AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPARENCY IN EDUCATION.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2023) (a) Not later than January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the Department of Education shall conduct a review of each chart of accounts for the previous fiscal year submitted pursuant to section 10-227 of the general statutes. Following the review of each such chart of accounts, the department shall prepare a report for each school district that includes school district financial information for the following categories: (1) Expense function, (2) expense object, (3) education type, (4) pre-k flag, (5) allocation, and (6) funding source. Within each such category, such financial information shall be disaggregated by each education financial system code utilized by the department as part of its education financial system.

(b) The department shall make the chart of accounts and report of such chart of accounts for each local or regional board of education available on its Internet web site.

Sec. 2. Section 10-227 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):
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[Each board of education shall cause the superintendent to make returns not later than September first of each year to the Commissioner of Education of the receipts, expenditures and statistics, as prescribed by the commissioner, provided each such board may submit revisions to the returns in such form and with such documentation as required by the commissioner no later than December thirty-first of each year following the September submission. Such reports or returns required by the commissioner are not sent filed on or before the days specified in this section or if the [returns are] chart of accounts is not certified as required by the commissioner on or before December thirty-first, each local and regional board of education required by law to make separate returns file the chart of accounts, whose [returns and statistics] chart of accounts or revisions are delayed until after those days, shall forfeit of the total sum which is paid for such board of education from the State Treasurer an amount to be determined by the State Board of Education, which amount shall be not less than one thousand dollars nor more than ten thousand dollars. The amount so forfeited shall be withheld from a subsequent grant payment as determined by the commissioner. Notwithstanding the penalty provision of this section, the Commissioner of Education may waive said forfeiture for good cause.]

Sec. 3. Section 10-10c of the general statutes is repealed and the
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following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

(a) The Department of Education shall develop and implement a uniform system of accounting for school revenues and expenditures. Such uniform system of accounting shall include a chart of accounts to be used at the school and district level. Such chart of accounts shall include, but not be limited to, all amounts and sources of revenue and donations of cash and real or personal property in the aggregate totaling five hundred dollars or more, including federal impact aid, received by a local or regional board of education, regional educational service center, charter school or charter management organization on behalf of a school district or individual school. Select measures shall be required at the individual school level, as determined by the department. The department shall make such chart of accounts available on its Internet web site.

(b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2015] 2024, and each fiscal year thereafter, each local or regional board of education, regional educational service center and state charter school shall implement such uniform system of accounting by completing and filing annual financial reports with the department using the chart of accounts and meet the provisions of section 10-227, as amended by this act.

(c) The Office of Policy and Management may annually audit the financial reports submitted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section for any local or regional board of education, regional educational service center or state charter school.

(d) Not later than July 1, [2013] 2023, the Department of Education shall submit the chart of accounts described in subsection (a) of this section to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

Sec. 4. Section 10-16b of the general statutes is repealed and the
following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

(a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education; health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and development, comprehensive sex education that is age and developmentally appropriate and includes, but is not limited to, instruction about affirmative consent, as defined in section 10a-55m, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health, physical, mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention, substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe use of social media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the dangers of gang membership, and accident prevention; language arts, including reading, writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical education; science, which may include the climate change curriculum described in subsection (d) of this section; social studies, including, but not limited to, citizenship, economics, geography, government, history and Holocaust and genocide education and awareness in accordance with the provisions of section 10-18f; African-American and black studies in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16ss; Puerto Rican and Latino studies in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16ss; computer programming instruction; and in addition, on at least the secondary level, one or more world languages; vocational education; and the black and Latino studies course in accordance with the provisions of sections 10-16tt and 10-16uu. For purposes of this subsection, world languages shall include American Sign Language, provided such subject matter is taught by a qualified instructor under the supervision of a teacher who holds a certificate issued by the State
Board of Education. For purposes of this subsection, the "arts" means any form of visual or performing arts, which may include, but not be limited to, dance, music, art and theatre; "reading" means evidenced-based instruction that focuses on competency in the following areas of reading: Oral language, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, rapid automatic name or letter name fluency and reading comprehension.

(b) If a local or regional board of education requires its pupils to take a course in a world language, the parent or guardian of a pupil identified as deaf or hard of hearing may request in writing that such pupil be exempted from such requirement and, if such a request is made, such pupil shall be exempt from such requirement.

(c) Each local and regional board of education shall on September 1, 1982, and annually thereafter at such time and in such manner as the Commissioner of Education shall request, attest to the State Board of Education that such local or regional board of education offers at least the program of instruction required pursuant to this section, and that such program of instruction is planned, ongoing and systematic.

