



CTECS LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

2026

Connecticut Public Acts Affecting CTECS

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER SYSTEM

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2026 Connecticut Public Acts / CTECS

This Legislative Report is an overview of enacted legislation from the 2026 session of the Connecticut General Assembly with specific relevance to CTECS. The General Assembly met for the four-month session commencing in February and adjourning in May holding committee meetings, public hearings, caucuses and approximately 52 in-chamber days. In total, nearly 4,000 bills were introduced in this session, with 218 passing by both chambers, and 34 Special Acts and 151 Public Acts signed into law by Governor Lamont. The list compiles the relevant 2026 Public Acts (e.g., PA 26-X) and a summary. For a complete reference and history of the Acts, please visit the Connecticut General Assembly website.

PA 26-1 § 20 & 21 & 24 Connecticut State Seal of Civics Education and Engagement

The law creates the Connecticut State Seal of Civics Education and Engagement that students can earn, and have placed on their diploma, to signify that they achieved high proficiency in civics education and engagement. SDE must establish criteria for awarding the seal, which must require students to complete at least two history or social science courses, participate in a civic engagement project, and demonstrate proficiency in civics knowledge. The new law requires the State Board of Education (SBE), within available appropriations and using available resource materials, to (1) make curriculum materials on Islamic and Arab studies available to local and regional boards of education (school boards) and (2) encourage them to provide instruction in this area, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-1 § 22 & 23 Multilingual Learner Data

This new law expands the state-wide public school information system to include data on the (1) academic progress of students in bilingual education programs, including mastery exam results, and (2) evaluation of these programs. It also requires SDE's bill of rights for parents and guardians of multilingual learner students to include the right of these students and their parents and guardians to access publicly available data on bilingual students and programs, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-1 § 24 Islamic and Arab Studies Curriculum

This law requires the State Board of Education (SBE), within available appropriations and using available resource materials, to (1) make curriculum materials on Islamic and Arab studies available to local and regional boards of education (school boards) and (2) encourage them to provide instruction in this area, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-1 § 25 Antisemitism Working Group

The legislature established a 15-member working group to address antisemitism in public schools. It tasked the group with developing guidance and resources to address antisemitism issues that affect students, families, educators, and school personnel, including (1) suggested amendments to district policies to ensure safety; (2) recommended antisemitism-related training for educators and administrators; and (3) guidance for creating or providing curriculum materials and resources about antisemitism, Jewish heritage, and Holocaust and genocide education and awareness. The group must submit the guidance and resources it develops to the Education Committee by January 1, 2027, *effective upon passage*.

PA 26-1 § 34 School Resource Officers

By law, each school board that assigns a school resource officer (SRO) to its schools must have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a local law enforcement agency that outlines the SRO's role

and responsibility in the school. A new law sets a deadline of January 1, 2027, for school boards to meet existing law's requirements to (1) post the MOUs on their websites and (2) include information in the MOUs on the officer's daily interactions with students and staff and graduated discipline response models. The new law also requires MOUs to be updated at least every three years, *effective July 1, 2026*.

§ 38 School Board Member Attendance at Union Negotiations

This law requires at least one school board member to be present during teacher and administrator union negotiations, but no school board member who is also a member of the teachers' or administrators' union may be present during the negotiations, *effective on passage*.

PA 26-1 § 39 School Health Assessments

This law specifically allows school nurses to reject results of required health assessments (including lists of immunizations) if they are submitted in a format other than the form developed by SBE (sometimes called the "blue" form). It also requires an asthma action plan to be submitted with any health assessment form indicating an asthma diagnosis, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-1 § 41 Twice Expelled Students

Under a new law, school boards must offer an alternative education opportunity to students ages 16 to 18 who are expelled for the first or second time and wish to continue their education. Under prior law, this was only required for those expelled for the first time, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-1 § 42 Notification of Restraint and Seclusion

This law requires schools to notify the parent or guardian of a student placed in physical restraint or seclusion on the day it happens, rather than within 24 hours after it happened as prior law required. The existing requirement that a school make a reasonable attempt to notify parents or guardians immediately after a restraint or seclusion begins continues to apply under this new law, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-1 §§ 44-47 Crisis Response Drills

