

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 26-48—sSB 155
Committee on Children

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND THE DATA LINK
CONNECTICUT SYSTEM**

SUMMARY: This act merges Department of Children and Families (DCF) reporting requirements from nine statutes into one report. It does so by repealing certain reporting requirements and moving others to a new consolidated report that DCF must submit to the Appropriations and Children committees on its activities for the prior fiscal year. The act's consolidated report is due annually, starting on October 15, 2027. It generally maintains the prior law's reporting requirements.

The act also:

1. merges two existing DCF reporting requirements on the Behavioral Health Partnership,
2. removes the requirement that DCF report any missing or abducted child in the department's custody to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) National Crime Information Center to align with FBI requirements for submitting these reports, and
3. changes the name of the P20 WIN program (Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information Network) to "Data Link Connecticut" (or "DataLinkCT").

Lastly, it makes minor and technical changes (§ 8).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the name change for P20 WIN (§§ 9-14) and the technical changes (§ 8) are effective October 1, 2026.

§§ 1, 4, 5 - 7 & 15 — CONSOLIDATED REPORT

The act generally consolidates nine separate DCF reporting requirements into one report to the legislature on DCF's activities and makes various changes to the information it must provide. The table below describes the act's changes for each of these reporting requirements, listed by topic. The act also makes other minor and technical changes.

In consolidating the reporting requirements, the act (1) shifts their due dates, from the prior dates in the table below to October 15 of each year, starting in 2027, and (2) requires DCF to report on all these topics on a fiscal year basis. It requires DCF to submit the consolidated report to both the Appropriations and Children committees, rather than only the latter as prior law required for most of the separate reports. (The three exceptions are described in the table below.)

The act specifies that the report must not include personally identifying information.

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Consolidated Report Requirements Included in § 1

Topic, Act §, and Statutory Citation	Prior Law Reporting Requirement and Due Date	Changes Under the Act
Race and Ethnicity Data (§ 15) (CGS § 17a-6e)	Data showing DCF services use by race and ethnicity, an assessment of usage trends, and recommendations for results-based accountability measures for parity in access to services Due by February 15 each year	None
Visitation of Children in DCF Care (§ 5) (CGS § 17a-10a(f))	Data showing compliance with the law on visitation for children in DCF care due to temporary placements or commitment orders; must include the number of (1) children with out-of-home placements who have siblings, (2) child cases with documented sibling visits, and (3) individual siblings involved in each case Due by October 1 each year	Requires the report to have the number of sibling pairs in each placement, rather than the number of individual siblings involved in each case
DCF-Operated Facilities (§ 15) (CGS § 17a-32a)	For each DCF-operated facility, (1) aggregate resident profiles; (2) descriptions of, and updates on, major initiatives; (3) key outcome indicators and results; (4) operating costs; and (5) descriptions of educational, vocational, and literacy programs, behavioral treatment and other services for residents, and their outcomes No specified due date	Requires this information to be submitted to the Appropriations and Children committees, rather than the State Advisory Council on Children and Families and each facility's respective advisory group; eliminates related requirements that (1) these advisory groups respond to their facilities' annual report and recommend improvements and enhancements they find necessary and (2) DCF serve as administrative staff to these groups and post these reports on its website
Reports of Animal Harm, Neglect, or Cruelty (§ 15) (CGS § 17a-100c)	Number of written reports made by DCF employees and animal control officers that DCF and Department of Agriculture (DoAg) receive on actual or suspected instances of animal harm, neglect, or cruelty; each commissioner must report this information Due by February 15 each year	Eliminates the DoAg commissioner's reporting requirement and instead requires DCF's report to include data from DoAg's monthly animal abuse reports to DCF, required under existing law
Family Assessment Response	Family assessment response (FAR) program status, including specified data, statistics, and	Removes the requirement to include the percentage of families receiving a family assessment response broken

