



## 2023 CABE LOBBYING DAY BILL TRACKING

### **PA 23-1 AAC FUNDING FOR SCHOOL LUNCHES AND A CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE AVIATION, SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING, CERTAIN BOTTLE DEPOSITS, CERTAIN STATE POSITIONS AND THE POSTING OF STATE JOB OPENINGS AND BOND COVENANT RESTRICTIONS AND THE BUDGET RESERVE FUND.**

**Section 1** reallocates \$60 million in FY 23 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding from the Office of Policy and Management to the State Department of Education for Free Meals for Students. This allocation supports universal free breakfasts and lunches for all students who: 1) do not otherwise receive free meals; and 2) do not attend schools that provide free meals to all students via the federal Community Eligibility Provision program. The bill is anticipated to provide funding for universal school meals through FY 23.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

### **Sections 8-10 — DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION EXCESS COST GRANT AND STATE-AGENCY PLACEMENT EXCESS COST GRANTS**

Raises the state grant reimbursement for each of the three tiers for towns in the special education excess cost grant; places two other grants related to state agency-placed students under the same tiered method; and creates a method for distributing the special education excess cost grant when the existing tier method is used but results in unexpended appropriations.

By law, local and regional boards of education may apply to the state for a special education "excess cost grant." This grant reimburses the board for the cost of special education services that exceed four-and-a half times the average cost of educating a student in the district during the prior fiscal year. When the state's fiscal year appropriation for the special education excess cost grant is less than the amount necessary to completely fund the payable grants as required by law, it triggers a reduced excess cost grant reimbursement formula.

Under current law, this formula groups towns in three tiers depending upon their respective adjusted equalized net grand list per capita (AENGLPC). Generally speaking, the formula calculates reduced grants for local boards of education using these three tiers as follows: boards from towns in the group that have (1) the lowest AENGLPC receive a higher percentage of their full excess cost grant, (2) a mid-range AENGLPC receive a slightly lower percentage, and (3) the highest AENGLPC receive the lowest percentage.

The bill increases the reimbursement percentage for each of the tiers, bringing each board's excess cost grant amount closer to the fully funded amount required by law.

The bill also expands the tiered grant formula to apply to two additional grants when state appropriations are insufficient: (1) excess special education costs for state agency-placed students under a temporary custody order (CGS § 10-76d(e)(2)) and (2) excess regular education costs for state-placed children educated at private residential facilities (CGS § 10-253(b)(3)).

Finally, it creates an additional method for distributing the special education excess cost grant when there are excess state-appropriated funds remaining after the tiered formula is used. The bill also applies this new excess fund distribution method to the two categories of grants for state-agency placed students identified above.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

#### Excess Cost Grants

Current law establishes, beginning with FY 23, the reimbursement formula for boards of education when the state appropriation does not fully fund the excess cost grants as they are determined under statute. It creates three reimbursement tiers based on each town's AENGLPC. (Prior to FY 23, the law proportionately reduced the grant for all towns.)

The law requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to rank the towns in descending order from one to 169 according to each town's AENGLPC. It then groups the ranked towns into three tiers by highest, lower, and lowest AENGLPC. SBE must pay the grants to each eligible town's operating local school district based on the reimbursement percentage assigned to its respective tier.

#### Tiered Reimbursement Percentages Increased.

The bill increases each tier's reimbursement percentage to provide school boards at each tier with a larger grant. The current law's and the bill's percentages are shown in the table below.

Table: [Excess Cost Grant Reimbursement Rates for Three Tiers of Towns by AENGLPC](#)

Tier Group Based on AENGLPC Ranking	Town's Eligible Excess Cost Reimbursement Percentage
Current Law (%)	(Bill %)
1 to 58 highest	70.00 85.00
59 to 114 middle	73.00 88.00
115 to 169 lowest	76.25 91.00

Additionally, if the grants payable to school boards calculated under the tiered formula still exceed the state-appropriated amount available, then the bill requires the payable amount to be reduced proportionally.