A new law establishes new protocols for school crisis response drills to ensure they are designed to prevent emotional harm and support psychological safety while improving preparedness. Among other things, it: 1. prohibits active assailant simulations or simulated violence when students are present (but staff and first responders may do them outside of school hours); 2. requires the Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis Prevention at Western Connecticut State University, in collaboration with Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), to develop standard terminology for drills and guidance for crisis responses and crisis debriefing; 3. addresses education and communication between school personnel, students, and parents about the nature and purpose of crisis response drills; and 4. requires school boards to submit their school safety and security plans to DESPP, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-3 State Immunization Standards

In response to recent changes in federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) vaccine standards, the legislature enacted a law requiring Department of Public Health (DPH) to establish immunization standards of care for all Connecticut residents, instead of only children and adolescents. In developing these standards, DPH may consider recommended vaccine schedules from several medical

professional organizations, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics and American Academy of Family Physicians. Among other things, the new law also (1) expressly specifies that the state's Religious Freedom Restoration Act does not apply to school and childcare facility immunization requirements and (2) requires the Connecticut Vaccine Program to give health care providers all children's vaccines included under DPH's standard of care, instead of only those recommended by the CDC, *various effective dates*.

PA 26-12 Training on Adult Education Programs

Law requires the state's chief workforce officer to develop training on adult education programs available in the state, including funding streams for them and performance measures to ensure informed collaboration. The training must be given to the state's regional workforce navigators by December 30, 2026, *effective upon passage*.

PA 26-12 § 2 Wage Range and Benefits Disclosure in Public and Internal Job Advertisements

The legislature expanded the existing wage disclosure law to require an employer to include a position's wage or wage range, and a general description of the position's benefits, in its public and internal job advertisements. Under the new law, benefits include (1) health insurance; (2) retirement; (3) fringe; (4) paid leave; and (5) any other compensation, other than wages, offered with a position. Among other things, the law requires the disclosure of benefits to an applicant to occur at earliest of either (1) when the applicant requests it or (2) before there is a discussion or an offer of compensation, if the information has not already been disclosed in the position's public or internal job ad, *effective October 1, 2026*.

PA 26-12 § 8 Teacher Termination

This law sets the standard of review for tenured public school teacher terminations to be the same standard applied in other disciplinary actions under the teacher's collective bargaining agreement. The same law changes, from the local school board to an impartial hearing officer, who makes the final decision when a tenured teacher is under consideration for termination, and it goes to a hearing. Also, for court appeals of a termination decision, it changes the standard of appeals to the standard under the laws for court consideration of arbitration awards, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-12 § 25 RESC and CTECS Report on Work-Based Learning Programs

The law requires each RESC and the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System's (CTECS) executive director to annually give the Education and Labor and Public Employees committees a report. Connecticut Technical Education and Career System's (CTECS) executive director to annually give the Education and Labor and Public Employees committees a report, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-12 § 26 Private Sector Educator Externships

A new law requires the education commissioner to establish a two-year pilot program for educator externships for certified educators. The program must allow the educators to participate in experiential learning with private sector employers so they can align classroom instruction with current industry standards and workforce needs, *effective on passage*.

PA 26-12 § 29 Working Group to Study Co-Instruction Teaching Models

The legislature created a working group to study the effectiveness and benefits of co-instruction teaching models used by public schools, including models that allow people who do not have a professional teaching certification to teach collaboratively with a certified teacher. The working group must submit the study's results to the Education Committee by *January 1, 2027*.

PA 26-12 § 30 & 31 Posting ADA Information in the Workplace

The labor commissioner must post downloadable information about the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), including its definition of a disability and how it relates to reasonable accommodations in the workplace. It requires employers to give their employees written notice about their right to reasonable accommodations under the ADA and allows employers to meet the requirement by displaying the information posted by the labor commissioner, *effective October 1, 2026*.

PA 26-12 §32 Breastfeeding and Expressing Milk in the Workplace

The legislature passed a law that requires employers to provide reasonable break times for an employee to express breastmilk for the employee's nursing child or to breastfeed at the workplace, in addition to the employee's scheduled breaks, *effective October 1, 2026*.

