



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

**Raised Bill No. 5215**

LCO No. 1333



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD STATUTES.**

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of section 10-220 of the  
2 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
3 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (2) On and after January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, a local or  
5 regional board of education shall provide for a uniform inspection and  
6 evaluation program of the indoor air quality within each school  
7 building using the Environmental Protection Agency's Indoor Air  
8 Quality Tools for Schools Program. The inspection and evaluation  
9 program shall include, but not be limited to, a review, inspection or  
10 evaluation of the following: (A) The heating, ventilation and air  
11 conditioning systems; (B) radon levels in the air; (C) potential for  
12 exposure to microbiological airborne particles, including, but not  
13 limited to, fungi, mold and bacteria; (D) chemical compounds of concern  
14 to indoor air quality including, but not limited to, volatile organic

15 compounds; (E) the degree of pest infestation, including, but not limited  
16 to, insects and rodents; (F) the degree of pesticide usage; (G) the  
17 presence of and the plans for removal of any hazardous substances that  
18 are contained on the list prepared pursuant to Section 302 of the federal  
19 Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, 42 USC  
20 [9601] 11001 et seq.; (H) ventilation systems; (I) plumbing, including  
21 water distribution systems, drainage systems and fixtures; (J) moisture  
22 incursion; (K) the overall cleanliness of the facilities; (L) building  
23 structural elements, including, but not limited to, roofing, basements or  
24 slabs; (M) the use of space, particularly areas that were designed to be  
25 unoccupied; and (N) the provision of indoor air quality maintenance  
26 training for building staff. Local and regional boards of education  
27 conducting evaluations pursuant to this subsection shall (i) make  
28 available for public inspection the results of the inspection and  
29 evaluation at a regularly scheduled board of education meeting and on  
30 the Internet web site of such board and on the Internet web site, if any,  
31 of each individual school, and (ii) submit the report and results of such  
32 inspection and evaluation to the Department of Administrative Services  
33 using the form developed pursuant to section 10-231h.

34 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 10-512 of the 2026 supplement to the  
35 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
36 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

37 (c) The State Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipt,  
38 maintenance, administration, investing and release of amounts from the  
39 endowment. The endowment shall not receive deposits in any form  
40 other than cash.

41 Sec. 3. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-512a of the 2026  
42 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is  
43 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

44 (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, based on an estimate  
45 prepared by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management  
46 between June 15, 2025, to June 30, 2025, inclusive, of the amount of

47 current unappropriated surplus for such fiscal year, the amount of such  
48 estimated surplus, if any, up to a maximum of three hundred million  
49 dollars shall be transferred on or before June 30, 2025, by the State  
50 Treasurer from the General Fund to the Early Childhood Education  
51 Endowment established under section 10-512, as amended by this act.

52 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year  
53 thereafter, based on such estimated amount of current unappropriated  
54 surplus described in subsection (a) of this section, if any, the entire  
55 amount of such estimated surplus for each such fiscal year shall be  
56 transferred by the State Treasurer from the General Fund to the Early  
57 Childhood Education Endowment, except that if the amount in the  
58 Budget Reserve Fund is estimated by the secretary to be less than  
59 eighteen per cent of the estimated net General Fund appropriations for  
60 the ensuing fiscal year, the amount of such transfer shall be reduced by  
61 the amount necessary to increase the amount in the Budget Reserve  
62 Fund to eighteen per cent of the estimated net General Fund  
63 appropriations for the ensuing fiscal year, or by the maximum amount  
64 of the projected surplus, whichever is less, and an amount equal to such  
65 reduction shall be transferred to the Budget Reserve Fund.

66 Sec. 4. Section 10-512b of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes  
67 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
68 *passage*):

69 (a) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, the  
70 State Treasurer, in consultation with the Early Childhood Education  
71 Endowment Advisory Board, shall annually authorize the release of  
72 funds from the Early Childhood Education Endowment in an amount  
73 not to exceed twelve per cent of the total amount of the endowment to  
74 the Commissioner of Early Childhood. Such released funds shall be  
75 expended by the Commissioner of Early Childhood in accordance with  
76 the provisions of section 10-512c, as amended by this act.