By law and unchanged by the bill, the ranking for regional boards of education is determined by a process that considers the total population of each town in the regional district and each member town's AENGLPC ranking.

#### Additional Grants Brought Under Tiered Reimbursement Formula.

The bill also expands the tiered method to apply to two additional grants: (1) special education costs for state agency-placed students under a temporary custody order and (2) excess regular education costs for state-placed children educated at private residential facilities. Under current law, if the appropriation for these grants is not enough to meet the amount payable to school boards by law, then the grant amounts are reduced proportionately.

#### New Grant Mechanism.

The bill creates an additional four-step formula when the fiscal year appropriation exceeds the total grant amount payable under the three-tiered system. Once the three-tiered formula is used to distribute grants, any amount remaining would be distributed using the bill's four-step formula. Under the bill, the remaining state-appropriated funds are distributed to school boards through the following steps:

1. Subtract the sum of all the grants paid to school boards in the fiscal year under the three-tiered method from the sum of all the following grants calculated by law for
  - (a) special education excess cost,
  - (b) state agency-placed students under a temporary custody order,
  - (c) excess regular education costs for state-placed children educated at private residential facilities, and
  - (d) students receiving special education services from a private residential institution for whom no responsible school board can be determined by law (i.e., "no-nexus students").
2. Subtract the sum of all grants paid to school boards in the fiscal year under the excess cost grant from the total amount appropriated for the same grant.
3. Divide the amount calculated under step (2) by the amount calculated under step (1).
4. To determine the amount of the excess to distribute to each school board, multiply the amount calculated under step (1) that is attributable to the school board by the percentage calculated under step (3). The bill specifies that any grant paid in accordance with a no-nexus student in a public agency placement does not count toward this calculation (conforming with the excess cost grant that also does not count grants for those placements). Generally, the state pays for all of the special education costs for these students.

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**HB 5003 AAC EDUCATION FUNDING IN CONNECTICUT.** To make revisions to how public education is funded in the state.

**HB 6662 AA IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING EDUCATION.** Key sections include:

Section 1 rolls forward the current charter school funding formula into future fiscal years.

Section 2 makes permanent the cap to the Health and Welfare Services for Private Pupils Grant.

Section 3 makes permanent the cap to the Regional Education Services Grant.

Section 4 reimposes and makes permanent the cap to the Adult Education Grant.

Section 5 makes the cap on transportation grants, for which there is no longer any appropriation, permanent.

Sections 6-8 amends the Excess Cost grant to allow the State Department of Education (SDE) to expend the full appropriation beginning in FY 2023, and to ensure that the grant is capped within available appropriations in future fiscal years. The language maintains the basic tiered structure enacted in section 265 of PA 22-118 beginning in FY 2023.

Section 9 clarifies the amount of lapsing funds in the Open Choice account which are deemed non-lapsing and to be used in accordance with subsection(k) of CGS 10-266aa

Section 10 increases the per pupil rate for pre-k children in the School Readiness and Child Day Care Contract programs beginning in FY 2025.

**HB 6663 AA ESTABLISHING THE ENGLISH LEARNERS' BILL OF RIGHTS.** Specifically, the Bill of Rights will highlight existing federal and state laws regarding the provision of education. These include, in part:

- The right to attend public school regardless of immigration status;
- The right for parents and guardians to have a translator present at critical interactions with teachers and school administrators;
- The right of the parent and guardian to receive information about the progress of the student's English language development;
- The right of an English learner student to have equal access to all grade-level school programming;
- The right of an English learner student to have equal access to all core grade-level subject matter;
- The right of an English learner student to receive annual language proficiency testing; and
- The right of an English learner student to receive support services aligned with any intervention plan that the school or school district provides to all students.

**HB 6686 AA IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.** Phases in an increase from 25 per cent to 100 percent of designated staff members at each state-funded child care program shall meet minimum qualifications by July 1, 2033.

