



# CTECS LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY 2025

JULY 31, 2025

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER SYSTEM  
39 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06105

## Introduction

The 2025 Connecticut General Assembly legislative session led to the enactment of a number of new public acts that impact CTECS, educational institutions and state agencies. The summary below provides a brief overview of those acts with links to the legislation. Public Acts are organized by category for ease of review: administration and budget, teaching and learning, employee and student supports including extensive legislation related to special education services. Public Acts specific to CTECS are highlighted in red.

### PUBLIC ACTS RELATED TO AGENCY ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET

#### **PA 25-1      AA 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**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00001-R00HB-07066-PA.PDF>

The act requires each public-school superintendent to designate at least one administrator at each school in the district to be responsible with interacting with federal immigration authorities who appear in person at the school or contact the school to request information. This same requirement also applies to each regional educational services center (RESC), charter school governing authority, and endowed academy designated as a public high school regarding the schools under each of their respective jurisdictions. Additionally, it requires all local and regional boards of education to update their school security and safety plans for each school to include protocols for interacting with immigration authorities that are in line with guidance from the State Department of Education (SDE). It specifically refers to the guidance the SDE issued on January 28, 2025. It defines these authorities as officers or employees of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or the Department of Homeland Security, or individuals paid by or acting as their agents, who are charged with civil enforcement of the Immigration and Nationality Act. The act prohibits a school board, RESC, charter school or endowed academy from disciplining, suspending, terminating, or otherwise punishing an employees or administrator, designated under the bill, for implementation the updated school security and safety plan relating to staff interacting with an immigration authority. The SDE Commissioner must notify all public-school authorities listed above of its contents.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon passage

#### **PA 25-102      AA CONCERNING SCHOOL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEMS**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00102-R00SB-01216-PA.PDF>

The act authorizes the use of funds received under the school security infrastructure competitive grant program for the purpose of emergency response communications systems and personal emergency communication devices for school personnel.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2025

#### **PA 25-157      AA CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CERTAIN EVIDENCE AND RECORDS, FIREARM INFORMATION, SECURITY GUARDS, FIREARM TRANSFERS AND SCHOOL SECURITY**

**GRANTS AND THE FIRE MARSHALL TRAINING COUNCIL, THE COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL AND THE CODES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00157-R00HB-06859-PA.PDF>

**§§ 10 & 11 — SCHOOL SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM**

Requires that applicants for the school security infrastructure grant program conduct a school assessment using guidelines established by DESPP's Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and sets a cap on DESPP's use of the program's funds for certain communications systems.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** § 10 - Upon passage § 11 - July 1, 2025

**PA 25-147 AA CONCERNING THE TIMING AND SCOPE OF AUDITS BY THE AUDITORS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00147-R00HB-07090-PA.PDF>

This bill generally gives the Government Oversight Committee greater control over the timing and scope of audits performed by the Auditors of Public Accounts (APA). To require the Auditors of Public Accounts to provide a proposed schedule of audits to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to government oversight, and to authorize such committee to request the auditors to conduct more frequent audits or performance audits of state agencies.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2025

**PA 25-8 AA CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD STATUTES**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00008-R00SB-01286-PA.PDF>

The act makes technical changes to education and early childhood statutes.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** upon passage

**PA 25-160 AN ACT CONCERNING BLEEDING CONTROL TRAINING AND KITS**

[http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill\\_num=HB-7287](http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=HB-7287)

This bill allows the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESSP) to administer a bleeding control training program in each district health department. The bleeding control training program may be included as a part of an in-service training program for school employees. Additionally, the bill requires the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) commissioner, by July 1, 2026, to ensure that at least one bleeding control kit is installed on each floor of every building the state or its political subdivisions own.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2025

**PA 25-168 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS IMPLEMENTING THE STATE BUDGET**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00168-R00HB-07287-PA.PDF>

**§ 265 — SDE CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM REPORT**

The bill requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to annually report, beginning by February 1, 2026, to Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) on each school district with an attendance review team. The report must include (1) specific efforts and

outcomes of teams in alliance districts, as reported in the alliance district plan, and (2) any effective practice an attendance review team used to reduce chronic absenteeism rates.