77 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, and each fiscal year  
78 thereafter, the State Treasurer shall, in consultation with the Early

79 Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board, annually authorize  
80 the release of funds from the endowment in an amount not to exceed  
81 ten per cent of the total amount of the endowment to the Commissioner  
82 of Early Childhood. Such released funds shall be expended by the  
83 Commissioner of Early Childhood in accordance with the provisions of  
84 section 10-512c, as amended by this act.

85 Sec. 5. Section 10-512c of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes  
86 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
87 *passage*):

88 (a) As used in this section:

89 (1) "Expansion costs" includes expenses to increase early care and  
90 education program provider payment rates, increase equitable access  
91 and affordability of high quality early childhood education, extend the  
92 hours of operation per day or portion of the year covered or to sustain  
93 services previously funded by the Early Childhood Education  
94 Endowment;

95 (2) "Programmatic costs" includes costs for parent and early care and  
96 education program enrollment campaigns, local governance partners,  
97 needs assessment technical assistance, facilities program technical  
98 assistance and workforce recruitment and scholarships for educators in  
99 alignment with the early childhood priorities of the Early Childhood  
100 Education Endowment Advisory Board and the Office of Early  
101 Childhood; and

102 (3) "Administrative costs" includes costs relating to (A) personnel,  
103 including, but not limited to, the salary and fringe benefits of the  
104 employees of the State Treasurer's office responsible for administering  
105 the Early Childhood Education Endowment and the employees of the  
106 Office of Early Childhood and the Department of Education responsible  
107 for administering programming that utilizes funds from the  
108 endowment, and the stipends provided to parent and program provider  
109 members of the Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory  
110 Board pursuant to subsection (g) of section 10-512g, as amended by this

111 act, and (B) data and technology, including, but not limited to, the  
112 development and maintenance of payment or parent enrollment portals,  
113 establishing or managing memoranda of understanding between the  
114 Office of Early Childhood and other [states] state agencies related to the  
115 provision of child care.

116 (b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the Commissioner of Early  
117 Childhood, upon receipt of the funds released by the State Treasurer  
118 from the Early Childhood Education Endowment pursuant to section  
119 10-512b, as amended by this act, is authorized to expend such funds for  
120 the following purposes and in the following manner: (1) Up to eight per  
121 cent of such released funds for administrative costs, and (2) of such  
122 remaining released funds (A) three hundred thousand dollars for the  
123 health insurance subsidy program established pursuant to section 10-  
124 531b, and (B) the remaining balance for expansion costs and  
125 programmatic costs.

126 (c) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the Commissioner of Early  
127 Childhood, upon receipt of the funds released by the State Treasurer  
128 from the endowment pursuant to section 10-512b, as amended by this  
129 act, is authorized to expend such funds for the following purposes and  
130 in the following manner: (1) Up to twelve per cent of such released funds  
131 for administrative costs, and (2) of such remaining released funds (A)  
132 ten million dollars for the health insurance subsidy program established  
133 pursuant to section 10-531b, and (B) the remaining balance for  
134 expansion costs and programmatic costs.

135 (d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028, and each fiscal year  
136 thereafter, the Commissioner of Early Childhood, upon receipt of the  
137 funds released by the State Treasurer from the endowment pursuant to  
138 section 10-512b, as amended by this act, is authorized to expend such  
139 funds for the following purposes and in the following manner: (1) Up to  
140 seven per cent of such released funds for administrative costs, and (2) of  
141 such remaining released funds for (A) the health insurance subsidy  
142 program established pursuant to section 10-531b, and (B) expansion  
143 costs and programmatic costs.

144 (e) Any funds from the endowment that have been released by the  
145 State Treasurer to the Commissioner of Early Childhood pursuant to  
146 section 10-512b, as amended by this act, shall:

147 (1) Supplement and not supplant any other local, state or federal  
148 funds otherwise available for early childhood care and education;

149 (2) Not be comingled with any state or federal funding received  
150 under the child care development block grant pursuant to the Child  
151 Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990; and

152 (3) Not lapse if not expended by the commissioner at the end of the  
153 fiscal year and shall be transferred to the State Treasurer and deposited  
154 in the endowment.

