



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Series: 2025-2026  
Circular Letter: C-1

**TO:** Superintendents of Schools

**FROM:** Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education

**DATE:** August 5, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Summary of Education-Related Legislation Enacted in the 2025 Regular Session

The Connecticut General Assembly has adjourned its 2025 Regular Session. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is hereby providing you with a summary of the public acts passed during the regular session, and signed by the Governor, that appear to be of applicability and interest to school districts.

In reviewing this summary, please keep the following in mind:

1. This document does not describe every 2025 public act affecting the operation of a school district or provide every detail of the summarized acts. This is a summary of new legislation that was being tracked by the Department. Therefore, each superintendent or designated district leader should review the actual text of any act that may affect their district.
2. If you are viewing this document electronically, clicking the title of the act in the table of contents page will bring you to that section of the document; clicking the title appearing above each summary in the body of this report will allow you to view the full language of that act.
3. The summaries are organized by Public Act number.
4. Following the table of contents is a summary of each enacted bill. In some cases where only portions of a public act relate to K-12 education, only those sections of the act have been included in this summary.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura J. Stefon, Chief of Staff and Legislative Liaison, at 860-713-6493 or [laura.stefon@ct.gov](mailto:laura.stefon@ct.gov).

## 2025 Public Acts Affecting Education

Bill Number Public Act Number	Public Act Title	Page
HB 7163 SA 25-1	<a href="#"><u>An Act Concerning Emergency Grants to Municipalities for Special Education</u></a>	4
HB 7066 PA 25-1	<a href="#"><u>An Act Concerning Interactions Between School Personnel and Immigration Authorities, The Purchase and Operation of Certain Drones, Grants to Certain Nonprofit Organizations, and Student Athlete Compensation Through Endorsement Contracts and Revenue Sharing Agreements</u></a>	4
HB 7067 PA 25-2	<a href="#"><u>An Act Concerning an Emergency Certificate of Need Application Process for Transfers of Ownership of Hospitals That Have Filed for Bankruptcy Protection, The Assessment of Motor Vehicles for Property Taxation, a Property Tax Exemption for Veterans Who are Permanently and Totally Disabled and Funding of the Special Education Excess Cost Grant</u></a>	5
SB 1234 PA 25-9	<a href="#"><u>An Act Prohibiting Libraries from Agreeing to Certain Terms in Electronic Book and Digital Audiobook License Agreements or Contracts</u></a>	5
HB 6442 PA 25-15	<a href="#"><u>An Act Concerning Various Measures Recognizing and Honoring the Military Service of Veterans and Members of the Armed Forces in Connecticut</u></a>	5
HB 5001 PA 25-67	<a href="#"><u>An Act Concerning the Quality and Delivery of Special Education Services in Connecticut</u></a>	6
SB 1 PA 25-93	<a href="#"><u>An Act Increasing Resources for Students, Schools and Special Education</u></a>	9
HB 6445 PA 25-99	<a href="#"><u>An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Office of Higher Education, Expanding Dual Credit Opportunities and Concerning College Readiness and Remedial Support Programs at the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities and Information Reported to the Credential Database</u></a>	12
SB 1216 PA 25-102	<a href="#"><u>An Act Concerning School Emergency Response Systems</u></a>	12
SB 1261 PA 25-105	<a href="#"><u>An Act Expanding the Alliance District Educator and Counselor Loan Subsidy Program and the High Priority Occupation Loan Subsidy Program</u></a>	13
SB 1525 PA 25-120	<a href="#"><u>An Act Concerning the Teachers' Retirement Board's Recommendations for Changes to the Teachers' Retirement System Statutes</u></a>	13
HB 7236 PA 25-139	<a href="#"><u>An Act Concerning Human Trafficking and Sexual Assault Victims</u></a>	13
HB 7287 PA 25-168	<a href="#"><u>An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027, and Making Appropriations Therefor,</u></a>	13

