



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 976

LCO No. 4301



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING SPECIAL EDUCATION.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-76q of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (a) The State Board of Education, in accordance with regulations
4 adopted by said board, shall: (1) Provide the professional services
5 necessary to identify, in accordance with section 10-76a, children
6 requiring special education who are enrolled at a technical education
7 and career school; (2) identify each such child; (3) determine the
8 appropriateness of the technical education and career school for the
9 educational needs of each such child; (4) provide an appropriate
10 educational program for each such child; (5) maintain a record thereof;
11 and (6) annually evaluate the progress and accomplishments of special
12 education programs provided by the Technical Education and Career
13 System.

14 (b) Where it is deemed appropriate that a child enrolled in a technical
15 education and career school receive special education, the parents or

16 guardian of such child shall have a right to the hearing and appeal
17 process as provided for in section 10-76h.

18 (c) [If a planning and placement team determines that a student
19 requires special education services which preclude such student's
20 participation in the vocational education program offered by a technical
21 education and career school, the student shall be referred to the board
22 of education in the town in which the student resides for the
23 development of an individualized educational program and such board
24 of education shall be responsible for the implementation and financing
25 of such program.] Prior to a student's enrollment in a technical
26 education and career school, the local or regional board of education for
27 the town in which such student resides shall convene a planning and
28 placement team meeting. The purpose of such meeting shall be to
29 address such student's transition to such technical education and career
30 school and ensure that such student's individualized education
31 program reflects the current supports and services that such student
32 requires in order to access a free and appropriate public education in the
33 least restrictive environment. A representative from such technical
34 education and career school shall be invited to such meeting.

35 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
36 study issues relating to the provision and funding of special education
37 in the state. Such study shall examine (1) the provision of special
38 education and related services, including whether local and regional
39 boards of education are providing such services directly or partnering
40 with regional educational service centers, contracting with a private
41 provider of special education services, as defined in section 10-91g of
42 the general statutes, or as part of a cooperative arrangement pursuant
43 to section 10-158a of the general statutes, (2) the cost of providing special
44 education and related services, including the total aggregate amount per
45 school district per year, and the annual percentage increase or decrease
46 per school district of such cost, (3) the effect that the cost of special
47 education has on a board of education's minimum budget requirement,
48 and (4) the level of state reimbursement to boards of education for
49 special education, including the total amount for reimbursement

50 submitted by each school district per year and the total amount received
51 by such school district per year, and the percentage increase or decrease
52 per year of the difference of the total amount submitted and the total
53 amount received for each school district.

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

55 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
56 one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of
57 Boards of Education and one of whom is the parent or guardian of a
58 student who is enrolled in a public school and receiving special
59 education services;

60 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of
61 whom is a representative of the Connecticut Education Association and
62 one of whom is the parent or guardian of a student who is enrolled in a
63 public school and receiving special education services;

64 (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of
65 Representatives, one of whom is a representative of the American
66 Federation of Teachers-Connecticut and one of whom is a representative
67 of the Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center;

68 (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom
69 is a representative of the Connecticut Council of Administrators of
70 Special Education and one of whom is a representative of the RESC
71 Alliance;

72 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
73 Representatives, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut
74 Association of School Administrators and one of whom is a
75 representative of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities;

76 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom
77 is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Schools and one of
78 whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of School
79 Business Officials;

80 (7) The executive director of the Connecticut Association of Public
81 School Superintendents; and

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

83 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
84 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
85 of the General Assembly.

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

89 (e) The executive director of the Connecticut Association of Public
90 School Superintendents shall serve as the chairperson of the task force.
91 The chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which
92 shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this
93 section.

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

97 (g) Not later than January 1, 2020, the task force shall submit a report
98 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
99 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
100 education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
101 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
102 submits such report or January 1, 2022, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10-76q
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Technical Education and Career System to accept and enroll students with individualized education programs, and to establish a task force to study issues relating to the provision and funding of special education in the state.

[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.]