155 Sec. 6. Section 10-512d of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes  
156 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
157 *passage*):

158 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year  
159 thereafter, the Commissioner of Early Childhood may expend, in  
160 accordance with the provisions of section 10-512c, as amended by this  
161 act, funds released by the State Treasurer from the Early Childhood  
162 Education Endowment, pursuant to section 10-512b, as amended by this  
163 act, to any early care and education program providing child care  
164 services, as described in section 19a-77, or preschool program operated  
165 by a local or regional board of education that is (1) receiving financial  
166 assistance under Early Start CT pursuant to section 10-550b, (2)  
167 participating in the quality improvement system established by the  
168 Office of Early Childhood under subdivision (15) of subsection (b) of  
169 section 10-500, and (3) participating in the Child and Adult Care Food  
170 Program, 42 USC 1766, as amended from time to time, unless such  
171 program has received a waiver from participation in said program by  
172 the Commissioner of Early Childhood or is a public school preschool  
173 program that offers free or reduced priced lunches pursuant to federal  
174 law and regulations.

175       Sec. 7. Section 10-512g of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes  
176 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
177 *passage*):

178       (a) There is established the Early Childhood Education Endowment  
179 Advisory Board. The board shall be responsible for (1) providing  
180 oversight of the administration of the Early Childhood Education  
181 Endowment, (2) ensuring that funds from the endowment are expended  
182 in accordance with the provisions of section 10-512c, as amended by this  
183 act, (3) reviewing all reports and expenditure plans concerning the  
184 endowment submitted by the State Treasurer and Commissioner of  
185 Early Childhood, (4) reviewing and assessing the outcomes related to  
186 the expenditure of funds from the endowment, and (5) preparing and  
187 submitting reports and recommendations to the General Assembly  
188 concerning the administration of the endowment and permissible  
189 expenditure of funds from the endowment, including recommendations  
190 for expansion of permissible expenditures of funds from the  
191 endowment.

192       (b) The board shall consist of the following members:

193       (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
194 one of whom shall be a parent who is a member of the parent cabinet  
195 established by the Office of Early Childhood pursuant to section 10-500  
196 and one of whom shall be a member of the House of Representatives;

197       (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of  
198 whom shall be the licensee of a family child care home and one of whom  
199 shall be a member of the Senate;

200       (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
201 Representatives, one of whom shall be an educator in an early care and  
202 education program in the state and one of whom shall be the parent or  
203 guardian of a child receiving services under the birth-to-three program  
204 established under section 17a-248b;

205       (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom

206 shall be a representative of a philanthropic organization that is engaged  
207 in early childhood education issues or child care issues in the state and  
208 one of whom shall be a special education teacher or administrator in a  
209 public school preschool program that is providing services under Part B  
210 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1431 et seq.,  
211 as amended from time to time;

212 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
213 Representatives, who is a representative of a child care center;

214 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is an  
215 educator in a preschool program provided by a local or regional board  
216 of education;

217 (7) Two appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a  
218 representative of a corporation with a significant physical presence in  
219 the state and that employs individuals who may benefit from early  
220 childhood education and state child care initiatives and one of whom  
221 shall be a representative from a Head Start program;

222 (8) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's  
223 designee;

224 (9) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the  
225 secretary's designee;

226 (10) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;  
227 and

228 (11) The State Treasurer, or the State Treasurer's designee.

229 (c) All initial appointments to the board shall be made not later than  
230 September 1, 2025. Each appointed member shall serve in accordance  
231 with the provisions of section 4-1a and the appointing authorities shall  
232 appoint members to ensure representation on the board of all  
233 geographic areas in the state, to the extent practicable. Any vacancy  
234 shall be filled by the appointing authority. Any vacancy occurring other  
235 than by expiration of term shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired

236 term.

237 (d) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's  
238 designee, the member of the House of Representatives and the member  
239 of the Senate shall serve as the chairpersons of the board. The  
240 chairpersons shall jointly schedule the first meeting of the board to be  
241 held not later than October 1, 2025. The board shall meet at least  
242 quarterly and host an annual public hearing prior to the completion of  
243 the annual report described in subsection (f) of this section.

244 (e) The State Treasurer, or the State Treasurer's designee, shall, at the  
245 first meeting of the board and semiannually thereafter, submit to the  
246 board an actuarial chart that includes a review of the total amount of  
247 funds within the endowment, the health of the investments of the  
248 endowment, the anticipated growth of the endowment and any  
249 recommended models for the timing and rate of drawing down from  
250 the endowment.