"Minimum qualifications" means at least one of the following qualifications: (A) A bachelor's degree or higher with a concentration in early childhood education from a regionally accredited institution of higher education, (B) a bachelor's degree or higher without a concentration in early childhood education, but with not less than twelve credits applicable to early childhood education from a regionally accredited institution of higher education, (C) certification pursuant to section 10-145b with an endorsement in early childhood education or early childhood special education, or (D) being deemed qualified by the office on the basis of having (i) verified employment in a state-funded child care program, and (ii) obtained not less than twelve credits applicable to early childhood education from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

A local school readiness council may elect to reserve up to five per cent of the spaces in its school readiness programs for children who are five years of age and are eligible to attend school pursuant to section 10 15c. Such children shall only be eligible to participate in the school readiness program if (1) they have been in the program for at least one year, [and] (2) the parent or legal guardian of such a child, the school readiness program provider and the local or regional school district in which the child would otherwise be attending school agree that the child [is not ready for kindergarten] would benefit from another year in the program and to defer attendance in kindergarten until the following year, and (3) a written authorization, signed by the parent or guardian of such a child, indicating that such child will not attend kindergarten until the following year is filed with the local or regional school district in which such child would otherwise be attending school.

**HB 6757 AAC TEACHER PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS.** To make revisions to how teacher evaluation and support programs are implemented. Removes State Board of Education from approving educator evaluation and support guidelines, removes the developing or below standard instead uses term require additional support, removes summative rating.

**HB 6758 AAC STAFFING FOR CERTAIN ROLES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.** To require the Department of Education to employ staff to fulfill certain roles in the department. The Commissioner of Education shall employ not fewer than five special education evaluators for the purpose of reviewing the special education services provided by local and regional boards of education and evaluating complaints related to such services. The Commissioner of Education shall employ at least one curriculum coordinator to provide assistance and curriculum materials to local and regional boards of education for the implementation of the courses of study set forth in Financial literacy, CPR, African-American and black studies and Puerto Rican and Latino studies, Native American studies (although wrong statute cited) and Holocaust and genocide education and awareness studies.

**HB 6759 AAC EARLY CHILDHOOD.** To (1) require school readiness programs and child care providers to implement the early childhood educator compensation schedule proposed by the Commissioner of Early Childhood, (2) remove contingencies on the eligibility of students and participants in job training and apprenticeship programs for the child care subsidy program, (3) exempt the Stamford Police Activities League from child care licensing requirements, and (4) allow child care centers to administer epinephrine in emergency situations.

**HB 6760 AAC CIVICS EDUCATION AND MEDIA LITERACY.** To establish the Connecticut Civics Education and Media Literacy Task Force and to include civics and media literacy in the public school curriculum.

Task Force to study and develop strategies to improve how public schools provide instruction on civics, citizenship, media literacy and American government to students. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to (1) reviewing existing curricula and the high school graduation requirements, (2) receiving recommendations from educators, administrators and the public, (3) a review of best practices, and (4) exploring the feasibility of establishing public and private partnerships to fund and support enhancements to such instruction.

**HB 6761 AAC A REVIEW OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLY LOCATIONS AND EQUIPMENT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.** To require each local and regional board of education to conduct a test of drinking water supply locations and equipment for each school building or facility and to permit boards to apply for a school building project grant to remedy or replace drinking water supply locations or equipment.

**HB 6763 AAC AN AUDIT OF THE STATE-WIDE MASTERY EXAMINATION.** To conduct an audit and develop a plan to address issues relating to the administration of the state-wide mastery examination.

**HB 6842 AAC THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LOCAL FOOD FOR SCHOOLS INCENTIVE PROGRAM AND EXPANSION OF THE CT GROWN FOR CT KIDS GRANT PROGRAM,** to establish the Local Food for Schools Incentive Grant Program, SDE may provide grant for purchase of kitchen equipment, engaging with school nutrition or farm to school consultants or training, priority to alliance districts; and to increase funding to the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant Program.

