



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5468**

February Session, 2026



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF EQUIVALENT INSTRUCTION.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-184 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2027*):

3 [All parents and those who have the care of children shall bring them  
4 up in some lawful and honest employment and instruct them or cause  
5 them to be instructed in reading, writing, spelling, English grammar,  
6 geography, arithmetic and United States history and in citizenship,  
7 including a study of the town, state and federal governments. Subject to  
8 the provisions of this section and section 10-15c, each parent or other  
9 person having control of a child five years of age and over and under  
10 eighteen years of age shall cause such child to attend a public school  
11 regularly during the hours and terms the public school in the district in  
12 which such child resides is in session, unless such child is a high school  
13 graduate or the parent or person having control of such child is able to  
14 show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the  
15 studies taught in the public schools. For the school years commencing  
16 July 1, 2011, to July 1, 2022, inclusive, the parent or person having  
17 control of a child seventeen years of age may consent, as provided in  
18 this section, to such child's withdrawal from school. For the school year  
19 commencing July 1, 2023, and each school year thereafter, a student who

20 is eighteen years of age or older may withdraw from school. Such  
21 parent, person or student shall personally appear at the school district  
22 office and sign a withdrawal form. Such withdrawal form shall include  
23 an attestation from a guidance counselor, school counselor or school  
24 administrator of the school that such school district has provided such  
25 parent, person or student with information on the educational options  
26 available in the school system and in the community. The parent or  
27 person having control of a child seventeen years of age may withdraw  
28 such child from school and enroll such child in an adult education  
29 program pursuant to section 10-69. Such parent or person shall  
30 personally appear at the school district office and sign an adult  
31 education withdrawal and enrollment form. Such adult education  
32 withdrawal and enrollment form shall include an attestation (1) from a  
33 school counselor or school administrator of the school that such school  
34 district has provided such parent or person with information on the  
35 educational options available in the school system and in the  
36 community, and (2) from such parent or person that such child will be  
37 enrolled in an adult education program upon such child's withdrawal  
38 from school. The parent or person having control of a child five years of  
39 age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the  
40 child is six years of age and the parent or person having control of a  
41 child six years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to  
42 school until the child is seven years of age. The parent or person shall  
43 exercise such option by personally appearing at the school district office  
44 and signing an option form. The school district shall provide the parent  
45 or person with information on the educational opportunities available  
46 in the school system.]

47 (a) As used in this section and sections 2 to 4, inclusive, of this act:

48 (1) "Equivalent instruction" means the provision of education by a  
49 parent or guardian of a child in a setting other than a public school or  
50 nonpublic school.

51 (2) "Nonpublic school" means a school that is not a public school and  
52 that (A) is approved by the Department of Education following such

53 school receiving accreditation by an accrediting agency approved by the  
54 Department of Education, or (B) files a student attendance report with  
55 the Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 10-188.

56 (b) All parents and guardians of children shall bring such children up  
57 in some lawful and honest employment and instruct or cause such  
58 children to be instructed in reading, writing, spelling, English grammar,  
59 geography, arithmetic and United States history and citizenship,  
60 including a study of town, state and federal governments. Subject to the  
61 provisions of this section and section 10-15c, each parent or guardian of  
62 a child, who is five years of age or over and under eighteen years of age  
63 and not a high school graduate, shall cause such child to (1) enroll in  
64 public school regularly during the hours and terms the public school in  
65 the district in which such child resides is in session, (2) attend a  
66 nonpublic school, or (3) receive equivalent instruction in the studies  
67 taught in the public schools.

68 (c) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, for the  
69 school year commencing July 1, 2028, and each school year thereafter,  
70 the parent or guardian of a child (A) who will be five years of age on or  
71 before September first of the school year, or (B) for whom an option form  
72 for the prior school year was signed, shall personally appear at the  
73 school district office and sign an intent to educate form to indicate  
74 whether such child will be enrolling in public school, attending a  
75 nonpublic school or receiving equivalent instruction. If such child will  
76 be attending a nonpublic school, the parent or guardian shall provide  
77 evidence to show that such child will be attending a nonpublic school.

78 (2) The parent or guardian of a child five years of age shall have the  
79 option of not sending the child to school until the child is six years of  
80 age and the parent or guardian of a child six years of age shall have the  
81 option of not sending the child to school until the child is seven years of  
82 age. Such parent or guardian shall exercise such option by personally  
83 appearing at the school district office and signing an option form. The  
84 school district shall provide such parent or guardian with information  
85 on the educational opportunities available in the school system.