**§ 323 — CHANGES TO ECS GRANT PHASE-IN SCHEDULE**

Delays by two years the start of an ECS schedule to phase-in grant reductions for overfunded towns; holds these towns harmless for FYs 26 and 27.

**§ 325 — RETIRED TEACHERS' HEALTH INSURANCE**

By law, annual premiums for the basic Teachers' Retirement Board (TRB) plan are split equally among the (1) General Fund, (2) retired teacher, and (3) retired teachers' health insurance premium account. (The account is funded by active teachers who contribute 1.25% of their salaries to it.) For FY 26, the law reduces the state's share from one-third to 25%.

**§§ 326-330 — REQUIREMENT TO PROPORTIONATELY REDUCE SPECIFIED EDUCATION GRANTS**

Extends the requirement that certain education grants be proportionately reduced if the amount appropriated for them does not fully fund them according to their statutory formulas. Adult education programs (CGS § 10-71) FY 26 Health services for private school students (CGS§ 10-217a) FY 26 School transportation (CGS § 10-266m) Permanent RESC operations (CGS § 10-66j) FY 26 & 27 Bilingual education (CGS § 10- 17g) FY 26 & 27.

**§§ 331 & 332 — CHOICE PROGRAM GRANTS FOR MAGNET SCHOOLS AND VO-AG CENTERS**

Makes permanent the choice program grants for inter-district magnet schools and Vo-ag centers, which are set to expire at the end of FY 25; adds a new method to determine FY 24 grants for newly established magnet schools that begin operating on or after July 1, 2024.

**§ 336 — MAGNET SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION GRANTS**

Changes the (1) calculation for certain Sheff magnet school transportation grants by eliminating the per-pupil calculation and the supplemental grant's structure, instead basing the grants on actual costs of transportation services and (2) payment schedule for all magnet school transportation grants.

**§ 341— SPECIAL EDUCATION GRANT PROPORTIONAL REDUCTION**

Extends the provision requiring grants to be reduced proportionally for all fiscal years, rather than only FY 26.

**§§ 345-347— SCHOOL AND PUBLIC LIBRARY POLICIES**

Requires school boards and public library governing bodies to adopt policies on collection development and maintenance, displays and programs, and material review; specifies criteria the policies they must meet. The bill's policy requirements for school boards and public library governing bodies are largely the same in content and procedures, but there are some requirements specific to the different policies. For example, the school policy must (1) address student access to age appropriate and grade-level-appropriate material and (2) require a superintendent who receives a reconsideration request to appoint a library material review committee to consider it. Lastly, the bill also grants employees immunity from liability when they perform their duties under the bill and allows them to bring legal action for defamation or damage to their reputations related to the same.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Various

**PA 25 - 174 AA 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 BIENNUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00174-R00HB-07288-PA.PDF>

## **§§ 1-38, 55, 105-107, 111, 119 & 120 — NEW BOND AUTHORIZATIONS FOR STATE AGENCY PROJECTS AND GRANTS**

Authorizes new state GO bonds for FYs 26 and 27 for various capital improvements, grant programs, and other initiatives §2(n), §21(k) Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS)

District-wide facility infrastructure upgrades, security improvements, vehicle and equipment purchases, and emergency repairs;

FY 26	30,000,000	FY 27	30,000,000
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Information technology and support equipment

FY 26	8,000,000	FY 27	8,000,000
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Design and construction of a new Windham Technical High School

FY 26	113,705,019	FY 27	0
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Capital improvement projects at E.C. Goodwin Technical High

FY 26	0	FY 27	35,000,000
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**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Various

## **§ 58 — SCHOOL AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS**

Reduces the current bond authorization for funding school air quality improvement grants and consolidates several earmarks into a single, smaller one; allows the funds to be used for additional projects, such as to repair fire damage or correct safety violations. Existing law authorizes state GO bonds for DAS to fund certain school air quality improvement grants. The bill reduces the current bond authorization by \$138.5 million (from \$375 million to \$236.5 million).

