



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 312**

February Session, 2026



**AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE  
EDUCATION WORKING GROUP AND CONCERNING CURRICULUM  
GUIDANCE FOR AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) (a) The Department of  
2 Education shall establish an American Sign Language education  
3 working group that consists of (1) a representative from each of the  
4 following: The Departments of Education and Aging and Disability  
5 Services, the Labor Department, the Office of Higher Education, the  
6 Connecticut Council of Language Teachers, the American School for the  
7 Deaf and the Connecticut Association of the Deaf, and (2) at least one  
8 American Sign Language instructor who teaches in a public school in  
9 the state.

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

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

15 (2) Teacher certification standards based on standards established by  
16 the American Sign Language Teachers Association and the American  
17 Sign Language Proficiency Interview that include, at a minimum, (A)

18 establishment of a proficiency benchmark, (B) recognition of an  
19 alternative certification pathway for native American Sign Language  
20 users and interpreters, and (C) reciprocity with American Sign  
21 Language teaching certifications from other states; and

22 (3) Guidance to educator preparation programs in the state  
23 concerning, but not limited to, the (A) expansion of American Sign  
24 Language and interpretation education programs, (B) creation of  
25 educational incentives, such as tuition support, credit enhancement or  
26 alternative route programs, and (C) establishment of bridge,  
27 endorsement or alternative programs for native American Sign  
28 Language users and certified interpreters seeking teacher certification.

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

35 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Not later than July 1, 2030, the  
36 Department of Education shall issue to each local and regional board of  
37 education the guidance developed pursuant to subdivision (1) of  
38 subsection (b) of section 1 of this act to ensure consistent  
39 implementation of the American Sign Language portion of the world  
40 languages curriculum required pursuant to section 10-16b of the general  
41 statutes.

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

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(a), "which shall consist" was changed to "that consists" and in Section 1(b)(2), "includes, but is not limited to" was changed to "include, at a minimum" for clarity.