86       (3) For the school year commencing July 1, 2028, and each school year  
87 thereafter, the parent or guardian of a child who moves into a school  
88 district during the school year shall, not later than fourteen days after  
89 moving into such school district, personally appear at the school district  
90 office and sign an intent to educate form to indicate whether such child  
91 will be enrolling in public school, attending a nonpublic school or  
92 receiving equivalent instruction. If such child will be attending a  
93 nonpublic school, the parent or guardian shall provide evidence to show  
94 that such child will be attending a nonpublic school.

95       (4) For the school year commencing July 1, 2028, and each school year  
96 thereafter, the parent or guardian of a child who withdraws from  
97 attending a nonpublic school shall personally appear at the school  
98 district office for which such parent or guardian had previously signed  
99 an intent to educate form and sign an updated intent to educate form to  
100 indicate whether such child will be enrolling in public school or  
101 receiving equivalent instruction.

102       (d) (1) (A) (i) For the school year commencing July 1, 2028, on or  
103 before September first of said school year, the parent or guardian of a  
104 child who was withdrawn from public school to receive equivalent  
105 instruction, pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of this section,  
106 during the prior school year, shall submit to the school district office a  
107 continuation of equivalent instruction form to indicate that such child  
108 will continue to receive equivalent instruction. Such continuation of  
109 equivalent instruction form may be submitted electronically to the  
110 school district office.

111       (ii) For the school year commencing July 1, 2029, on or before  
112 September first of said school year, the parent or guardian of a child (I)  
113 who was withdrawn from public school to receive equivalent  
114 instruction, pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of this section,  
115 during the prior school year, or (II) for whom a continuation of  
116 equivalent instruction form for the prior school year was submitted,  
117 shall submit to the school district office a continuation of equivalent  
118 instruction form to indicate that such child will continue to receive

119 equivalent instruction. Such continuation of equivalent instruction form  
120 may be submitted electronically to the school district office.

121 (B) For the school year commencing July 1, 2029, on or before  
122 September first of said school year, the parent or guardian of a child who  
123 is receiving equivalent instruction and for whom an intent to educate  
124 form was signed for the prior school year, shall submit to the school  
125 district office a continuation of equivalent instruction form to indicate  
126 that such child will continue to receive equivalent instruction. Such  
127 continuation of equivalent instruction form may be submitted  
128 electronically to the school district office.

129 (C) For the school year commencing July 1, 2030, and each school year  
130 thereafter, on or before September first of each school year, the parent  
131 or guardian of a child who is receiving equivalent instruction and (i) for  
132 whom (I) an intent to educate form for the prior school year was signed,  
133 or (II) a continuation of equivalent instruction form for the prior school  
134 year was submitted, or (ii) who was withdrawn from public school to  
135 receive equivalent instruction, pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection  
136 (e) of this section, during the prior school year, shall submit to the school  
137 district office a continuation of equivalent instruction form to indicate  
138 that such child will continue to receive equivalent instruction. Such  
139 continuation of equivalent instruction form may be submitted  
140 electronically to the school district office.

141 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2028, and each school year  
142 thereafter, any local or regional board of education that does not receive  
143 a continuation of equivalent instruction form on or before September  
144 first from a parent or guardian who signed an intent to educate form for  
145 the prior school year, submitted a continuation of equivalent instruction  
146 form for the prior school year, or who withdrew such parent or  
147 guardian's child from public school to receive equivalent instruction  
148 during the prior school year, pursuant to subdivision (1) of this  
149 subsection, shall make at least three attempts to contact such parent or  
150 guardian for the purpose of informing such parent or guardian that they  
151 are required to submit a continuation of equivalent instruction form for

152 the current school year. If the board is unable to make such contact with  
153 such parent or guardian by October first, the board shall notify the  
154 Department of Education that the board has not received a continuation  
155 of equivalent instruction form from such parent or guardian.

156 (e) (1) For the school year commencing July 1, 2027, and each school  
157 year thereafter, the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in public  
158 school may withdraw such child from public school for the purpose of  
159 causing such child to attend a nonpublic school. Such parent or  
160 guardian shall personally appear at the school district office and sign a  
161 withdrawal form. Such withdrawal shall not be effective unless such  
162 parent or guardian provides evidence to show that such child will be  
163 attending a nonpublic school.