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2025

## **§ 84 — TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM TRAINING PROGRAMS**

Transfers from SDE to CTECS the responsibility for handling bond proceeds dedicated to certain technical high school system training programs. Current law requires SDE to use proceeds from an \$8.5 million GO bond authorization for (1) a technical high school system pilot program to provide expanded educational opportunities for academic enrichment and trades training for secondary and adult learners by extending hours at technical high schools in Hamden, Hartford, New Britain, and Waterbury, and (2) grants to technical high schools to provide evening training programs in skilled trades, including manufacturing, masonry, electrical, plumbing, and carpentry, that prepare participants to earn a credential or degree recognized by employers or trade associations. The bill transfers the responsibility for handling these bond proceeds from SDE to CTECS.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon passage

## **§ 131— DISTRICT REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (DRIP)**

Creates the DRIP program to provide financial assistance to local and regional boards of education and other public-school operators (PSO) for constructing, renovating, repairing, and enlarging public school buildings, grounds, and infrastructure; sets allocation requirements and an allocation formula for allocating assistance under the program; authorizes \$60 million in GO bonds for OPM to administer the program.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2025

## **§§ 140 & 144— HVAC GRANTS**

Repeals the existing school construction heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems (HVAC) grant and instead merges it with an existing school construction grant law.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** upon passage

## **§§ 140, 144 & 146 — REMOVAL OF CTECS FROM SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM**

Removes Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) from the school construction grant program. Under current law, CTECS projects must undergo the school construction process, including being on the construction priority list that DAS submits to the legislature each year for approval to have the project's cost fully covered by the state. As a state agency, CTECS projects are already 100% state funded and do not require the local approval and funding match that the school construction grant program requires of school boards and towns. (Chapter 60 of the General Statutes governs the state building construction project process.) The bill also repeals a related requirement for DAS to submit a biennial status report on all current and pending CTECS school construction projects and their costs to the Education Committee.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon passage

## **§ 141 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PRIORITY LIST GRANT COMMITMENTS**

Authorizes 8 school construction state grant commitments totaling \$172.4 million toward total project costs of \$265.7 million; reauthorizes one project with an additional estimated cost of \$50.7 million for the state-operated Connecticut Technical Education and Career System, also known as the technical high schools, the state pays 100% of the project costs. Reauthorized Projects The bill reauthorizes one school construction project with a change in cost and scope, resulting in a \$50.7 million additional state grant commitment. The table below describes the changes to the project.

**Table: Reauthorized School Construction Project**

District	School	Current Law	Bill	Reimb
CTECS	Platt Tech	Est cost \$124,566	\$175,231,500	100%

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** upon passage

## **§ 148 — INDOOR AIR QUALITY INSPECTIONS**

Broadens the window, to start July 1, 2022, rather than July 1, 2026, when a school board's school HVAC inspection can count as a state-required inspection. The bill retroactively expands this window to begin July 1, 2022, thus allowing inspections done between July 1, 2022, and July 1, 2026, to count for the requirement. By law, certain deadline waivers are allowed if conditions are met.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** upon passage

## **§ 205 — INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PARTNERS**

Allows, rather than requires as under SB 1, school boards to hire or designate a current employee to be an instructional support partner. The bill amends Section 28 of SB 1, as amended by Senate "A" and passed by both chambers, to allow, rather than require, school

boards to hire or designate a current employee to serve as an instructional support partner in each school or school building under the school board's jurisdiction beginning with the 2026-27 school year. The bill requires anyone hired or designated as a school or school building's instructional support partner to spend at least 50% of their time performing the position's duties.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2025

#### **§ 219 — POSTING CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE**

Requires each school board to post approved curriculum objectives and scope on the board's Website. The bill requires each local and regional board of education to post objectives and scope and sequence of approved curriculum on the board's website. Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232h).