	<u><a href="#">And Provisions Related to Revenue and Other Items Implementing the State Budget</a></u>	
<b>HB 7288 PA 25-174</b>	<u><a href="#">An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State and Concerning Grant Programs, State Grant Commitments for School Building Projects, Revisions to the School Building Projects Statutes and Various Provisions Revising and Implementing the Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027</a></u>	<b>14</b>
<b>SB 1529 PA 25-175</b>	<u><a href="#">An Act Revising the Effective Dates of Provisions Regarding Certain Municipal Referenda and Equity Joint Ventures and Concerning Contracts with the Department of Developmental Services, The Commissioner of Education's Network of Schools, The Reporting of Certain School District Financial Information, The Failure to File for Certain Grand List Exemptions and the Deferrals of Certain Towns' Real Property Revaluations</a></u>	<b>15</b>

### **[SA 25-1 An Act Concerning Emergency Grants to Municipalities for Special Education](#)**

The Act **transfers** \$40 million in FY 25 from the General Fund to a new separate non-lapsing account for special education emergency assistance, provided the Office of Policy and Management's April 2025 monthly statement shows a surplus of at least that amount.

Provided the new account receives the \$40 million transfer, funding is distributed to towns by the State Department of Education according to the Excess Cost grant methodology. The result is a corresponding revenue gain to local and regional boards of education of \$40 million in FY 25. The revenue gain to a board of education depends on its Excess Cost reimbursement tier and the amount of eligible expenditures.

### **[PA 25-1 An Act Concerning Interactions Between School Personnel and Immigration Authorities, The Purchase and Operation of Certain Drones, Grants to Certain Nonprofit Organizations, and Student Athlete Compensation Through Endorsement Contracts and Revenue Sharing Agreements](#)**

This Act makes changes related to (1) procedures for interactions between school personnel and immigration authorities; (2) unmanned aircraft (i.e., drone) purchase and operation; and (3) student athlete compensation.

The Act requires (1) public school superintendents to designate at least one administrator at each school to be responsible for interacting with Federal immigration authorities and (2) boards of education to update their school security and safety plans with procedures on interacting with immigration authorities. It also provides school staff with protection against discipline for following the Act's provisions (§§ 1-4).

Regarding drones, the Act generally prohibits, beginning on varying dates, State agencies, municipalities, and those who contract with either from purchasing or using certain drones assembled or manufactured by a covered foreign entity (e.g., China or Russia) (§ 5). It also prohibits, with certain exceptions, (1) operating drones in close proximity to critical infrastructure facilities or to surveil these facilities or (2) equipping an aircraft or drone with a deadly weapon or certain other dangerous devices (§§ 6-8).

Regarding student athletes, the Act (1) allows student athletes to receive compensation through endorsement contracts for use of their name, image, or likeness (NIL) or employment unrelated to an intercollegiate athletic program, and obtain representation, once they have agreed to attend a higher education institution and participate in sports, instead of only once they are enrolled and participating and (2) authorizes a higher education institution, or an entity acting on its behalf, to compensate a student athlete through an endorsement contract or a revenue sharing agreement under a policy adopted by the institution (§§ 12 & 13).

The Act also makes several changes to FY 25 appropriations (§§ 9-11, [see fiscal note](#)) and various technical and conforming changes.

**[PA 25-2 An Act Concerning an Emergency Certificate of Need Application Process for Transfers of Ownership of Hospitals That Have Filed for Bankruptcy Protection, The Assessment of Motor Vehicles for Property Taxation, a Property Tax Exemption for Veterans Who are Permanently and Totally Disabled and Funding of the Special Education Excess Cost Grant](#)**

This Act **appropriates** the additional \$40 million from SA 25-1 in FY 25 to the State Department of Education for Excess Cost. The Excess Cost grant reimburses local and regional boards of education for eligible special education expenses. The current FY 25 appropriation is approximately \$181.1 million. This results in a corresponding revenue gain to local and regional boards of education of \$40 million in FY 25. The revenue gain to a board of education depends on its reimbursement tier and the amount of eligible expenditures (§7).