164 (2) (A) Subject to the provisions of subparagraph (B) of this  
165 subdivision, for the school year commencing July 1, 2027, and each  
166 school year thereafter, the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in  
167 public school may withdraw such child from public school for the  
168 purpose of causing such child to receive equivalent instruction. Such  
169 parent or guardian shall personally appear at the school district office  
170 and sign a withdrawal form. Such withdrawal shall not be effective until  
171 the board of education notifies such parent or guardian that such child  
172 may be withdrawn following receipt of notice under subparagraph (B)  
173 of this subdivision.

174 (B) Not later than two business days following receipt of a  
175 withdrawal form under this subdivision, a local or regional board of  
176 education shall request the Commissioner of Children and Families to  
177 (i) determine if a parent or guardian of such child is the subject of an  
178 order for protective supervision, as defined in section 17a-93, or  
179 receiving protective services, as defined in section 17a-93, and (ii)  
180 conduct a check of the state child abuse and neglect registry established  
181 pursuant to section 17a-101k for the name of such parent or guardian.  
182 Not later than five business days following receipt of such request, the  
183 commissioner shall make such determination, conduct such check and  
184 notify such board whether such parent or guardian is the subject of an

185 order for protective supervision or receiving protective services or is on  
186 the state child abuse and neglect registry. If the board is notified that a  
187 parent or guardian of such child (I) is not the subject of such an order or  
188 receiving such services and is not on the state child abuse and neglect  
189 registry, the board shall immediately notify such parent or guardian  
190 that such withdrawal is effective and such child may be withdrawn, or  
191 (II) is the subject of such an order or receiving such services or is on the  
192 state child abuse and neglect registry, the board shall notify such parent  
193 or guardian that such withdrawal is not effective and such child may  
194 not be withdrawn from public school pursuant to this subdivision. A  
195 request made to the commissioner under this subparagraph is not a  
196 report for purposes of sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, or 17a-  
197 103.

198       (3) The parent or guardian of a child seventeen years of age may  
199 withdraw such child from public school and enroll such child in an  
200 adult education program pursuant to section 10-69. Such parent or  
201 guardian shall personally appear at the school district office and sign a  
202 withdrawal form. Such withdrawal form shall include an attestation (A)  
203 from a school counselor or school administrator of the school that such  
204 school district has provided such parent or guardian with information  
205 on the educational options available in the school system and in the  
206 community, and (B) from such parent or guardian that such child will  
207 be enrolled in an adult education program upon such child's  
208 withdrawal from public school.

209       (4) A student who is eighteen years of age or older may withdraw  
210 from public school. The parent or guardian of such student or such  
211 student shall personally appear at the school district office and sign a  
212 withdrawal form. Such withdrawal form shall include an attestation  
213 from a guidance counselor, school counselor or school administrator of  
214 the school that such school district has provided such parent, guardian  
215 or student with information on the educational options available in the  
216 school system and in the community.

217       Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) For the school year

218 commencing July 1, 2028, and each school year thereafter, the parent or  
219 guardian of a child receiving equivalent instruction and for whom an  
220 intent to educate form was signed or a continuation of equivalent  
221 instruction form was submitted for the school year, pursuant to section  
222 10-184 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, shall show that  
223 such child is receiving equivalent instruction in the studies taught in the  
224 public schools by providing a demonstration of equivalent instruction  
225 of such child's academic work for the school year, in accordance with  
226 the guidance developed by the Department of Education pursuant to  
227 section 4 of this act. The purpose of the demonstration of equivalent  
228 instruction is to ensure that such child is being educated. A  
229 demonstration of equivalent instruction shall be provided on or after  
230 March first and not later than June first of the school year. A parent or  
231 guardian shall provide the demonstration of equivalent instruction by  
232 (1) submitting a portfolio that may include, but need not be limited to,  
233 the curriculum used and academic work completed by such child for  
234 the school year, the results of a nationally normed standardized test,  
235 evidence of completion of online coursework or taking classes as part of  
236 an online academy, or enrollment in courses or programs at the  
237 Connecticut State Community College; (2) causing such child to take the  
238 state-wide mastery examination, pursuant to section 10-14n of the  
239 general statutes, administered by a local or regional board of education  
240 or a regional educational service center; or (3) receiving a state high  
241 school diploma issued by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to  
242 section 10-5 of the general statutes. The demonstration of equivalent  
243 instruction shall be submitted to the local or regional board of education  
244 for the town in which such child resides. A local or regional board of  
245 education may contract with a regional educational service center, the  
246 State Education Resource Center or an interdistrict magnet school  
247 operator described in section 10-264s of the general statutes to receive  
248 the demonstrations of equivalent instruction required to be submitted  
249 to the board under this section.