251 (f) Not later than January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the board  
252 shall develop a report that includes, but is not limited to, (1) the financial  
253 health and actuarial future of the endowment based on information  
254 received from the State Treasurer, (2) the expenditures of funds from the  
255 endowment, (3) status updates of early care and education programs,  
256 early childhood educators, families and children served, and (4) any  
257 recommendations for legislation. The board shall submit such report to  
258 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
259 cognizance of matters relating to education, children, appropriations  
260 and finance, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

261 (g) The members of the board shall serve without compensation,  
262 except the parent and program provider members of the board may,  
263 within available resources, be provided a stipend for serving on the  
264 board.

265 (h) The board shall be within the office of the State Treasurer for  
266 administrative purposes only.

267 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 10-512i of the 2026 supplement to the  
268 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
269 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

270 (a) Not later than January 1, 2032, and every five years thereafter, the  
271 Commissioner of Early Childhood shall prepare an impact analysis  
272 concerning the operations of the Early Childhood Education  
273 Endowment and the effect that the expenditure of funds from the  
274 endowment have had on the availability, affordability and quality of  
275 early child care in the state. Such impact analysis shall include, but need  
276 not be limited to, (1) a report on the solvency of the endowment  
277 prepared by the State Treasurer, and (2) an analysis of the effect that the  
278 expenditure of funds from the endowment has had on (A) early care and  
279 education programs receiving financial assistance under Early Start CT  
280 pursuant to section 10-550b, (B) early care and education programs that  
281 are not receiving state financial assistance, (C) access of families to early  
282 care and education programs receiving state financial assistance under  
283 Early Start CT, (D) tuition and family contribution rates, (E) early  
284 childhood educator salaries and benefits, and (F) the state-wide demand  
285 for child care.

286 Sec. 9. Section 10-512j of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes  
287 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
288 *passage*):

289 Upon receipt and review of the impact analysis prepared by the  
290 Commissioner of Early Childhood pursuant to section 10-512i, as  
291 amended by this act, and following consultation with the State  
292 Treasurer regarding the solvency of the Early Childhood Education  
293 Endowment, the Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory  
294 Board shall develop recommendations concerning the expansion of  
295 permissible expenditures of funds from the endowment under section  
296 10-512c, as amended by this act. Not later than January 1, 2032, the  
297 advisory board shall submit such recommendations to the joint standing  
298 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
299 relating to education, children, appropriations and finance, in

300 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

301       Sec. 10. Section 10-512k of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes  
302 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
303 *passage*):

304       (a) The State Treasurer, on behalf of the Early Childhood Education  
305 Endowment and for purposes of the endowment, may:

306       (1) Receive and invest moneys in the endowment in any instruments,  
307 obligations, securities or property in accordance with section 10-512l, as  
308 amended by this act;

309       (2) Enter into one or more contractual agreements, including  
310 contracts for legal, actuarial, accounting, custodial, advisory,  
311 management, administrative, advertising, marketing and consulting  
312 services for the endowment, and pay for such services from the assets  
313 of the endowment;

314       (3) Procure insurance in connection with the endowment's property,  
315 assets, activities or deposits to the endowment;

316       (4) Apply for, accept and expend gifts, grants or donations from  
317 public or private sources to enable the endowment to carry out its  
318 objectives;

319       (5) Adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 for purposes of  
320 section 3-13c, sections 10-512 to 10-512l, inclusive, as amended by this  
321 act, and section 10-531b;

322       (6) Sue and be sued;

323       (7) Establish one or more funds within the endowment; and

324       (8) Take any other action necessary to carry out the purposes of  
325 section 3-13c, sections 10-512 to 10-512l, inclusive, as amended by this  
326 act, and section 10-531b and incidental to the duties imposed on the  
327 State Treasurer pursuant to said sections.

328 (b) The State Treasurer, on behalf of the endowment and for purposes  
329 of the endowment, shall enter into a memorandum of understanding  
330 with the Commissioner of Early Childhood to establish information-  
331 sharing practices for purposes of section 3-13c, sections 10-512 to 10-  
332 512l, inclusive, as amended by this act, and section 10-531b. Such  
333 memorandum of understanding shall be in accordance with applicable  
334 state and federal laws.