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2025

#### **§ 233 — PAID SICK LEAVE INCREMENTS**

Allows boards of education and municipal employers to require that certain employees use their accrued paid sick leave in the increments set in their applicable collective bargaining agreements, rather than in one-hour increments, as long as they meet certain conditions. 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: "School employees" are (a) teachers, substitute teachers, school administrators, school superintendents, guidance counselors, school counselors, psychologists, social workers, nurses, physicians, paraeducators, and coaches 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 the local or regional board of education.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon passage

**§§ 234-237 — PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE FOR CERTAIN SCHOOL EMPLOYEES** Extends the state's Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program to cover school employees whose position does not require a professional certification; correspondingly extends the state's FMLA to cover these employees.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2025

#### **PA 25-9      AN ACT PROHIBITING LIBRARIES FROM AGREEING TO CERTAIN TERMS IN ELECTRONIC BOOK AND DIGITAL AUDIOBOOK LICENSE AGREEMENTS OR CONTRACTS**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00009-R00SB-01234-PA.PDF> This act generally prohibits publicly funded libraries from entering or renewing contracts and licensing agreements (collectively referred to as "agreements" below) 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 act of prohibition only applies starting 60 days after the secretary of the state determines that a substantially similar law has been enacted by one or more other states with a combined population of at least seven million. The act applies (1) to 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) and (2) for the duration of the fiscal year in which the library or archive receives the funding and the next fiscal year after that. It also applies to the Connecticut State Library (regardless of the funding or its duration). Under the act, “publishers” are businesses that manufacture, promulgate, license, or sell books, journals, magazines, newspapers, or other literary productions (including digital formats and digital audiobooks) or aggregators in the business of licensing access to material collections, including works from multiple publishers, that enter into contracts with libraries to sell or license these materials.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2025

**PA 25 – 59     AN ACT DESIGNATING VARIOUS DAYS, WEEKS AND MONTHS**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00059-R00SB-01519-PA.PDF>

**February**

8<sup>th</sup> Scouting America Day  
14<sup>th</sup> Neurofibromatosis Day

**April**

Connecticut Native Plant Month  
11<sup>th</sup> Parkinson’s Awareness Day  
26<sup>th</sup> Tuskegee Airmen Day

**May**

Brain Tumor Awareness Month  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Local Journalism Day  
5<sup>th</sup> Red Dress Day  
10<sup>th</sup> Dystonia Awareness Day  
13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Face Equity Week

**June**

1<sup>st</sup> Barber Recognition Day  
12<sup>th</sup> National Women Veterans’ Recognition Day  
27<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Microbiome Day

**July**

Uterine Fibroid Awareness Month  
12<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Recipients of Medal of Honor Day

**September**

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Lobster Roll Day

**October**

15<sup>th</sup> Varian Fry Day

**November**

Veterans’ Month  
Epilepsy Awareness Month  
15<sup>th</sup> day of month to be Kartik in the Hindu lunar calendar as Diwali

Under the bill, suitable observance exercises may be held in the state capitol and elsewhere as the governor designates.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon passage



**PA 25 – 108 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES REGARDING ACTING BUILDING OFFICIALS, CERTAIN PARKING SPACES AND ELEVATOR CERTIFICATES OF OPERATION**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00108-R00SB-01320-PA.PDF>

The bill, which makes technical revisions to the municipal authority to appoint temporary building officials, increases access to electric vehicle charging stations for people with disabilities, and closes a loophole in elevator inspection statutes, results in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2025, except the acting building official provision is effective July 1, 2025.

**PA 25 – 156 AA CONCERNING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY REGARDING AGENCY PURCHASE CARD USE.**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00156-R00SB-01468-PA.PDF>

**§ 1 P-CARD PROCEDURES**

The bill requires any P-card procedures established on or after October 1, 2025, to at least do the following:

1. prescribe which employees may use the card and limitations on its use;
2. specify the types of transactions that may be charged on the card;
3. limit authorized charges for travel, meals, and entertainment;
4. specify timing for submitting receipts or other reports about using the card;
5. require the receipts or reports to be digitized in CORE-CT (the state's payroll and financial tracking system) or another applicable system;
6. specify the agency approval process for reports about card uses; and
7. include specific remedies for noncompliance. The bill requires each budgeted agency to implement these procedures unless it adopts more stringent policies.