250 (b) The parent or guardian of a child receiving equivalent instruction  
251 shall retain education records of such child for at least three years. Such

252 education records include, but are not limited to, the curriculum used  
253 in the provision of equivalent instruction and the academic work  
254 completed by such child.

255 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2028*) (a) As used in this section:

256 (1) "Equivalent instruction" has the same meaning as provided in  
257 section 10-184 of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

258 (2) "Children receiving equivalent instruction" means the number of  
259 children of the town who are receiving equivalent instruction and for  
260 whom an intent to educate form was signed or a continuation of  
261 equivalent instruction form was submitted for the school year, pursuant  
262 to section 10-184 of the general statutes, as amended by this act; and

263 (3) "Amount per child receiving equivalent instruction" means the  
264 product of (A) the amount that a town is entitled to receive under the  
265 provisions of section 10-262h of the general statutes divided by the  
266 number of resident students, as defined in subdivision (22) of section  
267 10-262f of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and (B) one-tenth.

268 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 172 of the general  
269 statutes, each local and regional board of education shall divide the  
270 number of children receiving equivalent instruction by ten for purposes  
271 of the counts for subdivision (22) of section 10-262f of the general  
272 statutes, as amended by this act.

273 (c) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2029, and each fiscal year  
274 thereafter, the Comptroller shall withhold from each town an amount  
275 equal to the number of children receiving equivalent instruction  
276 multiplied by the amount per child receiving equivalent instruction. The  
277 Comptroller shall transfer funds equaling such amount to the  
278 Commissioner of Education.

279 (2) Upon receipt of an application pursuant to subsection (d) of this  
280 section, the Commissioner of Education shall pay such funds to the  
281 town and such town shall pay all such funds to the local or regional

282 board of education for such town on the condition that such funds shall  
283 be expended for the purpose of implementing the provisions of section  
284 10-184 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and section 10-249  
285 of the general statutes, and reviewing the demonstrations of equivalent  
286 instruction in accordance with the provisions of section 2 of this act.

287 (d) Each local and regional board of education may apply to the  
288 Commissioner of Education, at such time and in such manner as the  
289 commissioner prescribes, to receive the funds described in subsection  
290 (c) of this section. Applications pursuant to this subsection shall include  
291 the total number of children receiving equivalent instruction.

292 (e) A local or regional board of education shall expend such funds in  
293 accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of  
294 this section and the guidance developed by the Department of  
295 Education pursuant to section 4 of this act. A local or regional board of  
296 education may expend such funds as part of a contract with a regional  
297 educational service center, the State Education Resource Center, or an  
298 interdistrict magnet school operator described in section 10-262s of the  
299 general statutes, to perform the review of the demonstrations of  
300 equivalent instruction pursuant to section 2 of this act.

301 (f) Any balance remaining for each local and regional board of  
302 education at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward for such  
303 local or regional board of education for the next fiscal year.

304 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Not later than July 1, 2027, the  
305 Department of Education shall develop (1) guidance for parents and  
306 guardians and local and regional boards of education regarding (A) the  
307 provision of equivalent instruction in accordance with the provisions of  
308 section 10-184 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (B) the  
309 demonstration of equivalent instruction in accordance with the  
310 provisions of section 2 of this act, (C) the expenditure of funds pursuant  
311 to section 3 of this act, and (D) participation in public school activities  
312 under section 5 of this act, and (2) the intent to educate form,  
313 continuation of equivalent instruction form and withdrawal form, as

314 such forms are described in section 10-184 of the general statutes, as  
315 amended by this act.

