



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 360

February Session, 2026

Substitute Senate Bill No. 423

Senate, April 2, 2026

The Committee on Government Oversight reported through SEN. GADKAR-WILCOX of the 22nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING OVERSIGHT OVER HIGHER EDUCATION.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10a-78a of the 2026 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) Not later than July 1, [2024] 2026, and annually thereafter until and
5 including July 1, 2030, the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall
6 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to
7 the joint standing [committee] committees of the General Assembly
8 having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and
9 employment advancement and government oversight concerning the
10 results achieved from the consolidation of the regional community-
11 technical colleges into the Connecticut State Community College. Such
12 report shall include, but need not be limited to, a comparison of the
13 following performance metrics from July 1, [2023] 2019, to the date of
14 such report:

15 (1) Percentage of students enrolled for the first time in credit-bearing
16 courses who;

17 (A) ~~[complete]~~ Complete introductory math and English course
18 requirements not later than one year after enrollment; ~~[]~~

19 ~~(B) Enroll for more than six credits during their first semester;~~

20 ~~(C) Complete more than twenty-four credits during their first year of~~
21 ~~enrollment;~~

22 ~~[(B) enroll]~~ ~~(D) Enroll~~ for a full semester and subsequently (i) reenroll
23 for the following semester, (ii) reenroll for the next fall or spring
24 semester after attending a fall or spring semester during the preceding
25 academic year, or (iii) graduate; ~~[]~~ and

26 ~~[(C) within]~~ ~~(E) Within~~ the first three years of enrollment, (i) graduate,
27 (ii) transfer to a four-year institution of higher education, or (iii) are still
28 enrolled in a course of study, ~~[(2) ratios]~~ categorized by demographic;

29 ~~(2) Percentage of students who attend multiple campuses;~~

30 ~~(3) Ratios~~ of students to (A) student counselors or advisors, (B) full-
31 time faculty, and (C) part-time or adjunct faculty;

32 ~~[(3) the]~~ ~~(4) The~~ number of executive positions at each campus of the
33 Connecticut State Community College; and

34 ~~[(4) the]~~ ~~(5) The~~ number of personnel by location or functional area at
35 each campus and type of position including, but not limited to, faculty,
36 direct student support staff, building operations, clerical or
37 administrative staff and executive positions.

38 ~~(b) On and after July 1, 2026, such report shall also provide additional~~
39 ~~information concerning the effects of the consolidation, and shall:~~

40 ~~(1) Detail the financial impact of the consolidation and whether it has~~
41 ~~saved money or resulted in additional costs, including, but not limited~~
42 ~~to, the average per student costs of the admission department, financial~~

43 aid departments, student registration process and student records
44 process, from July 1, 2019, to the year preceding the report;

45 (2) Specify whether there are any administrative services that cannot
46 be efficiently redistributed;

47 (3) Include a cost-benefit analysis of eliminating the central office and
48 having an administrative office on each campus;

49 (4) Compare the numbers of faculty and direct student support staff
50 at the time of the report to prior to the consolidation;

51 (5) Include the increase or decrease of administrative positions,
52 faculty and direct student support staff by percentage since the
53 consolidation;

54 (6) After conducting a survey of students and faculty annually,
55 include the results of the survey of students concerning the impact on
56 students' ability to access classes necessary for their major and of faculty
57 concerning the impact on their ability to teach classes;

58 (7) Detail how the consolidation has or has not created a seamless
59 transition between the regional-technical community colleges and the
60 Connecticut State University System;

61 (8) Analyze whether the different missions of two-year and four-year
62 colleges have been impacted by the consolidation, and if there has been
63 an impact, an explanation of such impact;

64 (9) Provide a detailed comparison of the budgets of the Connecticut
65 State University System compared to separate regional-technical
66 community colleges before and after the consolidation; and

67 (10) Compare student outcomes at the Connecticut State University
68 System to outcomes at The University of Connecticut.

69 (c) As used in this section, "executive position" includes any [(A)] (1)
70 person with a title such as president, director or chief executive officer,
71 [(B)] (2) administrative head of an office or department, [(C)] (3) deputy

72 to an administrative head, [(D)] (4) executive or personal secretary of
73 such person, administrative head or deputy, and [(E)] (5) other person
74 in an equivalent position.

75 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than December 31, 2026, the
76 chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities shall
77 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
78 general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General
79 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education
80 and government oversight. Such report shall compare the number of full
81 time and part-time personnel performing each of the following
82 administrative functions at the system office of the Connecticut State
83 Colleges and Universities, the central office of the Connecticut State
84 Community College and each campus of the regional and technical
85 community colleges as of June 30, 2026, compared to June 30, 2019, and
86 June 30, 2011: (1) Academic and student affairs, (2) accounting, (3) board
87 affairs, (4) finance and budget, (5) compliance and audit, (6) chancellor's
88 office, (7) external affairs, (8) facilities, (9) human resources and labor
89 relations, (10) decision support and institutional research, (11)
90 information technology, (12) legal, and (13) business services and
91 procurement.

92 Sec. 3. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 10a-11b of the 2026
93 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
94 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

95 (d) Not later than September 1, 2025, the commission shall submit a
96 preliminary report on the development of the update of the higher
97 education strategic master plan and, not later than December 1, 2025,
98 the commission shall submit the higher education strategic master plan,
99 including specific goals and benchmarks for the years ending 2026 and
100 2030, together with any recommendations for appropriate legislation
101 and funding to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the
102 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
103 education and employment advancement, education, commerce, labor
104 and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, in accordance

105 with the provisions of section 11-4a. Not later than July 1, 2026, the
 106 commission shall submit a copy of such plan to the joint standing
 107 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 108 relating to government oversight.