**P-CARD COORDINATORS**

The bill also requires each budgeted agency to appoint an employee as its P-card coordinator and inform the comptroller about the appointment. Under the bill, the P-card coordinator is responsible for ensuring the agency's compliance with the above procedures and must do the following:

1. authorize issuing a P-card to an employee (presumably, eligible under the above procedures) once the employee's supervisor determines he or she should be authorized for one;
2. review receipts or other documentation for P-card transactions made by agency employees and ensure that they are entered into CORE-CT or another applicable system;
3. establish dollar limits, according to the comptroller's procedures, for agency employees using the card; and
4. deauthorize an employee from using the card due to (a) not timely providing receipts or other documentation for P-card transactions or (b) not complying with the procedures

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2025.

**PA 25 - 128    AA CONCERNING INSTRUCTORS FOR AN AIRFRAME AND POWERPLANT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00128-R00HB-06075-PA.PDF>

This bill requires the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System to permit a person to be an instructor in its airframe and powerplant certificate program if they: 1. meet the requirements in specified federal regulations (see BACKGROUND), and 2. are airframe and powerplant certified, with at least 10 years of experience as an aerospace technician. The bill also specifies that these instructors need not be certified or endorsed by the state Department of Education.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2025

**PA 25-99        AA 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 COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIES AND INFORMATION REPORTED TO THE CREDENTIAL DATABASE**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00099-R00HB-06445-PA.PDF>

To (1) define when an institution of higher education is in-state or out-of-state, (2) prohibit reauthorization of any private career school that does not enroll students during the previous two years, (3) allow an extension for private career school authorization of ninety days, instead of sixty days, and (4) require approval for change of ownership of an institution of higher education.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2025, except the parental notification provision is effective January 1, 2026

**PA 25-47        AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF CONSUMER PROTECTION TO ALLOW CERTAIN SKILLED TRADE LICENSEES TO DEVIATE FROM CERTAIN SKILLED TRADE HIRING RATIOS**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00047-R00SB-01465-PA.PDF>

The hiring ratio requires a certain number of licensed journeypersons or contractors before another apprentice may be hired in the following trades: electrical; plumbing; heating, piping, and cooling; sprinkler fitter; and sheet metal work. Under this bill, the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) commissioner may allow a licensed contractor in one of these fields to hire one or more additional apprentices even if the contractor does not employ enough licensees to satisfy the hiring ratio under certain conditions.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2025

## PUBLIC ACTS RELATED TO EMPLOYEES

### **PA 25-105      AA EXPANDING THE ALLIANCE DISTRICT EDUCATOR AND COUNSELOR LOAN SUBSIDY PROGRAM AND THE HIGH PRIORITY OCCUPATION LOAN SUBSIDY PROGRAM**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00105-R00SB-01261-PA.PDF>

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. It specifies that these school employees must be employed by a local or regional board of education or a technical education and career school and 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.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2025

### **PA 25-25      AA PROHIBITING A BAIL BONDSMAN OR AGENT FROM APPRENDING A PRINCIPAL ON A BOND ON THE PREMISES, GROUNDS OR CAMPUS OF ANY HEALTHCARE FACILITY, SCHOOL, INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR HOUSE OF WORSHIP**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00025-R00SB-01367-PA.PDF>

This act prohibits professional bail bondsmen or surety bail bond or bail enforcement agents from taking or trying to take the principal on a bond into custody on the premises, grounds, or campus of any:

1. state-operated or Department of Public Health (DPH)-licensed health care facility or institution, or office of a DPH-licensed health care provider;
2. school or higher education institution; or
3. house of worship. Existing law, unchanged by the act, requires these individuals before taking the person into custody, to notify the applicable law enforcement where the person is believed to be. The act also expands the scope of the law requiring the court to vacate an order forfeiting a bond and release the professional bondsman, surety bail bond agent, and insurer so it applies when the principal on the bond is at a health care facility, institution, or provider office described above. Previously, a court could generally only do this when the principal was detained or incarcerated outside of Connecticut. There was proof of the detention or incarceration, and the prosecutor declined to extradite.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2025