316       Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2028*) (a) A local or regional board of education  
317 may permit any child who is a resident of the town of the school district  
318 for such board and who is otherwise receiving equivalent instruction  
319 pursuant to section 10-184 of the general statutes, as amended by this  
320 act, to participate in the following public school activities: (1) Taking up  
321 to two classes during the school year in a public school under the  
322 jurisdiction of the board, provided space is available in any such class,  
323 and (2) participating in any extracurricular activities, intramural  
324 athletics and interscholastic athletics offered by the board during the  
325 school year, except any student who withdraws from public school  
326 pursuant to section 10-184 of the general statutes, as amended by this  
327 act, may not participate in interscholastic athletics for the remainder of  
328 the school year in which such child withdraws and the following school  
329 year.

330       (b) Each such child permitted to participate in public school activities  
331 under this section shall meet the requirements of sections 10-204a and  
332 10-206 of the general statutes and comply with the provisions of the  
333 board's student handbook for the school. Each such child shall be  
334 considered a part-time student for purposes of enrollment in the school  
335 district.

336       (c) Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 172 of the general  
337 statutes, a local or regional board of education may, for purposes of  
338 subdivision (22) of section 10-262f of the general statutes, as amended  
339 by this act, include the children participating in public school activities  
340 under this section in the number of resident students of the town as  
341 follows: The total number of such children divided by four.

342       Sec. 6. Subdivision (22) of section 10-262f of the general statutes is  
343 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
344 *2028*):

345       (22) "Resident students" means the number of pupils of the town

346 enrolled in public schools at the expense of the town on October first or  
347 the full school day immediately preceding such date, provided the  
348 number shall be decreased by the Department of Education for failure  
349 to comply with the provisions of section 10-16 and shall be increased by  
350 one one-hundred-eightieth for each full-time equivalent school day in  
351 the school year immediately preceding such date of at least five hours  
352 of actual school work in excess of one hundred eighty days and nine  
353 hundred hours of actual school work and be increased by the full-time  
354 equivalent number of such pupils attending the summer sessions  
355 immediately preceding such date at the expense of the town; "enrolled"  
356 shall include pupils who are (A) scheduled for vacation on the above  
357 date and who are expected to return to school as scheduled, (B) children  
358 receiving equivalent instruction, as defined in section 3 of this act, and  
359 (C) children receiving equivalent instruction pursuant to section 10-184,  
360 as amended by this act, and participating in public school activities  
361 pursuant to section 5 of this act. Pupils described in subparagraph (B) of  
362 this subdivision shall be counted in accordance with the provisions of  
363 section 3 of this act. Pupils described in subparagraph (C) of this  
364 subdivision shall be counted in accordance with the provisions of  
365 section 5 of this act. Pupils participating in the program established  
366 pursuant to section 10-266aa shall be counted in accordance with the  
367 provisions of subsection (h) of section 10-266aa.

368       Sec. 7. Subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 10-10a of the general  
369 statutes, as amended by section 22 of public act 26-1, is repealed and the  
370 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2027*):

371       (1) Track and report data relating to student, teacher and school and  
372 district performance growth and make such information available to  
373 local and regional boards of education for use in evaluating educational  
374 performance and growth of teachers and students enrolled in public  
375 schools in the state. Such information shall be collected or calculated  
376 based on information received from local and regional boards of  
377 education and other relevant sources. Such information shall include,  
378 but not be limited to:

379 (A) In addition to performance on state-wide mastery examinations  
380 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, data relating to students shall  
381 include, but not be limited to, (i) the primary language spoken at the  
382 home of a student, (ii) student transcripts, (iii) student attendance and  
383 student mobility, (iv) reliable, valid assessments of a student's readiness  
384 to enter public school at the kindergarten level, (v) data collected, if any,  
385 from the preschool experience survey, described in section 10-515, and  
386 (vi) data required pursuant to section 10-17m concerning the academic  
387 progress of students in bilingual education programs;

388 (B) Data relating to teachers shall include, but not be limited to, (i)  
389 teacher credentials, such as master's degrees, teacher preparation  
390 programs completed and certification levels and endorsement areas, (ii)  
391 teacher assessments, such as whether a teacher is deemed highly  
392 qualified pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, or  
393 deemed to meet such other designations as may be established by  
394 federal law or regulations for the purposes of tracking the equitable  
395 distribution of instructional staff, (iii) the presence of substitute teachers  
396 in a teacher's classroom, (iv) class size, (v) numbers relating to  
397 absenteeism in a teacher's classroom, and (vi) the presence of a teacher's  
398 aide. The department shall assign a unique teacher identifier to each  
399 teacher prior to collecting such data in the public school information  
400 system;