PA 26-12 § 38 Paycheck Transparency

This law requires certain employers with at least 100 employees (including the state and municipalities) to create a guide for employees on pay codes for overtime and pay differentials, such as (1) shift differentials, (2) on-call pay, (3) hazard pay, (4) callback pay, (5) holiday or weekend pay, or (6) geographic pay differentials. The guide must be updated when certain new pay codes are added and also include contact information for the designated office or person who will handle employee disputes about calculations of hours and pay differentials. The law requires each guide, if applicable, to include at least 10 pay codes and be posted on the employer's website, and employers must include a link to the guide on each record of hours given to an employee and give the link to new employees upon hire, *effective October 1, 2026*.

PA 26-12 §§ 1 & 75 Enhanced Workers' Compensation Benefits for Teachers Assaulted at Work

A new law allows certain teachers and related employees to receive enhanced workers' compensation benefits if they are unable to work as a result of a physical or negligent assault upon them while performing their work duties. More specifically, it qualifies them to receive a workers' compensation benefit that equals 100% of their gross (rather than net) average weekly earnings, with no cap on the benefit amount, plus their reasonable expenses for medical or other services needed due to the assault, and any lost wages due to an absence for a court appearance connected to the assault, *effective October 1, 2026*.

PA 26-12 § 51 "Reasonable Assurance" of Returning to Work for Paraeducators

A new law requires school districts, at least 10 days before the last day of regular school sessions, to give the Department of Labor lists of their paraeducators who have and do not have "reasonable assurance" (as defined in the act) of returning to work for the district once courses resume. In general, school employees are ineligible to receive unemployment benefits for a school break if they have a "reasonable assurance" of returning to work for the school when courses resume, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-12 § 52 Paraeducator Advisory Council

Requires the School Paraeducator Advisory Council to have five paraeducator members from the state-wide bargaining organizations that represent paraeducators with instructional responsibilities and that they be nominated by the Connecticut American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFLCIO), effective July 1, 2026.

PA 26-13 §§ 15-17 Athletic Health Assessments for High School Student Athletes

Starting in the 2027-28 school year, a new law requires public high school students, before participating in interscholastic sports, to have an annual athletics health assessment by a qualified health professional to screen for serious cardiac conditions. As with other student health assessments under existing law, schools must provide the assessment for free if the student is eligible for free or reduced-price meals, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-13 §§ 19-22 School Safety Plans

A new law sets requirements for health care providers to share certain minors' safety plans with schools. Starting April 1, 2027, it requires each health care provider who prepares a safety plan for a minor patient who received at least 12 consecutive days of inpatient behavioral health care treatment to send the plan to the minor's school or school district using a secure messaging system or in a way that complies with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Providers may only do this if the minor's parent or legally authorized representative (or the minor if they are at least age 16) gives written consent, *effective on passage*.

PA 26-14 § 7 Peace Officer Civil Offense Custody Actions at Schools

The legislature passed restrictions on peace officers detaining, arresting, or taking someone into custody based on a civil offense in certain locations, including at schools, playgrounds, before- or after-school care centers, and school bus stops when children are there. To do so, the peace officer must be acting in his or her official capacity and have a judicial warrant for the individual. This restriction applies to the buildings or locations, their grounds, and garages or parking lots that are used as part of their operation:

1. prohibits peace officers without a judicial warrant from detaining, arresting, or taking someone into custody based on a civil offense in a state or municipal facility or a "protected area" like a school, hospital, or house of worship;
2. prohibits peace officers from wearing a facial covering when interacting with the public and performing their duties unless doing so is for health or safety or other specified reasons;
3. generally requires peace officers to be clearly identified by their badge and name tag when making a planned, authorized arrest, or interacting with the public in an official capacity;
4. changes when the state's inspector general must investigate a peace officer's use of physical force on someone that results in the person's death or the death of a person in custody;
5. subject to several exceptions, makes federal law enforcement agencies liable when their officers interfere with someone taking a photo or video of them or another officer performing their duties;
6. extends to all peace officers the existing prohibition on hiring police officers who (a) were dismissed for malfeasance or serious misconduct or (b) resigned or retired during an investigation for this conduct; and
7. creates an individual cause of action, including against a federal or state officer or employee, for alleged civil rights violations, *effective October 1, 2026*.

PA 26-15 § 7-14 Online Safety - AI Workforce Employment Provisions

This regulates transparency around AI used in employment decisions, disclosure obligations, while applicants and employees must be informed when AI technology is being used and receive information about AI being used to materially influence and employment decision. An employer cannot use the argument “the algorithm made the decision” as a defense against a discrimination claim, effective October 1, 2027, § 13-14 effective October 1, 2026

PA 26-15 § 27 Certification & Emerging Technologies

This law allows educator certification preparation programs to include instruction on responsible use of emerging technologies, *effective October 1, 2026*.

