the responsive action taken by school
272 districts, (3) an analysis of student responses on the uniform grade-level
273 appropriate questions described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (4)
274 of subsection (a) of this section, and (4) any recommendations it may
275 have regarding additional activities or funding to prevent bullying in
276 schools and improve school climate to the joint standing committees of
277 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
278 education and children and to the speaker of the House of
279 Representatives, the president pro tempore of the Senate and the
280 majority and minority leaders of the House of Representatives and the
281 Senate.

282 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) The Department of Education
283 shall appoint a director of school climate improvement to serve as the
284 state-wide social and emotional learning and school climate expert. The
285 director of school climate improvement shall (1) assist local and regional
286 boards of education with the implementation of (A) sections 10-222t to

287 10-222v, inclusive, and sections 10-222aa to 10-222jj, inclusive, of the
 288 general statutes, as amended by this act, and (B) the Connecticut school
 289 climate policy, as defined in section 10-222aa of the general statutes, as
 290 amended by this act, (2) assist the social and emotional learning and
 291 school climate advisory collaborative, established pursuant to section
 292 10-222q of the general statutes, as amended by this act, in the
 293 development and implementation of tools and best practices related to
 294 school climate and culture, including, but not limited to, the
 295 development of a model school climate survey and a model school
 296 climate improvement plan, (3) provide information and assistance to
 297 local and regional boards of education, students and parents and
 298 guardians of students on the uniform bullying complaint form created
 299 pursuant to section 10-222bb of the general statutes, (4) not later than
 300 January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, submit a report, in accordance
 301 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
 302 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 303 matters relating to education on recommendations for best practices and
 304 improvement of school climate improvement strategies in this state, (5)
 305 assist school climate coordinators, appointed pursuant to section 10-
 306 222dd of the general statutes, in the development of a continuum of
 307 strategies to prevent, identify and respond to challenging behavior, (6)
 308 develop and provide technical assistance and recommendations, in
 309 collaboration with the social and emotional learning and school climate
 310 advisory collaborative, to local and regional boards of education on
 311 trainings for school employees for the purposes of school climate
 312 improvement, and (7) in collaboration with the social and emotional
 313 learning and school climate advisory collaborative, develop strategies
 314 to improve the delivery of services concerning social and emotional
 315 learning, skills building and mental health supports.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2024	10-233c(g)
Sec. 2	July 1, 2024	10-233h
Sec. 3	July 1, 2024	10-233p

Sec. 4	July 1, 2024	10-222q(a)
Sec. 5	July 1, 2025	10-222q(a)
Sec. 6	July 1, 2024	10-222aa(12)
Sec. 7	July 1, 2024	10-222hh(a)
Sec. 8	July 1, 2024	10-222h(b)
Sec. 9	July 1, 2024	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 2(b), "its presentation to the court" was changed to "the presentation of such arrest to the court" for clarity and "and 54-76l, and shall only be disclosed as provided in this section and shall not be further disclosed" was added for consistency.

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*