### **PA 25-124      AA CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION RECORDS**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00124-R00SB-01520-PA.PDF>

This bill specifies that the Freedom of Information Act's disclosure exemption for records covered by the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) applies to education, rather than "educational," records exempt from FERPA, which conforms with terminology used in FERPA (20 U.S.C. § 1232g (4)). It also specifies that the exemption applies to FERPA as it existed on January 3, 2012.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2025

**PA 25– 120    AA CONCERNING THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES TO THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM STATUTES**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00120-R00SB-01525-PA.PDF>

**§ 1, 2 & 8 Membership**

Sections 1 and 2 amend the definition of “employer” and “public school” by including dates for sunset groups. This change clarifies the Children’s Center and the State Education Resource Center do not meet the qualifications and are to sunset on 7/1/25.

**§ 3 & 7 Applications**

§ 3 clarifies the commencement of retirement benefits, and those applications are irrevocable as of the date the member retires. TRS members may withdraw their retirement applications up to the day before their retirement date.

§ 7 clarifies only eligible disability allowance applications will be reviewed by the medical committee rather than all applications.

**§ 4 & 6 Teacher Retirement System Collective Bargaining**

§ 4 amends the TRS death benefit statutes to create default beneficiaries in the absence of a designee or surviving spouse for the return of accumulated contributions and credited interest. In this event, the next default designees are the surviving children, if none, then the funds are awarded to the member's estate.

§ 6 prohibits collective bargaining agreements from providing subsidies for purposes other than reducing costs. Currently, subsidies through the Teachers' Retirement Board (TRB) are used to offset retiree healthcare costs.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2025, except Sections 1 - 2 are effective from passage.

**SA 25–1      AA CONCERNING EMERGENCY AGENCY GRANTS TO MUNICIPALITIES FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/SA/PDF/2025SA-00001-R00HB-07163-SA.PDF>

The bill transfers \$40 million in FY 25 from the General Fund to a new separate non-lapsing account for special education emergency assistance. The funding is distributed to towns by the State Department of Education according to the Excess Cost grant methodology.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** upon passage

**PA 25-93      AA INCREASING RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS, SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00093-R00SB-00001-PA.PDF>

**§ 1-14 & 43** - The Act establishes the Early Childhood Education Endowment Fund with transfers of unappropriated surplus, and requires the state treasurer to administer the fund; it creates the Early Childhood Education 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 Childhood and Education Employees. Requires Access Health CT to study the need for, and then establish, a health insurance subsidy program for FY 27 employees for early care and education programs; sets requirements of the program and a process for potential funding through the Early Childhood Education Fund.

**§ 16** - The Act 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 for state reimbursement.

**§ 17** – Exempts in district or regional special education programming grants from a school district's Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) calculation.

**§ 18** – Requires SDE to conduct a Request for Information (RFI) for contractors to create and annually update bus routes for special education students traveling to and from outplacements in the state.

**§ 19** – Beginning in FY 27, a new competitive grant program to support in-district and regional special education programs and services; allows school to use funds to improve existing in-district programs or create new in-district or regional programs for students currently enrolled with private special education providers. Requires OPM to create ,and annually update ,a list of certain special education throughout the state ,to be posted on SDE's public database

**§ 21** – Requires private special education providers to conduct employee and prospective employee criminal background checks and take related steps.

**§ 22** – Requires RESCs and private special education providers to notify parents or legal guardians, school boards, and SDE about certain special education staffing changes.

**§ 23** – Requires SDE to establish a special education transportation service model contract.

**§ 24** – Requires SDE, in consultation with the CT Parent Advocacy Center, to develop a guide to help parents understand special education laws and processes.