PA 26-15 § 34 Computer Science in Public School Curriculum

For the school year beginning in 2026-27, a new law adds computer science to the state’s required program of instruction for public schools and specifies that computer science instruction must cover artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. Existing law already requires public schools to provide instruction in computer programming, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-18 Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Course Coordinator

This law requires SDE to appoint a dual and concurrent enrollment course coordinator by *January 1, 2027*, to track these courses and their student outcomes, such as completion rates and grades, by school district. The new law also allows higher education institutions to apply for reimbursement for fee waivers given to a high-need student in an advanced class or program (under prior law, only school boards could apply for these reimbursements and to track these courses and their student outcomes, such as completion rates and grades, by school district, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-19 Designating Various Days and Months

The Governor shall proclaim the following; Indigenous Peoples’ Day, last Friday of September, Lobster Roll Day, third Sunday of September, Hartford Whalers Day, January 11th of each year, Topical Steroid Withdrawal Awareness Day, February third of each year, 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day, Eid al-Fitr, March fourth of each year, March eighth of each year, Henry Breault Day, Medal of Honor recipient, first day of the Islamic month of Shawwal, the tenth month of the Islamic lunar calendar of each year, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Awareness, the month of May, Hiram Bingham IV Day, seventeenth of July, Ovarian Cancer Awareness Day, the month of September, Good Neighbor Day, the twenty eighth of September, Military Suicide Remembrance and Awareness day, September thirteenth of each year.

PA 26-21 § 7 amended by PA 26-76 § 64 Student Bus Passes and Fares

This law requires the SDE commissioner to administer a program to give school boards grants for (1) purchasing passes for public buses, including those operated by transit districts, and (2) distributing them without cost to their high school students. It also (1) authorizes the commissioner to develop guidelines and grant criteria to administer the program, including setting the application process, and (2) requires starting by July 1, 2027, to annually report on the program to the Education and Transportation committees, including on the number of grants awarded during the prior year and the program’s impact on student outcomes. Another new law relatedly requires Department of Transportation (DOT) to spend \$2.5 million of its FY 27 bus operations appropriation from the Special Transportation Fund to (1) give

grants under the student bus pass program described above and (2) provide discounted CTtransit bus fares for public school students in grades 9 through 12, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-37 Homeschooling

Starting with the 2027-28 school year, a new law requires parents seeking to withdraw a child from public school to go, in person, to the school district's office and sign a withdrawal form. It also prohibits parents from withdrawing a child to switch to parent-managed learning (such as homeschooling) if Department of Children and Families (DCF) records show that any adult living with the child is on the state's child abuse and neglect registry or currently under investigation for child abuse or neglect. Starting with the 2028-29 school year, this new law also requires parents of most school-age children to annually complete an intent to educate form indicating whether their child will enroll in a public school, attend a nonpublic school, or be instructed through parent-managed learning. The new law (1) deems parents in compliance with this requirement if their child attends a public school or a nonpublic school that files the required annual attendance report and (2) does not apply to most children who began instruction through parent-managed learning before the 2028-2029 school year, with certain exceptions, *effective July 1, 2027*.

PA 26-38 § § 1-2 PA 26-68 §165 Public School Access to Opioid Antagonists

These two laws expand the instances when an opioid antagonist (such as Narcan) may be administered to students in public schools to reflect the recent availability of a non-legend (over the counter) opioid antagonist nasal spray approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration. Specifically, the new laws allow any person to give someone an over-the-counter opioid antagonist to treat or prevent an opioid drug overdose, including in a school, and give them immunity from civil and criminal liability for doing so. They also exempt anyone who distributes these medications from needing a drug permit, *effective upon passage*.

PA 26-38 § 3 Deploying Behavioral Health Professionals After Mass Shootings

This law requires the DESPP commissioner to coordinate with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) commissioner, in addition to the DPH commissioner as under existing law, when deploying grief counselors and mental health professionals to provide mental health services to mass shooting victims' family members and other people with a close association to them. By law, these deployments must be made to (1) any school or higher education institution where a mass shooting victim or perpetrator was enrolled and (2) local community outreach groups in and around the impacted area, *effective upon passage*.