401 (C) Data relating to schools and districts shall include, but not be  
402 limited to, (i) school population, (ii) annual student graduation rates,  
403 (iii) annual teacher retention rates, (iv) school disciplinary records, such  
404 as data relating to suspensions, expulsions and other disciplinary  
405 actions, (v) the percentage of students whose primary language is not  
406 English, (vi) the number of and professional credentials of support  
407 personnel, (vii) information relating to instructional technology, such as  
408 access to computers, (viii) disaggregated measures of school-based  
409 arrests pursuant to section 10-233n, [and] (ix) the measures and data  
410 required pursuant to section 10-17g for the evaluation of bilingual  
411 education programs, (x) the number of children receiving equivalent  
412 instruction for whom an intent to educate form was signed or a

413 continuation of equivalent instruction form was submitted pursuant to  
414 section 10-184, as amended by this act, and (xi) the number of children  
415 receiving equivalent instruction and who are participating in public  
416 school activities pursuant to section 5 of this act.

417 Sec. 8. Subsection (g) of section 17a-28 of the 2026 supplement to the  
418 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
419 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

420 (g) The department shall disclose records, subject to subsections (b)  
421 and (c) of this section, without the consent of the person who is the  
422 subject of the record, to:

423 (1) The person named in the record or such person's authorized  
424 representative, provided such disclosure shall be limited to information  
425 (A) contained in the record about such person or about such person's  
426 biological or adoptive minor child, if such person's parental rights to  
427 such child have not been terminated; and (B) identifying an individual  
428 who reported abuse or neglect of the person, including any tape  
429 recording of an oral report pursuant to section 17a-103, if a court  
430 determines that there is reasonable cause to believe the reporter  
431 knowingly made a false report or that the interests of justice require  
432 disclosure;

433 (2) An employee of the department for any purpose reasonably  
434 related to the performance of such employee's duties;

435 (3) A guardian ad litem or attorney appointed to represent a child or  
436 youth in litigation affecting the best interests of the child or youth;

437 (4) An attorney representing a parent, guardian or child in a petition  
438 filed in the Superior Court pursuant to section 17a-112 or 46b-129,  
439 provided (A) if such records do not pertain to such attorney's client or  
440 such client's child, such records shall not be further disclosed to another  
441 individual or entity by such attorney except pursuant to the order of a  
442 court of competent jurisdiction, (B) if such records are confidential  
443 pursuant to federal law, such records shall not be disclosed to such

444 attorney or such attorney's client unless such attorney or such attorney's  
445 client is otherwise entitled to such records, and (C) nothing in this  
446 subdivision shall limit the disclosure of records under subdivision (3) of  
447 this subsection;

448 (5) The Attorney General, any assistant attorney general or any other  
449 legal counsel retained to represent the department during the course of  
450 a legal proceeding involving the department or an employee of the  
451 department;

452 (6) The Child Advocate or the Child Advocate's designee;

453 (7) The Chief Public Defender or the Chief Public Defender's designee  
454 for purposes of ensuring competent representation by the attorneys  
455 with whom the Chief Public Defender contracts to provide legal and  
456 guardian ad litem services to the subjects of such records and for  
457 ensuring accurate payments for services rendered by such attorneys;

458 (8) The Chief State's Attorney or the Chief State's Attorney's designee  
459 for purposes of investigating or prosecuting (A) an allegation related to  
460 child abuse or neglect, (B) an allegation that an individual made a false  
461 report of suspected child abuse or neglect, (C) an allegation that a  
462 mandated reporter failed to report suspected child abuse or neglect in  
463 accordance with section 17a-101a, provided such prosecuting authority  
464 shall have access to records of a child charged with the commission of a  
465 delinquent act, who is not being charged with an offense related to child  
466 abuse, only while the case is being prosecuted and after obtaining a  
467 release, or (D) an allegation of fraud in the receipt of public or private  
468 benefits, provided no information identifying the subject of the record  
469 is disclosed unless such information is essential to such investigation or  
470 prosecution;

471 (9) A state or federal law enforcement officer, including a military law  
472 enforcement authority under the United States Department of Defense,  
473 for purposes of investigating (A) an allegation related to child abuse or  
474 neglect, (B) an allegation that an individual made a false report of  
475 suspected child abuse or neglect, or (C) an allegation that a mandated

476 reporter failed to report suspected child abuse or neglect in accordance  
477 with section 17a-101a;