**§ 25** – Establishes / Requires SDE 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 for three years

**§ 26** – Requires SDE to establish a grant program to help school boards to provide support services for special education students that have experienced trauma or have behavioral health needs

**§ 27** – Establishes the Office of the Educational Ombudsman to serve students and families from early childhood to adult education; places the office under the direction of the commissioner appointed ombudsperson and requires it to receive, review and attempt to resolve complaints from students and their families

**§ 28 & 29** – Requires school boards to hire or designate an instructional support partner in every school or school building beginning in the 26/27 school year, gives instructional support partners various responsibilities to support teaching staff and students with disabilities and requires them to spend at least 50% of their time performing this position's duties; requires SDE to host quarterly instructional support partner trainings

**§ 30** – Requires SDE to conduct a study on the disproportionate or overidentification of minority students for special education services

**§ 31** – Requires the SDE commissioner to make an annual presentation on the progress of the State Board of Education's (SBE) five-year plan. SBE must annually report to the governor and Education Committee

**§ 32** – Requires all superintendents to submit information on the district's contract, students, staff, and savings annually to the BOE

**§ 33** – Requires any state agency that contributes to the disconnected youth report to post the report on its website

**§ 34** – Expands on SDE's chronic absenteeism prevention and intervention plan by incorporating additional required and permissible components and requiring SDE to review the plan biannually

**§ 35-37** – 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

**§ 38 & 39** – Requires district to contact their local homeless education liaisons prior to an expulsion or suspension hearing to determine if the student is homeless

**§ 40** – Adds a library consortium member to the Early Childhood Cabinet

**§ 41 & 42** - Sunsets the education commissioner's network of school's program by prohibiting the commissioner from adding any more schools to the program after July 1, 2025; permits schools already participating to finish their three-year terms without any extensions

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2025, unless otherwise noted in section

**PA 25-67      AA CONCERNING THE QUALITY AND DELIVERY OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00067-R00HB-05001-PA.PDF>

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

Allows children with developmental delays to qualify for special education through age eight without falling under a specific disability category and defines certain terms.

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

It prohibits a charging entity from increasing its costs to a school board for special education services beginning with the 2025-26 school year; permits increase in certain situations if approved by SDE.

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

Requires SDE 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 SDE to develop and update billing standards for the costs that special education transportation providers charge; beginning with the 2027-28 school year, requires all costs that transportation service providers charge for special education transportation services to align with SDE's billing standards.

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

Provides that, beginning July 1, 2026, "reasonable costs" for special education services are the permitted charges under the rate schedule the bill creates; beginning July 1, 2025, prohibits the presumption that "reasonable costs" are the actual cost incurred by special education providers. Beginning July 1, 2026, the "reasonable costs" of providing special education and related services called for under a student's IEP is the amount that can be charged to a school board by a charging entity under the bill's rate schedule (see § 3). The bill specifies that the definition applies when determining the reasonable costs of providing special education and related services under the following laws:

1. charter school operators when determining what the school can charge back to the school district where the student lives (CGS § 10-66ee(d)(7))
2. special education private providers when determining what the school district will pay the private provider (CGS § 10-76d(d))
3. excess cost grant calculations when determining the grant eligibility threshold (CGS § 10-76g)
4. expenses of Advisory Board for Special Education members (CGS § 10-76i(a))
5. state agency placement for non-special education reasons (CGS § 10-253(b))
6. magnet school operators when determining what the school can charge back to the school district where the student lives (CGS § 10-264l(h), and
7. Open Choice Program when determining what the receiving school district can charge back to the school district where the student lives (sending school district) (CGS § 10-266aa(i))

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

Exempts the special education and expansion development grant from a district's minimum budget requirement calculation.

**§ 7 — NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION GRANT**

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

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

Requires SDE to do unannounced (beginning 7.1.27) on-site visits of RESCs 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; a school board will be fined up to \$100 a day for each day of noncompliance; SDE 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. Under the bill, a representative of the entity that received the out-of-district placement must be invited to attend and participate in the PPT meeting but cannot request that a PPT meeting be held for this purpose.

