



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 312

LCO No. 2100



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING ASSORTED REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) The Department of
2 Education may approve one or more supplemental literacy support
3 products that utilizes a machine-learning or other machine-based
4 system capable of (1) listening to students read aloud, (2) analyzing
5 student reading performance in real time, and (3) providing immediate,
6 individualized support or intervention in the form of tutoring and
7 instructional feedback.

8 (b) The department shall approve a product pursuant to this section
9 only if such product (1) aligns with the science of reading that is
10 supported by a substantial body of research or evidence demonstrating
11 such alignment, (2) is capable of aligning with and supporting literacy
12 curricula selected by a local or regional board of education or by the
13 Department of Education, (3) may be used by school districts as part of
14 state-wide literacy initiatives, including, but not limited to, the state's
15 high-dosage tutoring initiative and other evidence-based literacy

16 intervention efforts, (4) is at least as effective as individual or small-
17 group tutoring programs, as determined based on existing research
18 studies, independent evaluations or implantation reports, and (5) is or
19 has been used in approved tutoring or literacy intervention programs in
20 other states.

21 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to supplant or replace
22 core literacy instruction or curriculum adopted by a local or regional
23 board of education.

24 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The Department of Education
25 shall issue guidance to each educator preparation program approved by
26 the State Board of Education to offer at least one course on student
27 behavior management as a requirement for each student enrolled in
28 such program to graduate.

29 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) (a) The Department of
30 Education shall establish an American Sign Language education
31 working group which shall consist of (1) a representative from each of
32 the following: The Departments of Education and Aging and Disability
33 Services, the Labor Department, the Office of Higher Education, the
34 Connecticut Council of Language Teachers, the American School for the
35 Deaf and the Connecticut Association of the Deaf, and (2) at least one
36 American Sign Language instructor who teaches in a public school in
37 the state.

38 (b) The working group shall provide recommendations to the
39 Department of Education regarding the following:

40 (1) Curriculum guidance for American Sign Language instruction
41 that includes, but is not limited to, aligning such curriculum with
42 nationally recognized proficiency frameworks;

43 (2) Teacher certification standards based on standards established by
44 the American Sign Language Teachers Association and the American
45 Sign Language Proficiency Interview that includes, but is not limited to,

46 (A) establishment of a proficiency benchmark, (B) recognition of an
47 alternative certification pathway for native American Sign Language
48 users and interpreters, and (C) reciprocity with American Sign
49 Language teaching certifications from other states; and

50 (3) Guidance to educator preparation programs in the state
51 concerning, but not limited to, the (A) expansion of American Sign
52 Language and interpretation education programs, (B) creation of
53 educational incentives, such as tuition support, credit enhancement or
54 alternative route programs, and (C) establishment of bridge,
55 endorsement or alternative programs for native American Sign
56 Language users and certified interpreters seeking teacher certification.

57 (c) Not later than January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, the
58 Department of Education shall submit a progress report, in accordance
59 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
60 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
61 matters relating to education concerning the work of the American Sign
62 Language education working group.

63 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Not later than July 1, 2030, the
64 Department of Education shall issue to each local and regional board of
65 education the guidance developed pursuant to subdivision (1) of
66 subsection (b) of section 3 of this act to ensure consistent
67 implementation of the American Sign Language portion of the world
68 languages curriculum required pursuant to section 10-16b of the general
69 statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To make assorted revisions to the education statutes.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]