478 (10) A foster or prospective adoptive parent, if the records pertain to  
479 a child or youth currently placed with the foster or prospective adoptive  
480 parent, or a child or youth being considered for placement with the  
481 foster or prospective adoptive parent, and the records are necessary to  
482 address the social, medical, psychological or educational needs of the  
483 child or youth, provided no information identifying a biological parent  
484 is disclosed without the permission of such biological parent;

485 (11) The Governor, when requested in writing in the course of the  
486 Governor's official functions, the joint standing committee of the  
487 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human  
488 services, the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
489 cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary or the joint standing  
490 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
491 relating to children, when requested in writing by any of such  
492 committees in the course of such committee's official functions, and  
493 upon a majority vote of such committee, provided no name or other  
494 identifying information is disclosed unless such information is essential  
495 to the gubernatorial or legislative purpose;

496 (12) The Office of Early Childhood for the purpose of (A) determining  
497 the suitability of a person to care for children in a facility licensed  
498 pursuant to section 19a-77, 19a-80, 19a-87b or 19a-421; (B) determining  
499 the suitability of such person for licensure; (C) determining the  
500 suitability of a person to provide child care services to a child and  
501 receive a child care subsidy pursuant to section 17b-749k; (D) an  
502 investigation conducted pursuant to section 19a-80f; (E) notifying the  
503 office when the Department of Children and Families places an  
504 individual licensed or certified by the office on the child abuse and  
505 neglect registry pursuant to section 17a-101k; or (F) notifying the office  
506 when the Department of Children and Families possesses information  
507 regarding an office regulatory violation committed by an individual  
508 licensed or certified by the office;

509 (13) The Department of Developmental Services, (A) to allow said  
510 department to determine eligibility, facilitate enrollment and plan for  
511 the provision of services to a child who is a client of said department  
512 and who is applying to enroll in or is enrolled in said department's  
513 behavioral services program. At the time that a parent or guardian  
514 completes an application for enrollment of a child in the Department of  
515 Developmental Services' children's services program, or at the time that  
516 said department updates a child's annual individualized plan of care,  
517 said department shall notify such parent or guardian that the  
518 Department of Children and Families may provide records to the  
519 Department of Developmental Services for the purposes specified in this  
520 subdivision without the consent of such parent or guardian; or (B) for  
521 purposes of an investigation pursuant to section 46a-11c;

522 (14) Any individual or entity for the purposes of identifying resources  
523 that will promote the permanency plan of a child or youth approved by  
524 the court pursuant to sections 17a-11, 17a-111b and 46b-129;

525 (15) A state agency that licenses or certifies a person to educate, care  
526 for or provide services to children or youths;

527 (16) A judge or employee of a Probate Court who requires access to  
528 such records in order to perform such judge's or employee's official  
529 duties;

530 (17) A judge of the Superior Court for purposes of determining the  
531 appropriate disposition of a child adjudicated as delinquent;

532 (18) A judge of the Superior Court in a criminal prosecution for  
533 purposes of in camera inspection whenever (A) the court has ordered  
534 that the record be provided to the court; or (B) a party to the proceeding  
535 has issued a subpoena for the record;

536 (19) A judge of the Superior Court and all necessary parties in a  
537 family violence proceeding when such records concern family violence  
538 with respect to the child who is the subject of the proceeding or the  
539 parent of such child who is the subject of the proceeding;

540 (20) The Auditors of Public Accounts, or their representative,  
541 provided no information identifying the subject of the record is  
542 disclosed unless such information is essential to an audit conducted  
543 pursuant to section 2-90;

544 (21) A local or regional board of education, provided the records are  
545 limited to educational records created or obtained by the state or  
546 Connecticut Unified School District #2, established pursuant to section  
547 17a-37;

548 (22) The superintendent of schools for any school district for the  
549 purpose of determining the suitability of a person to be employed by  
550 the local or regional board of education for such school district pursuant  
551 to subsection (a) of section 10-221d;

552 (23) The Department of Motor Vehicles for the purpose of criminal  
553 history records checks pursuant to subsection (e) of section 14-44,  
554 provided information disclosed pursuant to this subdivision shall be  
555 limited to information included on the Department of Children and  
556 Families child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section  
557 17a-101k, subject to the provisions of sections 17a-101g and 17a-101k  
558 concerning the nondisclosure of findings of responsibility for abuse and  
559 neglect;