**HB 6843 AAC THE CAREER TECHNICAL AND EDUCATION SYSTEM**, to require the superintendent of the Technical Education and Career System and the Chief Workforce Officer to jointly study whether the programs offered by the system provide the training required to fill the technical careers available in the state.

**HB 6844 AAC PARAEDUCATORS**. To (1) exclude mandated trainings from professional development programs for paraeducators, (2) include a paraeducator on professional development and evaluation committees, (3) require the collection of data concerning paraeducators on the state-wide public school information system, (4) require an annual report on paraeducator staffing levels, and (5) require paraeducators to review a student's individualized education program with a supervisor, as needed.

**HB 6845 AA ESTABLISHING A STATE-WIDE BOOK GIFTING PROGRAM AND HOME READING GRANT PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN**, to establish a (1) state-wide book gifting program for children for the purpose of providing age-appropriate books to children in the state each month from birth until such children's fifth birthday, and (2) home reading grant program for the purpose of awarding state matching funds to any school district that provides age-appropriate books to children in grades kindergarten to five, inclusive.

**HB 6846 AAC THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CRISIS RESPONSE DRILLS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**, to reduce the number and revise the manner (notice, opt out, accommodate those with past-trauma, explanations, information on availability of mental health counseling, prohibit simulation, law enforcement may supervise and participate) in which crisis response drills are conducted in public schools in the state from once every 3 months to once a year and fire drills from 2 every 3 months to 2 a year.

**SB 1 AAC TRANSPARENCY IN EDUCATION**, to provide equal and comprehensive access to education and academic opportunities for all children in Connecticut. SDE conduct review of each chart of accounts, following that SDE shall prepare report for each district on –expense function, expense object, education type, pre-k-flag, allocation and funding source. Adds the program of instruction to include comprehensive sex education that is age and developmentally appropriate and includes affirmative consent. SDE to annual offer training program for newly elected BOE, roles and responsibilities, duties and obligations BOE and district budgeting and education finance. Newly elected BOE member shall complete training within one year. removes DRG distinction for student teaching. Drops number of alliance designation. Allows alliance funds to be spent for family resources center programs. Establishes public private partnership pathway in technology early college high school program. Prohibits imitation branding food product being sold in schools Creates a wholesome school meals pilot program.

**SB 1028 AA IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.**

Allowing the Alliance District program to be automatically renewed every 5 years and caps the number of districts identified at 33. These 33 will receive from SDE the extra intensive supports necessary to improve student outcomes. It also allows any district that has ever been identified as an Alliance District to keep that designation for the purposes of calculating their ECS grant and receiving Alliance District funds. They will also receive support from the department but at a less intensive level.

Second, the proposal makes the look back period for calculating a district's Alliance District grant the same for the 3 newly identified districts as the previously identified districts. All Alliance Districts will now use FY 2012 as the base year.

Also included- Provides legal authority to the Commissioner of Education to recommend changes to the CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation and Support to the State Board of Education, and for the SBE to have the legal authority to adopt recommended changes. The Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC) shall recommend proposed changes to the Guidelines for the Commissioner of Education to consider. Currently, the Guidelines must align with 10-151b(c), and changes to some components of the Guidelines are not possible without changing legislation. Revise current legislation to provide the Commissioner of Education legal authority to waive the provisions of 10-151b(2)(d) for any local or regional board of education that has expressed an intent. As districts have implemented their educator evaluation and support plans (EESPs), beginning in 2013, aligned to the requirements in the CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation and Support, new and innovative strategies to support the continuous improvement of educator practice are emerging. Some of these strategies reflect best practices in the field of education, but do not align with what is currently in Statute.