(d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional boards of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to this section. The State Board of Education, within available appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (1) Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; (2) the historical events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (3) African-American and black studies; (4) Puerto Rican and Latino studies; (5) Native American history; (6) personal financial management, including, but not limited to, financial literacy as developed in the plan provided under section 10-16pp; (7) training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automatic external defibrillators; (8) labor history and law, including organized labor, the collective bargaining process, existing
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legal protections in the workplace, the history and economics of free
market capitalism and entrepreneurialism, and the role of labor and
capitalism in the development of the American and world economies;
(9) climate change consistent with the Next Generation Science
Standards; (10) topics approved by the state board upon the request of
local or regional boards of education as part of the program of
instruction offered pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; and (11)
instruction relating to the Safe Haven Act, sections 17a-57 to 17a-61,
inclusive. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
shall be available to each local and regional board of education for the
development of curriculum on climate change as described in this
subsection.

Sec. 5. Section 10-16b of the general statutes, as amended by section
376 of public act 21-2 of the June special session and section 263 of public
act 22-118, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:
(Effective July 1, 2023):

(a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall
include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally
qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education;
health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and
development, comprehensive sex education that is age and
developmentally appropriate and includes, but is not limited to,
instruction about affirmative consent, as defined in section 10a-55m,
nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation training in
accordance with the provisions of section 10-16qq, disease prevention
and cancer awareness, including, but not limited to, age and
developmentally appropriate instruction in performing self-
examinations for the purposes of screening for breast cancer and
testicular cancer, community and consumer health, physical, mental
and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention, substance
abuse prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use and
related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe use of social
media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the dangers of gang
membership, and accident prevention; language arts, including reading, writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical education; science, which shall include the climate change curriculum described in subsection (d) of this section; social studies, including, but not limited to, citizenship, economics, geography, government, history and Holocaust and genocide education and awareness in accordance with the provisions of section 10-18f; African-American and black studies in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16ss; Puerto Rican and Latino studies in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16ss; Native American studies, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16vv; computer programming instruction; and in addition, on at least the secondary level, one or more world languages; vocational education; and the black and Latino studies course in accordance with the provisions of sections 10-16tt and 10-16uu. For purposes of this subsection, world languages shall include American Sign Language, provided such subject matter is taught by a qualified instructor under the supervision of a teacher who holds a certificate issued by the State Board of Education. For purposes of this subsection, the "arts" means any form of visual or performing arts, which may include, but not be limited to, dance, music, art and theatre.

(b) If a local or regional board of education requires its pupils to take a course in a world language, the parent or guardian of a pupil identified as deaf or hard of hearing may request in writing that such pupil be exempted from such requirement and, if such a request is made, such pupil shall be exempt from such requirement.

(c) Each local and regional board of education shall on September 1, 1982, and annually thereafter at such time and in such manner as the Commissioner of Education shall request, attest to the State Board of Education that such local or regional board of education offers at least the program of instruction required pursuant to this section, and that such program of instruction is planned, ongoing and systematic.

(d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum
materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional
borders of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to
this section. The State Board of Education, within available
appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist
and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (1)
Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; (2) the historical
events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (3) African-American
and black studies; (4) Puerto Rican and Latino studies; (5) Native
American studies; (6) personal financial management, including, but
not limited to, financial literacy as developed in the plan provided under
section 10-16pp; (7) training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the
use of automatic external defibrillators; (8) labor history and law,
including organized labor, the collective bargaining process, existing
legal protections in the workplace, the history and economics of free
market capitalism and entrepreneurialism, and the role of labor and
capitalism in the development of the American and world economies;
(9) climate change consistent with the Next Generation Science
Standards; (10) topics approved by the state board upon the request of
local or regional boards of education as part of the program of
instruction offered pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; and (11)
instruction relating to the Safe Haven Act, sections 17a-57 to 17a-61,
inclusive. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
shall be available to each local and regional board of education for the
development of curriculum on climate change as described in this
subsection.

Sec. 6. Section 10-16b of the general statutes, as amended by section
32 of public act 22-80, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
thereof (Effective July 1, 2025):