**[PA 25-9 An Act Prohibiting Libraries from Agreeing to Certain Terms in Electronic Book and Digital Audiobook License Agreements or Contracts](#)**

This Act generally prohibits publicly funded libraries from entering or renewing contracts and licensing agreements with publishers of electronic literary materials (i.e. electronic books (eBooks) and digital audiobooks) that prevent, limit, or restrict the library from performing certain customary operational or lending functions specified in the Act. However, the prohibition only applies starting 60 days after the Secretary of State determines that a substantially similar law has been enacted by one or more other states with a combined population of at least seven (7) million.

The Act applies to (1) the Connecticut State Library and (2) any public library, public elementary or secondary school library, academic or research library, or public archive if it is partially or fully funded (e.g., through grants, loans, insurance, or matching expenditures) by the State or one of its political subdivisions (e.g., municipalities). The Act’s prohibition applies for the duration of the fiscal year in which the library or archive receives the funding and the next fiscal year after that.

Under the Act, “publishers” are (1) businesses that manufacture, promulgate, license, or sell books, journals, magazines, newspapers, or other literary productions (including digital formats and digital audiobooks) or (2) aggregators in the business of licensing access to material collections, including works from multiple publishers, and entering into contracts with libraries to sell or license these materials.

Finally, the Act identifies both prohibited and permissive terms for agreements between libraries and publishers with respect to lending, licensing, and records confidentiality.

**[PA 25-15 An Act Concerning Various Measures Recognizing and Honoring the Military Service of Veterans and Members of the Armed Forces in Connecticut](#)**

The Act requires local and regional school boards to take steps to ensure a minimally disruptive transition of a military-connected student who (1) enrolls at a school after the school year begins and (2) has an individualized education plan (IEP) or 504 plan from a prior school. This applies when the student enrolls due to an armed forces member’s military orders or other document directing the servicemember to the state. For these students, the bill requires districts to at least (1) transfer records and evaluations; (2) perform a reevaluation; and (3) within 30 school days of the child’s enrollment, hold a planning and placement team meeting or a meeting to establish a 504 plan.

Under the bill, an armed servicemember’s child must be allowed to remain enrolled in a school until the end of the school year if the servicemember relocates on orders and remains in the armed forces; however, a child enrolled in Grade 11 may continue to be enrolled in school for an additional school year if the servicemember remains in the armed forces. (§§ 7-8)

**[PA 25-67 An Act Concerning the Quality and Delivery of Special Education Services in Connecticut](#)**

**§ 1 — DEFINITION OF “CHILD REQUIRING SPECIAL EDUCATION” AND OTHER TERMS**

This section amends Connecticut General Statutes § 10-76a by amending the definition of “a child requiring special education” to mean an “exceptional child” age three to eight (rather than three to five) with developmental delays and by adding definitions of the following terms: “Charging entity,” “Provider of special education transportation services,” and “Private provider of special education services.”

**§ 2 — PROHIBITION ON INCREASING CHARGES FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR**

Commencing with the July 1, 2025, school year: (a) a charging entity is prohibited from increasing its costs to a local or regional board of education for special education services except that it may increase or lower the total amount charged if the charging entity adds or decreases services provided pursuant to a change in a student’s individualized education program; and (b) if permitted by the CSDE pursuant to the procedure set forth in the statute.

**§§ 3 & 24 — ESTABLISHING A RATE SCHEDULE FOR DIRECT SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND REQUIRING PRIVATE CONTRACTS TO CONFORM TO THE SCHEDULE**

Requires CSDE to set rates that special education and related services providers can charge to school boards for services; sets separate paths to set rates for (1) private special education providers and (2) public special education providers and any provider of related services.

**§ 4 — BILLING STANDARDS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION COSTS**

Requires CSDE, not later than January 1, 2027, to develop and update as necessary billing standards for the costs that special education transportation providers charge to local and regional boards of education; beginning with the 2027-28 school year, all costs that transportation service providers charge for special education transportation services shall be in accordance with CSDE’s billing standards.

**§ 5 — DEFINING REASONABLE COSTS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

Provides that, beginning July 1, 2026, for the purposes of providing special education pursuant to enumerated statutes, the “reasonable costs” for special education services are the permitted charges under the rate schedule the bill creates; and beginning July 1, 2025, there shall be no presumption that “reasonable costs” are the actual cost incurred by special education providers.