PA 26-58 Revisions to State Building and Fire Codes

This law changes when the State Building Code, State Fire Prevention Code, and Fire Safety Code must be updated. Under prior law, each of these codes had to be updated whenever the nationally recognized model codes they were based on were revised, specifically within 18 months after the revisions' first publication. The act extends this timing, requiring them to be updated within two years after that first publication date. But, under the act, no revisions are required after the first publication of revisions to the 2024 model codes and before the first publication of revisions to the 2030 model codes. It additionally requires the DAS commissioner to submit a report, by January 1, 2029, to the legislature on the effects of extending the cycles for revising these three state codes and any recommendations for amending their cycles, *effective October 1, 2026*.

PA 26-62 §§ 1-3 CWCSEO Working Group on Eating Disorder Treatment

This Act requires the executive director of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity (CWCSEO) to establish working groups on treating eating disorders and developing a state-wide food education roadmap and a model school nutrition curriculum. The executive director must report the results of the working group studies to several legislative committees, including the Education Committee, by January 1, 2028, *effective upon passage*.

PA 26-63 § 2 State Agency EV Charging Station Parking Spots

This law allows plug-in hybrid and battery EVs to be parked in spots with state agency EV charging stations while not actively charging at the discretion of the state agency that designated the charging station as available for public use. Prior law prohibited parking in these spots unless the vehicle was charging, *effective upon passage*.

PA 26-63 § 3 EV Charging Stations at Certain New State Facilities

This law changes the electric vehicle (EV) charging station requirement for new state facilities projected to cost over \$100,000 by generally requiring that 8% of these facilities' designated car parking spaces be installed with equipment capable of supporting future charging stations, rather than requiring that 20% of parking spaces designated for cars or light-duty trucks be installed with level two EV charging stations. Additionally, starting by January 1, 2029, and then every three years, it requires the transportation, administrative services, and DEEP commissioners to jointly submit recommendations to the legislature proposing an appropriate requirement for future EV charging infrastructure at new state facilities based on certain considerations, *effective upon passage*.

PA 26-63 § 24 & 37 Zero Emission School Buses

Current law requires school districts to gradually transition to zero-emission school buses and sets deadlines for doing so. New legislation generally (1) requires 90%, rather than 100%, of school buses to be zero-emission by 2040 and sets an interim deadline for distressed municipalities; (2) eliminates the requirement that environmental justice communities fully transition to zero-emission school buses by 2030; and (3) requires schools to implement safety plans before using a zero-emission school bus. It also modifies the zero-emission school bus grant program requirements, including broadening its purposes beyond providing matching funds for federal grant applications to include state or other funding or financing. *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-63 § 36 Zero-Emission School Buses and DEEP Working Group

The new law additionally requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to create a working group to evaluate and make recommendations on Connecticut school bus fleets' increased use of alternative fuels and technologies, including biodiesel, propane, and electric school buses. It requires the working group, by February 1, 2027, to submit a report to the Environment, Energy and Technology, and Transportation committees with the group's findings and recommendations, including any recommendations for regulatory or legislative action, *effective on passage*.

PA 26-63 § 272 PA 26-76 § 101

Under this law, nonelectronic school supplies that are purchased for nonbusiness purposes are exempt from the state's 6.35% sales and use tax as of July 1, 2026. The Department of Revenue Services must

issue policies and procedures that identify which school supplies qualify for the exemption, *effective July 1, 2026*

PA 26-68 §290g Vinal Tech

(1) \$50,000,000 million for design and construction of Vinal Tech

(2) \$70,000,000 for new Technology Center

PA 26-68 §326 New Windham Tech

\$263,705,019 for design and construction of a new Windham Tech High school.

PA 26-68 §339 Budget Adjustments

This new law requires CTECS to submit its five-year capital plan to the Education Committee in addition to the Finance Committee.

PA 26-68 §353 Windham Technical High School Site Language

New legislation requires the OPM secretary, by September 1, 2026, and before the final selection of a site for the replacement or relocation of Windham Technical High School (the technical high school serving the Windham, Willimantic, and Mansfield region), to give the chief elected officials and state legislators of those municipalities an opportunity to submit recommendations for alternative sites to consider. It also requires the secretary to evaluate any of the alternative sites located closer to the existing school than the site the secretary previously identified and prepare a written comparative analysis. The secretary must submit the results of the evaluation and analysis to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee by November 1, 2026, *effective upon passage*.