(a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall
include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally
qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education;
health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and
development, comprehensive sex education that is age and
developmentally appropriate and includes, but is not limited to, instruction about affirmative consent, as defined in section 10a-55m, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health, physical, mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention, substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe use of social media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the dangers of gang membership, and accident prevention; language arts, including reading, writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical education; science, which may include the climate change curriculum described in subsection (d) of this section; social studies, including, but not limited to, citizenship, economics, geography, government, history and Holocaust and genocide education and awareness in accordance with the provisions of section 10-18f; African-American and black studies in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16ss; Puerto Rican and Latino studies in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16ss; Native American studies, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16vv; Asian American and Pacific Islander studies, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-66ww; computer programming instruction; and in addition, on at least the secondary level, one or more world languages; vocational education; and the black and Latino studies course in accordance with the provisions of sections 10-16tt and 10-16uu. For purposes of this subsection, world languages shall include American Sign Language, provided such subject matter is taught by a qualified instructor under the supervision of a teacher who holds a certificate issued by the State Board of Education. For purposes of this subsection, the "arts" means any form of visual or performing arts, which may include, but not be limited to, dance, music, art and theatre.
(b) If a local or regional board of education requires its pupils to take a course in a world language, the parent or guardian of a pupil identified as deaf or hard of hearing may request in writing that such pupil be exempted from such requirement and, if such a request is made, such pupil shall be exempt from such requirement.

(c) Each local and regional board of education shall on September 1, 1982, and annually thereafter at such time and in such manner as the Commissioner of Education shall request, attest to the State Board of Education that such local or regional board of education offers at least the program of instruction required pursuant to this section, and that such program of instruction is planned, ongoing and systematic.

(d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional boards of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to this section. The State Board of Education, within available appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (1) Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; (2) the historical events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (3) African-American and black studies; (4) Puerto Rican and Latino studies; (5) Native American studies; (6) Asian American and Pacific Islander studies; (7) personal financial management, including, but not limited to, financial literacy as developed in the plan provided under section 10-16pp; (8) training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automatic external defibrillators; (9) labor history and law, including organized labor, the collective bargaining process, existing legal protections in the workplace, the history and economics of free market capitalism and entrepreneurialism, and the role of labor and capitalism in the development of the American and world economies; (10) climate change consistent with the Next Generation Science Standards; (11) topics approved by the state board upon the request of local or regional boards of education as part of the program of instruction offered pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; and (12) instruction relating to the Safe
Haven Act, sections 17a-57 to 17a-61, inclusive. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall be available to each local and regional board of education for the development of curriculum on climate change as described in this subsection.

Sec. 7. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2023) On and after July 1, 2023, the Department of Education shall annually offer a training program to newly elected members of local and regional boards of education. Such training program shall be developed by the department, and include, but not be limited to, the role and responsibilities of a board member, the duties and obligations of a board of education and school district budgeting and education finance.

Sec. 8. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2023) On and after July 1, 2023, any person who has been elected to a local or regional board of education for the first time shall complete, at a time and in a manner prescribed by the Department of Education, the training program for newly elected members of local and regional boards of education, as described in section 7 of this act. Each such member shall complete such training program not later than one year after assuming office.

Sec. 9. Subsection (i) of section 10-145a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2023):

(i) On and after July 1, [2016] 2023, any program of teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall require, as part of the curriculum, clinical experience, field experience or student teaching experience in a classroom during four semesters of such program of teacher preparation. [Such clinical experience, field experience or student teaching experience shall occur: (1) In a school district that has been categorized by the Department of Education as District Reference Group A, B, C, D or E, and (2) in a school district that has been categorized by the department as District Reference Group F, G, H or I.] Such clinical experience, field experience or student teaching experience may include a cooperating teacher serving as a mentor to student...
teachers, provided such cooperating teacher has received a performance
evaluation designation of exemplary or proficient, pursuant to section
10-151b, for the prior school year.

Sec. 10. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 10-262u of the
general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
thereof (Effective July 1, 2023):

(a) As used in this section and section 10-262i:

(1) "Alliance district" means a school district for a town that (A) is
among the towns with the [thirty-three] lowest accountability index
scores [, as calculated] and so designated by the [Department]
Commissioner of Education, or (B) was previously designated as an
alliance district by the Commissioner of Education [for the fiscal years
ending June 30, 2013, to June 30, 2022, inclusive] on or before July 1,
2023.

(2) "Accountability index" has the same meaning as provided in
section 10-223e.

(3) "Mastery test data of record" has the same meaning as provided
in section 10-262f.

(4) "Educational reform district" means an alliance district that is
among the ten lowest accountability index scores when all towns are
ranked highest to lowest in accountability index scores.

(b) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, the Commissioner of
Education shall designate thirty school districts as alliance districts.
[Any school district designated as an alliance district shall be so
designated for a period of five years. On or before June 30, 2016, the
Department of Education shall determine if there are any additional
alliance districts.]

(2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, the commissioner shall
designate thirty-three school districts as alliance districts. [Any school
district designated as an alliance district shall be so designated for a period of five years.]

(3) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the commissioner shall designate thirty-six school districts as alliance districts. [Any school district designated as an alliance district shall be so designated for a period of five years.]