**§ 6 — EXEMPTS NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION GRANT FROM A TOWN’S MINIMUM BUDGET REQUIREMENT**

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, this section exempts the special education and expansion development grant under Section 7, from a district’s minimum budget requirement calculation.

#### § 7 — NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION GRANT

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, entitles each school board to a new special education and expansion development grant; imposes restrictions on how the funds must be used; creates a penalty for improper use; requires school boards to annually report on how grant funds are spent.

#### § 8 — LICENSURE STANDARDS FOR PRIVATE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS

Requires CSDE to develop licensure standards for private providers of special education services and submit them to the Education Committee by January 1, 2026.

#### § 9 — UNANNOUNCED ON-SITE VISITS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS

Requires CSDE on and after July 1, 2027, to do unannounced on-site visits of randomly selected regional educational service centers and private special education providers; the education commissioner must notify the providers of the site visit findings and any required corrective actions; providers must show proof of compliance within 30 days after receiving the finding; any regional educational service center or private provider of special education services that does not submit such proof of compliance will be fined up to \$100 a day for each day of noncompliance; additional students requiring special education services may not be placed with a regional educational service center or private provider of special education services that is not in compliance; CSDE must notify school boards of the findings and necessary compliance proof.

#### § 10 — TRANSFERRING OUT-OF-DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

Prohibits entities from further transferring out-of-district special education students except in certain circumstances.

#### § 11 — MODEL CONTRACTS FOR STUDENT PLACEMENT WITH PRIVATE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROVIDER OR RESC

Requires CSDE to establish model contracts to be used when placing a student with an approved private special education provider as defined in §10-91g; requires CSDE to make the model contracts available to school boards by July 1, 2026.

#### § 12 — REPORT ON SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENT PLACEMENTS

Not later than June 30, 2026, and annually thereafter, requires each local and regional board of education to report each placement of a special education student where the board is paying any portion of the cost and to include the information related to the placement set forth in the statute.

#### § 13 — FUNCTIONAL BEHAVIOR ASSESSMENTS BEFORE OUT-OF-DISTRICT PLACEMENT

Requires local and regional boards of education in certain circumstances to do a functional behavior assessment and develop or update a behavioral intervention plan before placing a student out-of-district.

#### § 14 — REPORT ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES AFFECTING SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

Requires the Transforming Children’s Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee to submit a report to the Education Committee and Committee on Children on behavioral health issues affecting special education students.

#### § 15 — BUILDING EDUCATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY WITH GREATER IMPROVEMENT NETWORKS COMMISSION

Creates several new study requirements for the Building Educational Responsibility with Greater Improvement Networks (BERGIN) Commission related to special education; generally, extends the commission’s end date to July 1, 2030; adds 20 additional members to the commission.

#### § 16 — SPECIAL EDUCATION WORKLOAD ANALYSIS MODEL

Requires CSDE to develop a proposed statewide special education workload analysis model for teachers and school service providers and submit it to the BERGIN Commission and Appropriations and Education committees by July 1, 2026.

#### § 17 — CSDE REPORT ON CT-SEDS

Requires CSDE to develop a report on the functions of CT-SEDS and submit it to the BERGIN Commission and Education Committee by January 1, 2026.

#### §§ 18 & 19 — DUE PROCESS HEARINGS

Makes several changes on due process hearings, including (1) generally requiring all claims to be disclosed before the start of the hearing, (2) requiring hearing officers to consider all evaluations presented, (3) generally limiting hearings to four days’ duration, and (4) requiring hearing officers’ written decisions to include specific findings of fact related to educating students with disabilities with their nondisabled peers.

#### § 20 — SBE SUPERVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Specifies that the education commissioner supervises approved private special education providers.

#### § 21 — CHANGES TO THE IEP FORM

Requires CSDE, not later than January 1, 2026, to remove the portion of the state’s IEP form that is used to list the people who will implement the IEP.

