



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 2413



Offered by:
REP. CARNEY, 23rd Dist.

To: Senate Bill No. 298

File No.

Cal. No.

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE REALLOCATION OF CERTAIN STATE FUNDS AND VARIOUS PROVISIONS RELATING TO EDUCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, GENERAL GOVERNMENT, ELECTIONS, INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES AND WAREHOUSE DISTRIBUTION CENTERS."

1 Strike section 21 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

2 "Sec. 21. Section 10-221a of the general statutes is repealed and the
3 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

4 (a) For classes graduating from 1988 to 2003, inclusive, no local or
5 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
6 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily
7 completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than four of which
8 shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics, not fewer than
9 three in social studies, not fewer than two in science, not fewer than one
10 in the arts or vocational education and not fewer than one in physical
11 education.

12 (b) For classes graduating from 2004 to 2022, inclusive, no local or

13 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
14 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily
15 completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than four of which
16 shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics, not fewer than
17 three in social studies, including at least a one-half credit course on
18 civics and American government, not fewer than two in science, not
19 fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and not fewer than
20 one in physical education.

21 (c) For classes graduating from 2023 to 2026, inclusive, no local or
22 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
23 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily
24 completed a minimum of twenty-five credits, including not fewer than:
25 (1) Nine credits in the humanities, including civics and the arts; (2) nine
26 credits in science, technology, engineering and mathematics; (3) one
27 credit in physical education and wellness; (4) one credit in health and
28 safety education, as described in section 10-16b; and (5) one credit in
29 world languages, subject to the provisions of subsection (g) of this
30 section. A local or regional board of education may require a student to
31 complete a one credit mastery-based diploma assessment in order to
32 graduate from high school or be granted a diploma.

33 (d) Commencing with classes graduating in 2027, and for each
34 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education shall
35 permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to
36 any student who has not satisfied the requirements of section 10-221z
37 and not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty-five credits,
38 including not fewer than: (1) Nine credits in the humanities, including
39 civics, United States history and the arts; (2) nine credits in science,
40 technology, engineering and mathematics; (3) one credit in physical
41 education and wellness; (4) one credit in health and safety education, as
42 described in section 10-16b; (5) one credit in world languages, subject to
43 the provisions of subsection (g) of this section; and (6) one-half credit in
44 personal financial management and financial literacy, which may count
45 towards the requirement described in subdivision (1) or (2) of this

46 subsection or as an elective credit.

47 (e) Commencing with classes graduating in 2023, and for each
48 graduating class thereafter, local and regional boards of education shall
49 provide adequate student support and remedial services for students
50 beginning in grade seven. Such student support and remedial services
51 shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of the high
52 school graduation requirements described in subsections (c) and (d) of
53 this section, if such student is unable to satisfactorily complete any of
54 the required courses or exams. Such student support and remedial
55 services shall include, but not be limited to, (1) allowing students to
56 retake courses in summer school or through an on-line course; (2)
57 allowing students to enroll in a class offered at a constituent unit of the
58 state system of higher education, as defined in section 10a-1, pursuant
59 to subdivision (4) of subsection (h) of this section; (3) allowing students
60 who received a failing score, as determined by the Commissioner of
61 Education, on an end of the school year exam to take an alternate form
62 of the exam; and (4) allowing those students whose individualized
63 education programs state that such students are eligible for an alternate
64 assessment to demonstrate competency on any of the five core courses
65 through success on such alternate assessment.

66 (f) Any student who presents a certificate from a physician, physician
67 assistant or advanced practice registered nurse stating that, in the
68 opinion of the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice
69 registered nurse, participation in physical education is medically
70 contraindicated because of the physical condition of such student, shall
71 be excused from the physical education requirement, provided the
72 credit for physical education may be fulfilled by an elective.

73 (g) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of the
74 local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of the
75 curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject matter
76 of the specified course requirements. The local or regional board of
77 education may permit a student to graduate during a period of
78 expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the

79 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to
80 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student
81 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when the
82 planning and placement team for such student determines the
83 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, a credit
84 shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute class period
85 for each school day of a school year except for a credit or part of a credit
86 toward high school graduation earned (1) at an institution accredited by
87 the Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher
88 Education or regionally accredited, (2) through on-line coursework that
89 is in accordance with a policy adopted pursuant to subsection (h) of this
90 section, or (3) through a demonstration of mastery based on competency
91 and performance standards, in accordance with guidelines adopted by
92 the State Board of Education.

93 (h) Only courses taken in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, and that
94 are in accordance with the state-wide subject matter content standards,
95 adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-4, shall
96 satisfy the graduation requirements set forth in this section, except that
97 a local or regional board of education may grant a student credit (1)
98 toward meeting the high school graduation requirements upon the
99 successful demonstration of mastery of the subject matter content
100 described in this section achieved through educational experiences and
101 opportunities that provide flexible and multiple pathways to learning,
102 including cross-curricular graduation requirements, career and
103 technical education, virtual learning, work-based learning, service
104 learning, dual enrollment and early college, courses taken in middle
105 school, internships and student-designed independent studies,
106 provided such demonstration of mastery is in accordance with such
107 state-wide subject matter content standards; (2) toward meeting a
108 specified course requirement upon the successful completion in grade
109 seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of which corresponds
110 directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in grades
111 nine to twelve, inclusive; (3) toward meeting the high school graduation
112 requirement upon the successful completion of a world language course