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Topic, Act §, and Statutory Citation	Prior Law Reporting Requirement and Due Date	Changes Under the Act
Program (§ 7) (CGS § 17a-101g(g))	analysis for the previous 12 months, such as the number of accepted reports of child abuse or neglect and percentage of reports assigned to the FAR program Due by July 1 each year	down by race and ethnicity and makes minor and technical changes Eliminates the prior requirement that this information be included in the annual children's report card
Private Provider Outcomes (§ 15) (CGS 17a-63a)	Information on DCF's efforts to determine measurable outcomes and incorporate them in provider contracts, including (1) the number of service types with outcomes, (2) the types of outcomes, (3) incorporating the outcomes into the contracts, and (4) the application of outcome information to quality improvement No due date specified	Requires DCF to also include information on outcome achievement and other quality indicators as noted in annual evaluations of each provider
Foster Care Licensing Practices (§15) (CGS § 17a-114g)	Specified information on DCF foster care licensing practices including (1) how it ensures it complies with foster care licensing laws and regulations, (2) how it assesses the needs of children and youths in foster care and provides support for foster parents to meet these needs, (3) DCF safeguards used when it seeks to license a relative caregiver with a history of child abuse or neglect or psychiatric illness or a criminal record, and (4) the results of DCF's random audits of its licensing practices Due by January 1 each year	Requires the report to include the results of any DCF audits of its licensing practices, rather than just random audits
Mental and Behavioral Health Treatment Fund Grant (§ 6) (CGS § 17a-22ii)	Information on the grant program's effectiveness Due to the Public Health Committee by January 1 each year	Eliminates requirement that report be submitted to the Public Health Committee
Juvenile Referrals and Diversions (§ 4) (CGS § 10-	Information on the referral or diversion of children under 18 from the juvenile justice and court systems; must include specified	Requires DCF to report this same information annually, rather than every two years, and eliminates the provision allowing the legislature to request other

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Topic, Act §, and Statutory Citation	Prior Law Reporting Requirement and Due Date	Changes Under the Act
19m(c))	statistics and demographic information and any other statistics and information the legislature may periodically request Due to the entire General Assembly by December 1 every other year	statistics and information

§§ 2 & 15 — BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP REPORTING

The act merges two existing DCF reporting requirements on the Behavioral Health Partnership. It repeals a provision that requires DCF and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to monitor the Behavioral Health Partnership’s implementation and annually report to the legislature on any related estimated cost savings. The act instead adds this cost savings reporting requirement to the existing annual report that DCF, DMHAS, and the Department of Social Services must make evaluating the Behavioral Health Partnership program and its services. By law, this annual program evaluation must, among other things, include information on the services provided, number of people served, program outcomes, and spending on child and adult populations under the program.

The act requires the agencies to submit the next annual program evaluation by October 1, 2026. By law, and under the act, they must submit the report to the Appropriations, Children, Human Services, and Public Health committees.

§ 3 — FBI NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

The act removes the requirement that DCF report any missing or abducted child in DCF custody to the FBI’s National Crime Information Center (NCIC). In practice, only law enforcement authorities may access the NCIC to make these reports.

By law, unchanged by the act, DCF must, within 24 hours after a child in its custody is determined to be missing or abducted, notify the (1) law enforcement authority with jurisdiction where the child was reported missing or abducted and (2) National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

§§ 9-14 — P20 WIN DATA SYSTEM NAME CHANGE

The act renames the P20 WIN program “Data Link Connecticut” (or “DataLinkCT”) in five places without otherwise changing the law. The program is a state data system used to match and integrate data from certain labor- and education-related state agencies, colleges and universities, and other organizations to inform policy and practice for education, workforce, and supportive service efforts.

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Disconnected Youth Report (§ 14)

The act requires the data system executive board to report on disconnected youth every two years rather than annually, as prior law required. It makes the first biennial report due by July 1, 2027. Under existing law, unchanged by the act, the reports must go to the Appropriations, Children, Education, Human Services, Judiciary, Labor and Public Employees, and Public Health committees.

For the reports, a “disconnected youth” is someone aged 14-26 who is (1) an at-risk student or (2) not enrolled in high school and (a) does not have a high school diploma or its equivalent; (b) has a diploma or equivalent but is unemployed and not enrolled in an adult education program, college, or a workforce training or certification program, including an apprenticeship, or otherwise pursuing postsecondary education; or (c) is incarcerated.