#### § 22 — SPECIAL EDUCATION AND EXCESS COST GRANT PROJECTIONS DATA REPORTING

Requires CSDE, not later than February 28, 2026, and annually thereafter, to (1) annually make certain disaggregated, student-level, and statewide data available on its website and (2) annually submit excess cost grant projections to the Appropriations and Education committees and the Office of Fiscal Analysis, on January 30 and March 30.



#### § 23 — DYSLEXIA REPORT

Requires the Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities to report to the Education Committee on recent developments and best practices on dyslexia evaluations, interventions, and student outcomes and on teacher preparation capacity.

#### § 25 — TRANSITIONAL COLLEGE READINESS AND REMEDIAL SUPPORT PROGRAM OFFERINGS AT HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education to continue offering transitional college readiness, embedded remedial support, and intensive remedial support programs at the state's public higher education institutions.

#### § 26 — PRIVATE PROVIDER ENROLLMENT REPORT

Requires special education private providers to submit an annual report to CSDE regarding their enrollment and waitlists beginning January 1, 2026.

### [PA 25-93 An Act Increasing Resources for Students, Schools and Special Education](#)

#### §§ 1-14 & 43 — EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ENDOWMENT

Establishes the Early Childhood Education Endowment, funds it with transfers of unappropriated surplus, and requires the state treasurer to administer it; creates the Early Childhood Education Endowment Advisory Board to oversee the endowment's administration; specifies the amount that may be released from the endowment each fiscal year and how those funds may be spent.

#### § 15 — HEALTH INSURANCE SUBSIDY PROGRAM FOR EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION EMPLOYEES

Requires Access Health CT to study the need for, and then establish, a health insurance subsidy program for FY 27 for employees of early care and education programs; sets requirements for the program and a process for potential funding through the Early Childhood Education Endowment.

#### § 16 — PRIVATE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROVIDER CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

Adds new requirements to contracts with private special education providers and conditions on expenditures to be eligible for reimbursement; authorizes placements in non-approved facilities under certain conditions and specifies when they are eligible or are not eligible for state reimbursement.

#### § 17 — NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION GRANT FUNDS EXEMPTED FROM SCHOOL DISTRICT MINIMUM BUDGET REQUIREMENT

Exempts in-district or regional special education programming grants from a school district's MBR calculation beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

#### § 18 — TRANSPORTATION ROUTE MAPPING

Requires CSDE to conduct an RFI for contractors to create, and annually update, bus routes for special education students traveling to and from outplacements in the state.

#### § 19 — NEW COMPETITIVE GRANT TO SUPPORT IN-DISTRICT OR REGIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Starting in FY 27, creates a new competitive grant program to support in-district and regional special education programs and services; allows school boards to use funds to, among other things, improve existing in-district programs or create new in-district or regional programs for students currently enrolled with private special education providers.

#### § 20 — CREATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS LIST

Requires the CSDE in consultation with the Child Advocate to create, and annually update, a list of certain special education programs throughout the state, to be posted on CSDE's public database.

#### § 21 — CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR PRIVATE PROVIDER EMPLOYEES

Requires private special education providers to do checks of the Department of Children and Families child abuse and neglect registry, employee and prospective employee criminal background checks and take related steps under C.G.S. § 10-232a.

#### § 22 — STAFFING CHANGES NOTIFICATIONS

Requires Regional Educational Service Centers and private special education providers to notify parents or legal guardians, school boards, and CSDE about certain special education staffing changes.

#### § 23 — MODEL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION OUTPLACEMENTS

Requires CSDE to establish a special education transportation service model contract.

#### § 24 — SPECIAL EDUCATION FAMILY GUIDE

Requires CSDE, in consultation with the Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center, to develop a guide to help families understand special education laws and processes.

#### § 25 — SPECIAL EDUCATION TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND TESTING GRANT PROGRAM

Establishes, and requires CSDE to annually administer, the special education training, education, and testing competitive grant program to give grants to educators and paraeducators who commit to working in an alliance district school for three years, effective for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and each fiscal year thereafter. \$500,000 was appropriated for this grant in each year of the biennium.

#### § 26 — BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM

Requires CSDE to establish a grant program to help school boards provide support services for special education students that have experienced trauma or have behavioral health needs, effective for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter. \$500,000 was appropriated for this grant in each year of the biennium.