113 (A) in grade six, seven or eight, (B) through on-line coursework, or (C)
114 offered privately through a nonprofit provider, provided such student
115 achieves a passing grade on an examination prescribed, within available
116 appropriations, by the Commissioner of Education and such credits do
117 not exceed four; (4) toward meeting the high school graduation
118 requirement upon achievement of a passing grade on a subject area
119 proficiency examination identified and approved, within available
120 appropriations, by the Commissioner of Education, regardless of the
121 number of hours the student spent in a public school classroom learning
122 such subject matter; (5) toward meeting the high school graduation
123 requirement upon the successful completion of coursework during the
124 school year or summer months at an institution accredited by the Board
125 of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or
126 regionally accredited. One three-credit semester course, or its
127 equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-half credit for purposes
128 of this section; (6) toward meeting the high school graduation
129 requirement upon the successful completion of on-line coursework,
130 provided the local or regional board of education has adopted a policy
131 in accordance with this subdivision for the granting of credit for on-line
132 coursework. Such a policy shall ensure, at a minimum, that (A) the
133 workload required by the on-line course is equivalent to that of a similar
134 course taught in a traditional classroom setting, (B) the content is
135 rigorous and aligned with curriculum guidelines approved by the State
136 Board of Education, where appropriate, (C) the course engages students
137 and has interactive components, which may include, but are not limited
138 to, required interactions between students and their teachers,
139 participation in on-line demonstrations, discussion boards or virtual
140 labs, (D) the program of instruction for such on-line coursework is
141 planned, ongoing and systematic, and (E) the courses are (i) taught by
142 teachers who are certified in the state or another state and have received
143 training on teaching in an on-line environment, or (ii) offered by
144 institutions of higher education that are accredited by the Board of
145 Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or
146 regionally accredited; or (7) toward meeting the high school graduation
147 requirement upon the successful completion of a credit recovery

148 program approved by the Commissioner of Education.

149 (i) A local or regional board of education may offer one-half credit in
150 community service which, if satisfactorily completed, shall qualify for
151 high school graduation credit pursuant to this section, provided such
152 community service is supervised by a certified school administrator or
153 teacher and consists of not less than fifty hours of actual service that may
154 be performed at times when school is not regularly in session and not
155 less than ten hours of related classroom instruction. The State Board of
156 Education shall assist local and regional boards of education in meeting
157 the requirements of this section.

158 (j) (1) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma to
159 a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, which veteran
160 or person served during World War II or the Korean hostilities, as
161 described in section 51-49h, or during the Vietnam Era, as defined in
162 section 27-103, withdrew from high school prior to graduation in order
163 to serve in the armed forces of the United States and did not receive a
164 diploma as a consequence of such service.

165 (2) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma to
166 any person who (A) withdrew from high school prior to graduation to
167 work in a job that assisted the war effort during World War II, December
168 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, inclusive, (B) did not receive a diploma as
169 a consequence of such work, and (C) has been a resident of the state for
170 at least fifty consecutive years.

171 (3) (A) A local or regional board of education under whose
172 jurisdiction a student would otherwise be attending school if such
173 student were not educated under the oversight of the education unit of
174 the Department of Children and Families established pursuant to
175 section 17a-3b, shall award a diploma to any such student seventeen
176 years of age or older who satisfactorily completes the minimum credits
177 required pursuant to this section for students graduating in the year in
178 which such diploma is awarded.

179 (B) If no such local or regional board of education can be identified,
180 the Department of Children and Families shall determine whether a
181 student educated under the oversight of the education unit of the
182 department who is seventeen years of age or older has satisfactorily
183 completed the minimum credits required pursuant to this section for
184 students graduating in the year in which a diploma is sought by such
185 student and the department shall award a diploma to any such student
186 who has met such requirement.

187 (k) For the school year commencing July 1, 2012, and each school year
188 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall create a
189 student success plan for each student enrolled in a public school,
190 beginning in grade six. Such student success plan shall include a
191 student's career and academic choices in grades six to twelve, inclusive.
192 Beginning in grade six, such student success plan shall provide evidence
193 of career exploration in each grade including, but not limited to, careers
194 in manufacturing. The Department of Education shall revise and issue
195 to local and regional boards of education guidance regarding changes
196 to such student success plans. On and after July 1, 2020, in creating such
197 student success plans, consideration shall be given to career and
198 academic choices in computer science, science, technology, engineering
199 and mathematics. On and after July 1, 2021, such student success plans
200 shall be created, if possible, in collaboration with each student and the
201 parent or guardian of such student. On and after July 1, 2022, such
202 student success plans shall, to the extent it does not conflict with the
203 career choices of the student or such student's parent or guardian,
204 include an academic plan that is in compliance with the challenging
205 curriculum policy adopted by the local or regional board of education
206 pursuant to section 10-221x. On and after July 1, 2024, in creating such
207 student success plans, consideration shall be given to enrollment
208 opportunities in the Technical Education and Career System.

209 (l) Commencing with classes graduating in 2018, and for each
210 graduating class thereafter, a local or regional board of education may
211 affix the Connecticut State Seal of Biliteracy, as described in subsection

212 (f) of section 10-5, to a diploma awarded to a student who has achieved
213 a high level of proficiency in English and one or more foreign languages,
214 as defined in said subsection (f). The local or regional board of education
215 shall include on such student's transcript a designation that the student
216 received the Connecticut State Seal of Bilingual Literacy.

217 (m) Commencing with classes graduating in 2027, and for each
218 graduating class thereafter, a local or regional board of education may
219 affix the Connecticut State Seal of Civics Education and Engagement, as
220 described in subsection (g) of section 10-5, as amended by this act, to a
221 diploma awarded to a student who has achieved a high level of
222 proficiency in civics education and engagement. The local or regional
223 board of education shall include on such student's transcript a
224 designation that the student received the Connecticut State Seal of
225 Civics Education and Engagement."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 21	July 1, 2026	10-221a