Another proposal continues the period that the reduced-isolation and residency enrollment requirements for interdistrict magnet schools will apply to such schools from June 30, 2023 to each fiscal year thereafter to remain consistent with the settlement agreement in the Sheff v. O'Neill case and the policy for enrollment requirements outside of the Sheff region.

This proposal seeks to update the language to authorize the Commissioner of Education to update interdistrict enrollment standards as necessary to comply with the applicable stipulated agreements in the Sheff v. O'Neill case and legal considerations in the non-Sheff region.

This proposal extends the period prohibiting local boards of education that operate interdistrict magnet schools in the Sheff region from charging tuition for students enrolled in the school programs, with the exception of Hartford Public Schools which may charge tuition for students attending Great Path Academy. HPS operates Great Path Academy through a contract on behalf of Manchester Community College and does not receive direct financial benefit from student enrollments.

Finally, the last proposal authorizes the Commissioner of Education to make grant payments to voluntary interdistrict school choice school programs with funds appropriated for Sheff settlement for academic and social student support for programs that assist the state in meeting its obligation pursuant to the decision in Sheff v. O'Neill, 238 Conn. 1 (1996) or any related stipulation or order in effect. Currently, there is authority to issue academic and social support grants for magnet schools and Open Choice districts but not for other choice options.

**SB 1093 AA IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CONCERNING EDUCATION.** To (1) require school districts deemed to have high suspension and expulsion rates to submit a response and improvement plan to the Department of Education, (2) implement a phased-in classroom size cap, (3) recommend suicide assessments for at-risk students, (4) require reports concerning alternative educational opportunities by the 10 largest school districts, and (5) establish an advisory committee appointed by the Commissioner to develop guidance to reduce the suspension or expulsion of children in grades preschool to two, inclusive.

**SB 1094 AAC THE IMPLEMENTATION OF READING MODELS OR PROGRAMS.** To delay implementation of the requirements regarding reading models or programs for grades k-3. Districts denied a waiver must begin to partially implement beginning July 2023 and July 2024 and fully implement July 2025. If granted a waiver must implement in accordance with waiver by July 2023.

**SB 1095 AAC SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS.** To require specificity concerning the use and duties of school resource officers in schools, on or after July 1, 2023, shall include provisions specifying (i) a school resource officer's duties concerning, and procedures for, the restraint of students, use of firearms and school-based arrests, and (ii) that individuals who are school counselors, social workers, psychologists, aides or other staff members and have appropriate training and ongoing supports may be assigned the duties of a school resource officer. Requires MOU maintained in central location in district and posted on website.

**SB 1097 AAC SCHOOL NURSES.** Not later than July 1, 2024, the State Board of Education shall adopt regulations, to (1) require that a school nurse who has been qualified pursuant to regulations by the SBE in consultation with DPH and appointed by a local or regional board of education to obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing or a related field not later than five years after such qualification, except that any school nurse who was so qualified and appointed prior to July 1, 2024, shall not be required to obtain such bachelor's degree, (2) require each school nurse to complete at least fifteen hours of professional development programs or activities approved by the local or regional board of education in each two-year period, and (3) create a special services endorsement for school nurses.

**SB 1164 AAC A REVIEW OF THE REGULATIONS RELATING TO EDUCATION,** to require the Department of Education to submit a review of its regulations.

**SB 1165 AAC FINANCIAL LITERACY INSTRUCTION,** to require financial literacy instruction in high school.

**SB 1166 AAC IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONNECTICUT SCHOOL CLIMATE POLICY,** to implement the Connecticut school climate policy, guidance from state Board of Education to BOE's; BOE may adopt until shall adopt July 1, 2025. Administer survey, create a plan, update annually, provide training regarding social and emotional learning, school climate and restorative practices to employees. BOE provide information on domestic violence resources to student, parent; teacher prep candidates must have completed, beginning educators must have module, and hold in-service training.