#### § 27 — OFFICE OF THE EDUCATIONAL OMBUDSPERSON

Establishes the Office of the Educational Ombudsperson to serve students and families from early childhood to adult education; places the office under the direction of an Educational Ombudsperson appointed by the Governor and requires it, among other duties, to receive, review, and attempt to resolve any complaints from students and their families.

#### §§ 28 & 29 — INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PARTNERS

Requires school boards to hire or designate an instructional support partner in every school or school building beginning in the 2026-27 school year; gives instructional support partners various responsibilities to support teaching staff and students with disabilities and requires them to spend at least 50 percent of their time performing this position's duties; requires CSDE to host quarterly instructional support partner trainings.

#### § 30 — STUDY ON OVER-IDENTIFICATION OF MINORITY STUDENTS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Requires CSDE to conduct a study on the disproportionate or over-identification of minority students for special education services.

#### § 31 — PRESENTATION OF STATE FIVE-YEAR PLAN UPDATES

Requires the education commissioner to make an annual presentation on the progress of SBE's five-year plan, SBE to use these presentations to inform the plan's implementation, and these progress reports to be published online.

#### § 32 — SUPERINTENDENTS' ANNUAL REPORT TO BOARD OF EDUCATION

Requires all superintendents to submit information on the district's contracts, students, staff, attrition, and savings to the BOE annually, on or after June 1<sup>st</sup>, but prior to September 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### § 33 — POSTING DISCONNECTED YOUTH REPORT ONLINE

Requires any state agency that contributes data to the disconnected youth report to post the report on its website.

§ 34 — UPDATES TO CSDE’S CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PLAN

Expands on CSDE’s chronic absenteeism prevention and intervention plan by incorporating additional required and permissible components and requiring CSDE to review the plan biannually.

§§ 35-37 — UNSPENT FUND ACCOUNT AND EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURES RESERVE FUND UPDATES

Requires local BOEs to create a report on non-lapsing, unspent funds and include similar information in an existing report; similarly updates requirements related to regional BOE educational expenditures reserve funds; and requires the BOE to submit the report regarding the non-lapsing, unexpended funds account to the CSDE and the exclusive bargaining representative for certified employees.

§§ 38 & 39 — CONTACTING LOCAL HOMELESS EDUCATION LIAISONS BEFORE EXPULSION AND SUSPENSION HEARINGS

Requires districts to contact their local homeless education liaisons prior to an expulsion or suspension hearing to determine if the student is homeless, if the pupil is a homeless child or youth consider the impact of homelessness on the behavior of the pupil and not expel a homeless pupil without a plan to mitigate the impact of homelessness on the pupil.

§ 40 — EARLY CHILDHOOD CABINET MEMBERSHIP

Adds a library consortium member to the Early Childhood Cabinet.

**[PA 25-99 An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Office of Higher Education, Expanding Dual Credit Opportunities and Concerning College Readiness and Remedial Support Programs at the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities and Information Reported to the Credential Database](#)**

This bill requires the Department of Education to annually notify parents of public school students in grades eight through eleven about opportunities to pursue a challenging curriculum and the availability of courses that grant postsecondary credit. (§ 5)

This bill also requires the Department of Education to consult with institutions of higher education to develop a model policy regarding the provision of dual enrollment courses and concurrent enrollment courses. (§ 6)

**[PA 25-102 An Act Concerning School Emergency Response Systems](#)**

This bill allows the school security infrastructure competitive grant program to be used for purchasing the hardware associated with emergency response communications systems and personal emergency communication devices for school (or other eligible entity) personnel. (§ 1)

Under existing law, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the Department of Administrative Services, and the State Department of Education collectively administer this grant. It can be given to various entities, such as towns (for their public schools), private schools, and certain licensed childcare centers.