335 Sec. 11. Section 10-512l of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes  
336 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
337 *passage*):

338 Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 3-13 to 3-13h, inclusive,  
339 the State Treasurer shall invest the amounts on deposit in the Early  
340 Childhood Education Endowment in a manner reasonable and  
341 appropriate to achieve the objectives of the endowment, exercising the  
342 discretion and care of a prudent person in similar circumstances with  
343 similar objectives. The State Treasurer shall give due consideration to  
344 rate of return, risk, term or maturity, diversification of the total portfolio  
345 within the endowment, liquidity, the projected disbursements and  
346 expenditures and the expected payments, deposits, contributions and  
347 gifts to be received. The State Treasurer shall not require the endowment  
348 to invest directly in obligations of the state or any political subdivision  
349 of the state or in any investment or other fund administered by the State  
350 Treasurer. The assets of the endowment shall be continuously invested  
351 and reinvested in a manner consistent with the objectives of the  
352 endowment until disbursed for eligible expenditures or expended on  
353 expenses incurred by the operations of the endowment.

354 Sec. 12. Subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 10-264l of the 2026  
355 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
356 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

357 (2) In determining whether an application shall be approved and  
358 funds awarded pursuant to this section, the commissioner shall  
359 consider, but such consideration shall not be limited to: (A) Whether the

360 program offered by the school is likely to increase student achievement;  
361 (B) whether the program is likely to reduce racial, ethnic and economic  
362 isolation; (C) the percentage of the student enrollment in the program  
363 from each participating district; and (D) the proposed operating budget  
364 and the sources of funding for the interdistrict magnet school. For a  
365 magnet school not operated by a local or regional board of education,  
366 the commissioner shall only approve a proposed operating budget that,  
367 on a per pupil basis, does not exceed the maximum allowable threshold  
368 established in accordance with this subdivision. The maximum  
369 allowable threshold shall be an amount equal to one hundred twenty  
370 per cent of the state average of the quotient obtained by dividing net  
371 current expenditures, as defined in section 10-261, by average daily  
372 membership, as defined in said section, for the fiscal year two years  
373 prior to the fiscal year for which the operating grant is requested. The  
374 Department of Education shall establish the maximum allowable  
375 threshold no later than December fifteenth of the fiscal year prior to the  
376 fiscal year for which the operating grant is requested. If requested by an  
377 applicant that is not a local or regional board of education, the  
378 commissioner may approve a proposed operating budget that exceeds  
379 the maximum allowable threshold if the commissioner determines that  
380 there are extraordinary programmatic needs. For the fiscal [years] year  
381 ending June 30, 2017, and each fiscal year thereafter, in the case of an  
382 interdistrict magnet school that will assist the state in meeting its  
383 obligations pursuant to the decision in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1  
384 (1996), or any related stipulation or order in effect, as determined by the  
385 commissioner, the commissioner shall also consider whether the school  
386 is meeting the enrollment standards for interdistrict magnet school  
387 programs, developed by the commissioner pursuant to section 10-264r.  
388 If such school has not met such enrollment standards, it shall not be  
389 entitled to receive a grant pursuant to this section unless the  
390 commissioner finds that it is appropriate to award a grant for an  
391 additional year or years and approves a plan to bring such school into  
392 compliance with such enrollment standards. If requested by the  
393 commissioner, the applicant shall meet with the commissioner or the  
394 commissioner's designee to discuss the budget and sources of funding.

395 Sec. 13. Subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section 10-222tt of the 2026  
 396 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
 397 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

398 (2) Three appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one  
 399 of whom is a parent of a child receiving special education services in the  
 400 state, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of  
 401 Public School Superintendents and one of whom is an individual who  
 402 may be a member of the General Assembly;

403 Sec. 14. Subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 11-21a of the 2026  
 404 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
 405 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

406 (3) Acknowledge that librarians are professionally trained to curate  
 407 and develop a collection that provides [resident] residents with access  
 408 to the widest array of library and other educational materials; and

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10-220(d)(2)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	10-512(c)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	10-512a(a) and (b)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	10-512b
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	10-512c
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	10-512d
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	10-512g
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	10-512i(a)
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	10-512j
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	10-512k
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	10-512l
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	10-264l(b)(2)
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	10-222tt(e)(2)
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	11-21a(c)(3)

**ED**            *Joint Favorable*