## **APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**HB 6659 AAC THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025 AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.** To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

## **COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN**

**HB 6561 AA ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF YOUTH AND INTRAMURAL AND INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETES.** To establish a task force to study injury prevention practices and safety protocols in youth sports leagues and intramural and interscholastic athletics.

**HB 6642 AAC A TITLE IX COMPLIANCE TOOLKIT FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS.** To identify or develop a federal Title IX compliance toolkit to assist school districts in properly implementing state and federal laws regarding the prevention, identification and response to adult sexual misconduct.

**HB 6643 AAC MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE RISK ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED AT SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS AND INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS EXAMINATIONS.** To authorize Medicaid reimbursement for suicide risk assessments and other mental health evaluations and services conducted at school-based health centers and public schools, and to eliminate the requirement that a mental health wellness examination be conducted by a primary care provider for purposes of insurance coverage.

**HB 6644 AAC THE DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION REGARDING SPECIAL EDUCATION TO FAMILIES AND STUDENTS.** To require birth-to-three service coordinators to provide information regarding special education to the parents and guardians of children receiving birth-to-three program services and to require the Department of Education to develop an age-appropriate informational handout for students with individualized education programs and 504 plans.

**HB 6717 AAC GUIDELINES AND BEST PRACTICES FOR SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE EMPLOYEES.**

Not later than January 1, 2024, the Department of Public Health, in consultation with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Department of Education, shall (1) develop guidelines and best practices for school food service employees to interact and converse with students in ways that are sensitive to the prevalence of eating disorders among children, and (2) post such guidelines and best practices on the Department of Public Health's Internet web site. The Department of Public Health shall update such guidelines and best practices as it deems necessary.

For the school year commencing July 1, 2024, and each school year thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall annually provide a copy of the guidelines and best practices described in section 1 of this act to each school food service employee employed by or pursuant to a contract with such board.

**SB 2 AAC THE MENTAL, PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLNESS OF CHILDREN.**

Sec. 10. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2023) (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall provide Medicaid reimbursement, to the extent permissible under federal law, for suicide risk assessments and other mental health evaluations and services provided at a school-based health center or public school.

Sec. 17. (Effective July 1, 2023) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the Department of Education shall hire one full-time employee who will be responsible for awarding a grant to and collaborating with a nonprofit organization that specializes in identifying and providing services for at-risk teenage students who are experiencing depression, anxiety, substance abuse struggles and trauma and conflict-related stresses, for the purpose of training school behavioral health providers to be able to identify and provide services for such at-risk teenage students.

Sec. 19. (Effective July 1, 2023) The sum of fifteen thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of Education from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, for the purpose of awarding a grant to a nonprofit organization described in section 17 of this act, for the

training of school behavioral health providers to identify and provide services for at-risk teenage students who are experiencing depression, anxiety, substance abuse struggles, and trauma and conflict related stresses.

**SB 929 AA EXPANDING SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE FREE SCHOOL MEALS TO ALL STUDENTS.** To provide free school meals to all students.

**SB 1005 AAC A STUDY OF THE POST-PANDEMIC NEEDS OF CHILDREN.** To study the post-pandemic needs of children.

**SB 1046 AAC THE REDUCTION OF FOOD WASTE IN SCHOOLS.**

Section 1(a) (3) On and after January 1, 2022, each commercial food wholesaler or distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor, supermarket, resort or conference center, and, on and after January 1, 2024, any local or regional board of education for a school district that is located not more than twenty miles from an authorized source-separated organic material composting facility and that generates an average projected volume of not less than twenty-six tons per year of source-separated organic materials shall: (A) Separate such source-separated organic materials from other solid waste; and (B) ensure that such source-separated organic materials are recycled at any authorized source-separated organic material composting facility that has available capacity and that will accept such source-separated organic material.

(b) Any such wholesaler, distributor, manufacturer, processor, supermarket, resort, [or] conference center or local or regional board of education that performs composting of source-separated organic materials on site or treats source-separated organic materials via on-site organic treatment equipment permitted pursuant to the general statutes or federal law shall be deemed in compliance with the provisions of this section.