**[PA 25-105 An Act Expanding the Alliance District Educator and Counselor Loan Subsidy Program and the High Priority Occupation Loan Subsidy Program](#)**

This bill expands eligibility to participate in the alliance district educator and counselor loan subsidy program and correspondingly renames it as the alliance district loan subsidy program. Under current law and practice, the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) operates this program, which provides subsidized interest rates on CHESLA loans that refinance the private student loans of teachers, paraeducators, and school counselors employed in an alliance district. The bill:

1. specifies that these school employees must be employed by a local or regional board of education or a technical education and career school in a school district designated as an alliance district, and
2. expands the program to make it available to people who are employed in a high priority occupation by a local or regional board of education or a technical education and career school in an alliance district.

The State Department of Education shall consult with the authority to designate high priority occupations as detailed in the bill.

**[PA 25-120 An Act Concerning the Teachers' Retirement Board's Recommendations for Changes to the Teachers' Retirement System Statutes](#)**

The bill makes various changes to the statutes governing the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) that serve to clarify the administration of benefits.

**[PA 25-139 An Act Concerning Human Trafficking and Sexual Assault Victims](#)**

The law requires the DCF commissioner, in consultation with the DESPP commissioner, to develop an initial and refresher training program to accurately and promptly identify and report suspected human trafficking. Under current law, the training program must include a video presentation, developed and approved by the commissioners, that offers awareness of human trafficking issues and guidance to specific personnel. The bill allows this presentation to be in any format, not only video.

Existing law, unchanged by the bill, requires the following professionals to complete the training every three years: law enforcement personnel; Superior Court judges; prosecutors; public defenders and other criminal defense attorneys; hospital emergency room, urgent care facility staff, and emergency medical services personnel who have patient contact; and employees of local and regional school boards or public higher education constituent units who have contact with students.

**[PA 25-168 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027, and Making Appropriations Therefore, And Provisions Related to Revenue and Other Items Implementing the State Budget](#)**

Please see the [Office of Fiscal Analysis' report](#) for a summary of this legislation.

[PA 25-174 An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State and Concerning Grant Programs, State Grant Commitments for School Building Projects, Revisions to the School Building Projects Statutes and Various Provisions Revising and Implementing the Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027](#)

Please see the [Office of Fiscal Analysis' report](#) for a full summary of this legislation.

#### Paid Sick Leave

The state's paid sick leave law generally requires employers to give their employees up to 40 hours of paid sick leave per year, and employees must accrue one hour of leave for every 30 hours worked. Under the Department of Labor's current implementation of the law, employers must allow eligible employees to use the leave in one-hour increments.

The bill instead allows certain public-sector employers to require that certain employees use their accrued paid sick leave at the increments set in their applicable collective bargaining agreement, as long as they:

1. give their employees paid sick leave, or any other paid leave or combination of other paid leave, that accrues at a rate greater than one hour of leave for every 30 hours worked; and
2. do not prohibit the employees from using up to 40 hours of accrued leave per year. More specifically, the bill allows local or regional boards of education to do this for their school employees, and municipal employers to do this for their police officers, firefighters, and public works department employees.

Generally, under these paid sick leave provisions:

1. "school employees" are (a) teachers, substitute teachers, school administrators, school superintendents, guidance counselors, school counselors, psychologists, social workers, nurses, physicians, paraeducators, and coaches employed by, or working in, a public or private school, and (b) anyone else who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of enrolled students under a contract with a public or private school;
2. a "municipal employer" is any (a) political subdivision of the state, including any town, city, borough, district, district department of health, school board, housing authority, or other authority established by law, or (b) private nonprofit corporation with a valid contract with any town, city, borough, or district to extinguish fires and provide fire protection; and
3. a "public works department" is a municipal department responsible for the construction, regulation, or maintenance of all things in the nature of public works and improvements. (§233)

**PA 25-175 An Act Revising the Effective Dates of Provisions Regarding Certain Municipal Referenda and Equity Joint Ventures and Concerning Contracts with the Department of Developmental Services, The Commissioner of Education's Network of Schools, The Reporting of Certain School District Financial Information, The Failure to File for Certain Grand List Exemptions and the Deferrals of Certain Towns' Real Property Revaluations**

The bill phases out the Commissioner's Network of Schools program to full elimination in FY 28. Schools currently participating in the program are eligible to extend participation for up to two years. No new schools may enter the program after July 1, 2025.