109 (e) Not later than January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the
 110 commission shall submit a report to the Governor and the joint standing
 111 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 112 relating to higher education and employment advancement, education,
 113 commerce, labor, [and] appropriations and the budgets of state agencies
 114 and government oversight, in accordance with section 11-4a, on the
 115 implementation of the plan and progress made toward achieving the
 116 goals specified in the plan. The commission may periodically suggest
 117 changes to the goals as necessary.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10a-78a
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	10a-11b(d) and (e)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a), "[2) ratios]" was moved for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

GOS *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill has no fiscal impact. It expands an existing reporting requirement of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) and establishes a new reporting requirement. It is anticipated CSCU can fulfill these duties with existing resources.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 423*****AN ACT CONCERNING OVERSIGHT OVER HIGHER EDUCATION.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes several changes to reporting requirements related to the public higher education system.

Beginning with the report due by July 1, 2026, the bill changes existing requirements and adds new ones for the Board of Regents for Higher Education's (BOR) annual report on consolidating the community colleges into Connecticut State Community College.

By December 31, 2026, the bill requires the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) chancellor to report to the Government Oversight and Higher Education and Employment Advancement committees on a comparison of the number of certain CSCU personnel on June 30, 2011, June 30, 2019, and June 30, 2026.

The bill also adds the Government Oversight Committee to the list of legislative committees that must receive the Planning Commission for Higher Education's updated higher education strategic master plan and its annual reports on the plan's progress.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 1 — REPORT ON CONSOLIDATING COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The community-technical colleges merged into Connecticut State Community College in 2023. The law requires BOR to annually report certain information on the consolidation's results through July 1, 2030. Beginning with the report due by July 1, 2026, the bill changes existing requirements and adds new ones for the annual reports. It also requires submitting this report to the Government Oversight Committee, in

addition to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee as currently required.

Changes to Current Report Requirements

Currently, the report must compare the following performance metrics from July 1, 2023, to the report's date:

1. percentage of students enrolled for the first time in courses for credit who (a) complete introductory math and English requirements within a year of enrollment; (b) enroll for a full semester and reenroll the following semester or the next fall or spring semester, or graduate; and (c) after three years' enrollment, graduate, transfer to a four year institution, or are still enrolled;
2. ratios of students to (a) student-counselors or advisors, (b) full-time faculty, and (c) part-time or adjunct faculty;
3. number of executive positions at each campus; and
4. number of personnel by location or functional area for each campus and type of position.

The bill requires comparing the performance metrics to July 1, 2019, instead of July 1, 2023, and adds that the report address the percentage of students:

1. enrolled for the first time in courses for credit who (a) enroll for more than six credits their first semester and (b) complete more than 24 credits during their first year, and
2. who attend multiple campuses.

It also requires categorizing the data currently required about student outcomes within three years of enrollment by demographic.

New Report Requirements

For reports beginning on July 1, 2026, the bill also requires:

1. details on the financial impact of consolidation and whether it saved money or added costs from July 1, 2019, to the year prior to the report, including information on the average per student cost of the admissions and financial aid departments and the student registration and records process;
2. whether any administrative service cannot be efficiently redistributed;
3. a cost-benefit analysis of eliminating the central office and having an administrative office on each campus;
4. a comparison of the number of faculty and direct student support staff prior to consolidation and at the time of the report;
5. the percentage change in administrative positions, faculty, and direct student support staff since consolidation;
6. the results of a new annual survey of (a) students about the impact on their ability to take classes needed for their major and (b) faculty about the impact on their ability to teach classes;
7. details on how consolidation has or has not created a seamless transition from the region-technical community colleges to the Connecticut State University System (CSUS);
8. an analysis of the consolidation's impact, with an explanation of it, on the missions of two- and four-year colleges;
9. a detailed comparison of CSUS budgets compared to the separate regional community-technical colleges before and after consolidation; and
10. a comparison of student outcomes at CSUS and UConn.

§ 2 — REPORT ON CSCU PERSONNEL

The bill requires the CSCU chancellor, by December 31, 2026, to report to the Government Oversight and Higher Education and

Employment Advancement Committees information comparing the number of certain CSCU personnel on June 30, 2011, June 30, 2019, and June 30, 2026. The comparison must address full- and part-time staff at the CSCU system office, the Connecticut State Community College central office, and each regional community-technical college campus performing the following functions:

1. academic and student affairs,
2. accounting,
3. board affairs,
4. finance and budget,
5. compliance and audit,
6. chancellor's office,
7. external affairs,
8. facilities,
9. human resources and labor relations,
10. decision support and institutional research,
11. information technology,
12. legal, and
13. business services and procurement.

§ 3 — HIGHER EDUCATION STRATEGIC MASTER PLAN

The law requires the Planning Commission for Higher Education to revise the 2015 higher education strategic master plan and submit an updated plan with goals and benchmarks for 2026 and 2030 to the governor and various legislative committees by December 1, 2025 (the plan does not appear to have been submitted). Beginning by January 1, 2027, the commission must annually report on the plan's

implementation and goal progression to these recipients.

Under current law, the legislative recipients are the Appropriations, Commerce, Education, Higher Education and Employment Advancement, and Labor committees. The bill additionally requires the commission to submit the plan to the Government Oversight Committee by July 1, 2026, and also give it the annual updates.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Oversight Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/17/2026)