(4) On and after July 1, 2023, the commissioner may designate additional school districts as alliance districts.

(c) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Comptroller shall withhold from any town that [(A)] was designated as an alliance district [(A)] pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section any increase in funds received over the amount the town received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-262i, [(and (B) was designated as an alliance district [(B]) for the first time pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section, any increase in funds received over the amount the town received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-262i, or (C) pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of this section any increase in funds received over the amount the town received for the fiscal year prior to such designation as an alliance district pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-262i. The Comptroller shall transfer such funds to the Commissioner of Education.

(2) Upon receipt of an application pursuant to subsection (d) of this section or section 10-156gg, the Commissioner of Education may pay such funds to the town designated as an alliance district and such town shall pay all such funds to the local or regional board of education for such town on the condition that such funds shall be expended in accordance with [(A) the plan described in subsection (d) of this section, (B) the minority candidate certification, retention or residency year program pursuant to section 10-156gg, (C) the family resource center program, pursuant to section 10-4o, to establish a family resource center...]

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in each elementary school under the jurisdiction of such board, (D) the provisions of subsection (c) of section 10-262i, and [(D)] (E) any guidelines developed by the State Board of Education for such funds. Such funds shall be used to improve student achievement and recruit and retain minority teachers in such alliance district and to offset any other local education costs approved by the commissioner.

Sec. 11. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2023) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Alliance district" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-262u of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

(2) "Private entity" means any individual, corporation, general partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, joint venture, nonprofit organization or other business entity;

(3) "Public-private partnership" means the relationship established between the local or regional board of education for a town designated as an alliance district, a community college and a private entity for the purpose of implementing a pathways in technology early college high school program; and

(4) "Pathways in technology early college high school program" means a program of instruction in which students in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, complete high school and college-level coursework while simultaneously engaging in industry-guided workforce development.

(b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Department of Education shall annually issue a request for proposals to local and regional boards of education for towns designated as alliance districts for the establishment of a new public-private partnership or the enhancement of an existing pathways in technology early college high school program. The department shall review such proposals and award a grant to two such boards for the costs associated with the establishment or enhancement of a pathways
in technology early college high school program.

Sec. 12. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2023) No person shall sell or offer for sale to any local or regional board of education, or in any public school, any food product in which the name and branding on the packaging that is available at retail in the general market place is the same or similar to the name and branding on the packaging for sale in a public school, but in which the nutritional value or ingredients in such food product deviate from the same or similarly named and branded food product that is for sale in a public school.

Sec. 13. (Effective July 1, 2023) (a) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024, to June 30, 2026, inclusive, the Department of Education shall administer a wholesome school meals pilot program that awards a grant to an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u of the general statutes, as amended by this act, for the purpose of embedding a professional chef in such alliance district to assist school meal programs in building the capacity of food service staff, improving school meal quality, increasing diner satisfaction, streamlining operations and establishing a financially viable school meal program. The department shall partner with an organization that specializes in the placement of chefs for the purposes described in this subsection.

(b) Not later than October 1, 2023, a local or regional board of education for a town designated as an alliance district may apply to the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, for a grant under this section.

(c) The department shall review each application submitted under subsection (b) of this section and award five grants under this section. Each grant recipient shall receive an annual grant of one hundred fifty thousand dollars in each year of the pilot program. Such grant shall be expended for the purposes described in subsection (a) of this section.

(d) Not later than January 1, 2027, the department shall submit a report on the wholesome school meals pilot program to the joint
standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

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**Statement of Purpose:**
To provide equal and comprehensive access to education and academic opportunities for all children in Connecticut.

[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.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.; SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.
SEN. ANWAR, 3rd Dist.; SEN. CABRERA, 17th Dist.
SEN. COHEN, 12th Dist.; SEN. FLEXER, 29th Dist.
SEN. FONFARA, 1st Dist.; SEN. GASTON, 23rd Dist.
SEN. HOCHADEL, 13th Dist.; SEN. KUSHNER, 24th Dist.
SEN. LESSER, 9th Dist.; SEN. LOPES, 6th Dist.
SEN. MAHER, 26th Dist.; SEN. MARONEY, 14th Dist.
SEN. MARX, 20th Dist.; SEN. MCCCRORY, 2nd Dist.
SEN. MILLER P., 27th Dist.; SEN. MOORE, 22nd Dist.
SEN. RAHMAN, 4th Dist.; SEN. SLAP, 5th Dist.
SEN. WINFIELD, 10th Dist.; REP. DELANY, 144th Dist.
REP. FELIPE, 130th Dist.; REP. SIMMS T., 140th Dist.