(2) Not later than January 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall establish a voluntary pilot program for any local or regional board of education that seeks to separate source-separated organic materials and ensure that such source-separated organic materials are recycled at authorized source-separated organic material composting facilities that have available capacity and that will accept such source-separated organic material.

Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-158a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

(a) Any two or more boards of education may, in writing, agree to establish cooperative arrangements to provide school accommodations services, programs or activities, special education services, health care services, alternative education, as defined in section 10-74j, [or] administrative and central office duties, or for the composting of source-separated organic materials pursuant to section 22a-226e, as amended by this act, to enable such boards to carry out the duties specified in the general statutes. Such arrangements may include the establishment of a committee to supervise such programs, the membership of the committee to be determined by the agreement of the cooperating boards. Such committee shall have the power, in accordance with the terms of the agreement, to (1) apply for, receive directly and expend on behalf of the school districts which have designated the committee an agent for such purpose any state or federal grants which may be allocated to school districts for specified programs, the supervision of which has been delegated to such committee, provided such grants are payable before implementation of any such program or are to reimburse the committee pursuant to subsection (d) of this section for transportation provided to a school operated by a cooperative arrangement; (2) receive and disburse funds appropriated to the

use of such committee by the cooperating school districts, the state or the United States, or given to the committee by individuals or private corporations; (3) hold title to real or personal property in trust, or as otherwise agreed to by the parties, for the appointing boards; (4) employ personnel; (5) enter into contracts; and (6) otherwise provide the specified programs, services and activities. Teachers employed by any such committee shall be subject to the provisions of the general statutes applicable to teachers employed by the board of education of any town or regional school district. For purposes of this section, the term "teacher" shall include each professional employee of a committee below the rank of superintendent who holds a regular certificate issued by the State Board of Education and who is in a position requiring such certification.

Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) For the purposes of this section, "composting station" means a designated location in a school cafeteria where students and employees of the school may deposit unconsumed organic material for composting.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2024, the Department of Education shall, in consultation with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, develop guidelines concerning the implementation of a composting station program at schools. Such guidelines shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) the types of organic material that may be deposited in a composting station, (2) best practices for food and beverage management and safety with respect to the items deposited at a composting station, and (3) processes for the disposal of any organic material not used for composting. Such guidelines shall be consistent with the rules and regulations of the Department of Public Health, the United States Food and Drug Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture.

(c) For the school year commencing July 1, 2023, and each school year thereafter, any school under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education may implement a composting station program at such school in accordance with the guidelines developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

## **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**SB 961 AAC CARBON-FREE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND ESTABLISHING OTHER SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS.** To require the use of project labor agreements when certain solar and energy efficiency projects are required of school districts and to require certain measures by the Department of Public Health concerning air quality and drinking water in school settings.

**HB 6606 AAC THE USE OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS MADE FROM POLYSTYRENE.** To eliminate the use of school trays made from polystyrene and prohibit the use of certain polystyrene food containers by restaurants.

## **FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 776 AAC A STATE-WIDE PROPERTY TAX ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY.** To establish a state-wide property tax on residential real property with assessed values of more than one million five hundred thousand dollars and to dedicate such revenue to fully fund the equalization aid grants under section 10-262h of the general statutes.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE**

**[HB 5441](#) AAC COLLEGE GRADUATES WHO WORK IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION OR HEALTH CARE IN THE STATE.** To establish a student loan forgiveness program or public-private partnership to encourage college graduates to pursue careers in teaching or health care in the state for the purpose of addressing labor shortages in such fields.

**[HB 6097](#) AAC TUITION WAIVERS FOR PARAEDUCATORS WHO SEEK A DEGREE IN EDUCATION.** To allow tuition waivers for paraeducators who enroll in a program at a public institution of higher education for a degree in education.