560 (24) The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for the  
561 purpose of treatment planning for young adults who have transitioned  
562 from the care of the Department of Children and Families;

563 (25) The superintendent of a public school district or the executive  
564 director or other head of a public or private institution for children  
565 providing care for children or a private school (A) pursuant to sections  
566 17a-11, 17a-101b, 17a-101c, 17a-101i, 17a-111b and 46b-129, or (B) when  
567 the Department of Children and Families places an individual  
568 employed by such institution or school on the child abuse and neglect  
569 registry pursuant to section 17a-101k;

570 (26) The Department of Social Services for the purpose of (A)

571 determining the suitability of a person for payment from the  
572 Department of Social Services for providing child care; (B) promoting  
573 the health, safety and welfare of a child or youth receiving services from  
574 either department; or (C) investigating allegations of fraud provided no  
575 information identifying the subject of the record is disclosed unless such  
576 information is essential to any such investigation;

577 (27) The Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch, for  
578 the purpose of (A) determining the supervision and treatment needs of  
579 a child or youth or any other person, and provide appropriate  
580 supervision and treatment services to such child or youth or any other  
581 person, or (B) sharing common case records to track recidivism of  
582 juvenile offenders;

583 (28) The birth-to-three program's referral intake office for the purpose  
584 of (A) determining eligibility of, (B) facilitating enrollment for, and (C)  
585 providing services to (i) substantiated victims of child abuse and neglect  
586 with suspected developmental delays, and (ii) newborns impacted by  
587 withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure;

588 (29) The Department of Public Health for (A) the purpose of  
589 notification when the Commissioner of Children and Families places an  
590 individual licensed or certified by the Department of Public Health on  
591 the child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section 17a-  
592 101k, and (B) purposes relating to the licensure of the Albert J. Solnit  
593 Children's Center and the administration of licensing requirements  
594 established pursuant to or set forth in sections 19a-134 and 19a-498;

595 (30) The Department of Correction, for the purpose of determining  
596 the supervision and treatment needs of a child or youth, and providing  
597 appropriate supervision and treatment services to such child or youth;

598 (31) Any child placing agency subject to licensure by the Department  
599 of Children and Families, for the purpose of determining the suitability  
600 of a person (A) for employment by such agency, or (B) to adopt or  
601 provide foster care pursuant to sections 17a-114 and 17a-151;

602 (32) The Department of Administrative Services, for the purpose of  
603 determining whether an applicant for employment with the state, who  
604 would have contact with children in the course of such employment,  
605 appears on the child abuse or neglect registry maintained pursuant to  
606 section 17a-101k;

607 (33) Any individual, upon the request of such individual, when the  
608 information concerns an incident of abuse or neglect that resulted in the  
609 fatality or near fatality of a child or youth, provided (A) such disclosure  
610 shall be limited to (i) the cause and circumstances of such fatality or near  
611 fatality, (ii) the age and gender of such child or youth, (iii) a description  
612 of any previous reports of or investigations into child abuse or neglect  
613 that are relevant to the child abuse or neglect that led to such fatality or  
614 near fatality, (iv) the findings of any such investigations, and (v) a  
615 description of any services provided and actions taken by the state on  
616 behalf of such child or youth that are relevant to the child abuse or  
617 neglect that led to such fatality or near fatality, and (B) the department  
618 shall not make any disclosure that is prohibited by the provisions of any  
619 relevant federal law, including, but not limited to, Titles IV-B and IV-E  
620 of the Social Security Act, as amended from time to time. The  
621 department may withhold the disclosure of any records described in  
622 this subdivision if the commissioner determines that such disclosure  
623 may (i) result in harm to the safety or well-being of the child or youth  
624 who is the subject of such records, the family of such child or youth, or  
625 any individual who made a report of abuse or neglect pertaining to such  
626 child or youth, or (ii) interfere with a pending criminal investigation;  
627 [and]

628 (34) The Office of Policy and Management, for purposes of labor  
629 relations investigations conducted on behalf of the Department of  
630 Children and Families; and

631 (35) A local or regional board of education in response to a request by  
632 such board pursuant to section 10-184, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2027</i>	10-184
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2028</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2028</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2028</i>	10-262f(22)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2027</i>	10-10a(c)(1)
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	17a-28(g)

**ED**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

**APP**     *Joint Favorable*