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

Requires SDE to establish model contracts to be used when placing a student with an approved private special education provider or with a RESC; requires SDE to make the model contracts available to school boards by July 1, 2026. The bill requires SDE to establish model contracts for placing a student with an education commissioner-approved private special education provider or with a RESC. By July 1, 2026, SDE must make the model contracts available to school boards for their use.

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

Requires school boards to annually report on information related to special education student placements where the board is paying any portion of the cost. The report must include:

1. whether the placement resulted from a PPT decision, a settlement agreement, or a special education hearing;
2. whether the placement is with an approved or nonapproved special education services private provider, a regional educational service center, an inter-district magnet school program operator, a state charter school, a cooperative agreement, a school board operating an outplacement program, or part of the Open Choice Program;
3. the amount being paid by the board;
4. the special education services provided;
5. the location of the facility where the services are being provided;
6. the total number of agreements on special education nondisclosure or waiver of rights (that is, rights under the federal IDEA) the board enters with a student, parent, or guardian during the prior school year; and
7. any other information SDE requests.

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

Beginning September 1, 2025 requires school boards to do a functional behavior assessment and develop or update a behavioral intervention plan before placing a student out of-district. The bill (1) exempts a board from the assessment and plan requirements if the time to do them would be a safety risk to any student or staff member at the school and (2) requires SDE by September 1, 2025, to develop guidance for boards to determine the circumstances under which this exemption applies. No later than two business days after deciding that the exemption applies, the school boards must file a notice to SDE describing the reasons behind their decision.

#### **§ 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 new study requirements for the 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 SDE to develop a proposed statewide special education workload analysis model for teachers and school service providers and submit it to the BERGIN Commission and the Appropriations and Education committees by July 1, 2026.

#### **§ 17 — SDE REPORT ON CT-SEDS**

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

#### **§ 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 SDE by 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 SDE 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 30th and March 30th.

#### **§ 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 SDE regarding their enrollment beginning January 1, 2026.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2025 except Section 12 which is effective upon passage

#### **PA 15-15      AA CONCERNING VARIOUS MEASURES RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE MILITARY SERVICE OF VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN CONNECTICUT**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00015-R00HB-06442-PA.PDF>

#### **§§ 7 & 8 — EDUCATION SERVICES FOR MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS**

Requires local and regional school boards to take steps to ensure a minimally disruptive transition of a military-connected student and allows a military-connected student to stay enrolled when a service member relocates on orders. The bill 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 (see background). This applies when the student enrolls due to an armed forces member's military orders or another 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 (PPT) 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, while the servicemember remains in the armed forces.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2025

**PA 25-143      AA IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION CAREER SYSTEM AND CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF EPINEPHRINE AND GLUCAGON**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00143-R00HB-06921-PA.PDF>

**§ 10 — OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENT SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

- 1.) Requires a receiving district hold the planning and placement team (PPT) meeting for each out-of-district student who requires special education and related services and invite representatives from the sending district to participant in such meeting, and ensure that such students receive the services mandates by the students' individualized education program (IEP) whether such services are provided by the sending district or the receiving district.
- 2.) the receiving district shall ensure that the students with a 504 plan receive the services mandated by the student's plan, and pay for the costs of providing such services.

**§ 18 — CTECS**

It (1) makes a change regarding cooperative agreements that the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System may enter into (*non-profit training institutes*); and (2) requires the Office of Policy and Management to approve requests for filling instructional positions at the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) within 30 days of receiving notice of the need to fill such positions.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2025.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2025

**PA 25-97      AA CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2T025/ACT/PA/PDF/2025PA-00097-R00HB-07157-PA.PDF>

The bill requires the state Department of Education (SDE), within available appropriations, to create a pilot program to allow at least 100,000 students in priority school districts (see Background Priority School Districts) to use an electronic mental and behavioral health awareness and treatment tool (through a website, mobile application, or other online service). SDE must create the program by January 1, 2026, and select the tool to be used in the program.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon passage

**Key**

**\*SA**      Special Act

**\*PA**      Public Act

**\*AAC**    An Act Concerning

**\*AAI**    An Act Implementing

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**Connecticut Technical Educational Career System**