## **JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

**[HB 6638](#) AA REVISING THE STATE'S ANTIDISCRIMINATION STATUTES.** To provide consistency in the listing of protected classes in the state's antidiscrimination statutes and revise the statutory definition of "sexual orientation".

## **LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE**

**[HB 5464](#) AAC COMPLAINTS AGAINST STATE AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES.** To inform other municipalities and states of accused wrongdoing of a state or municipal employee that resigned before finality of the complaint against them.

**[SB 913](#) AA EXPANDING WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE FOR POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURIES FOR ALL EMPLOYEES.** To extend workers' compensation coverage for post-traumatic stress injuries to all employees.

## **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**[HB 5796](#) AA REQUIRING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS AT PUBLIC AGENCY MEETINGS.** In any such meeting that is open to the public, each public agency shall provide members of the public an opportunity to present oral testimony on any item appearing on the agenda of such public agency for such meeting during a public comment period designated by such public agency. Each public agency may adopt rules and restrictions regarding such comment periods, including, but not limited to, a limit on the total amount of time allocated for public comment on specific agenda items and for each individual speaker.

**[SB 917](#) AA ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL TITLE IX PROTECTIONS FOR ALL MUNICIPAL RECREATION AREAS AND SCHOOL SPORTS FACILITIES.**

To establish a working group to study the feasibility of a federal Title IX assessment of all municipal recreation areas and facilities used for the organized playing of sports and public school sports facilities.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**[HB 6672](#) AAC ENDOMETRIOSIS.** On and after October 1, 2023, for licensees working as a school nurse or as a nurse for a school-based health center, shall include at least one contact hour of training or education during the first renewal period in which continuing education is required and not

less than once every six years thereafter in diagnosing and treating endometriosis, including a review of (A) an educational toolkit regarding endometriosis developed by an organization recognized by the Department of Public Health, and (B) information on how systemic racism, explicit and implicit bias, racial disparities and experiences of transgender and gender diverse youth affect the diagnosis and treatment of endometriosis.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE**

**HB 6624 AAC RETIRED POLICE AND PAROLE OFFICERS PROVIDING SCHOOL SECURITY AND PEACE OFFICERS CARRYING FIREARMS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.** To expand the types of retired officers who may provide armed security in schools and allow peace officers to carry firearms on school grounds at any time.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

**HB 5917 AA IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE VISION ZERO COUNCIL.**

Sec. 9. (NEW) (Effective from passage) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Departments of Transportation and Motor Vehicles, shall award, upon receipt of a request, an exemplary "Vision Zero" program distinction to those local and regional boards of education that offer a program that provides students in grades six to twelve, inclusive, with opportunities to learn about the mission of the Vision Zero Council, established pursuant to section 13b-23b of the general statutes, and the importance of practicing safe driving habits and learning pedestrian safety skills. Such opportunities may include, but need not be limited to, classes, extracurricular activities, presentations, symposiums, peer-to-peer education, parent involvement and parenting education and outreach. A local or regional school may submit, at such time and in such manner as the state board prescribes, a request for such distinction by providing details about such board's program to the state board. The state board shall make information about the distinction available on the Department of Education's Internet web site.

Section 16 (5) "School zone" means an area designated by the Office of the State Traffic Administration or the traffic authority of a town, city or borough pursuant to section 14-212b of the general statutes.

**SB 1081 AAC THE USE OF A GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM ON A SCHOOL BUS AND THE SHORTAGE OF SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS.** To (1) permit the use of a mobile electronic device for navigation purposes on a school bus by a school bus driver, (2) waive the engine compartment portion of the commercial driver license's test for applicants seeking or renewing a public passenger endorsement to operate a school bus, (3) study policies and initiatives to address the nationwide school bus driver shortage, and (4) permit the advertising of employment opportunities for school bus drivers on school buses.

### **Legend**

**AA- An Act**

**AAC - An Act Concerning**

**Aprops - Appropriations**