PA 26-68 §381 SDE Teacher Certification

Starting in FY 27, requires SDE to administer a teachers' apprenticeship program within available appropriations; the program was already in place, *effective on passage*.

PA 26-68 §§ 383 & 384 Parent Training and Information Centers Grants

The budget act creates a new SDE grant to establish parent training and information centers to (1) train and assist parents of children with disabilities to help the children meet developmental, functional, and academic goals and (2) attempt to resolve special education complaints from students' families. It also repeals the law creating the Office of the Educational Ombudsperson (OEO), which was tasked with receiving and attempting to resolve education complaints from students' families, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-68 § § 398-403 Renaming and Revising the School Building Projects Advisory Council

Through legislation, the General Assembly renamed the School Building Projects Advisory Council as the School Safety and Security Infrastructure Advisory Council and revised its responsibilities. The legislation shifts the council's focus from school building projects in general to the safety and security aspects of projects including by changing (1) members and their qualifications and (2) the chairperson from the DAS commissioner or her designee to the DESPP commissioner or designee, and adds the executive director of the Technical Education and Career System, or the executive director's designee, *effective on passage*.

PA 26-73 § 1 Electronic Surveillance of Employees

This law requires employers who electronically monitor their employees to: 1. include the specific workplace locations that may be monitored in the notice they are already required to post about the types of monitoring they conduct; 2. post the notice in the locations where monitoring may occur; and 3. give prospective employees, hired beginning October 1, 2026, a written, plain-language statement on prohibited activities that may be monitored without prior written notice, *effective October 1, 2026*.

PA 26-76 § 53 Distributing Youth Employment and Training Funding

This law changes how the Department of Labor must allocate youth employment and training funds to the regional workforce development boards. Instead of specifying the percentage of the funds that each board must receive (as under prior law), it generally requires the funds to be allocated based on each workforce development region's number of (1) students who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch; (2) economically disadvantaged youth; and (3) at-risk students, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-76 § 66 Workforce Navigator

This law requires each of the state's regional workforce development boards to employ a regional workforce navigator to coordinate with the boards, the Governor's Workforce Council, and DOL to connect people in adult education programs and public high school students with workforce opportunities such as internships, apprenticeships, and job shadowing opportunities, *effective October 1, 2026*.

PA 26-76 § 16 Transfer of Educational Records

This law requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF), instead of the judicial branch, to notify the local or regional board of education when a child is placed in a juvenile residential center. State law already requires DCF to ask for the transfer of school records for students placed in juvenile justice facilities or who are incarcerated, *effective January 1, 2027*.

PA 26-95 Failure to Stop for a School Bus

A new law requires the motor vehicles commissioner, without a hearing, to issue a six-month suspension of the driver's license or operating privilege of someone who, for the third or subsequent time, violates the state law on failing to stop for a school bus, *effective October 1, 2026*.

PA 26-109 § 1 Recommendations of the Auditors of Public Accounts

State agencies cannot make payments over \$50,000 for their employees retiring or resigning, unless payment is for administrative leave authorized by OLR, pending a disciplinary investigation, *effective October 1, 2026*.

PA 26-109 § 5

If state agencies want to enter or change their contract related to purchasing auditing services, they must include in the contract a requirement for the auditing service to provide any information the APA requests related to auditing. Additionally, if APA requests, state agencies must provide them with a copy of the audit, *effective October 1, 2026*.

PA 26-109 § 6

Applies to personal service agreements as well, effective *October 1, 2026*.

PA 26-110 § 4-7 Accessibility and the State Building Code

This law repeals and makes conforming changes to several building code statutes related to accessibility, including eliminating a secondary process for the state building inspector to consider variations of and exemptions from any provision of the State Building Code relating to accessibility to, and use of, buildings and structures by people with disabilities. The act effectively replaces the repealed process with another existing process for variations and exemptions that has a different standard for approval and no deadline for decision making, *effective October 1, 2026*.

PA 26-116 School Mapping Data Services Grants

Beginning with FY 27, new legislation allows the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to annually administer a program to give municipalities and municipal police departments grants for mapping data services for schools served by the police department, as long as the data meets certain criteria such as being compatible with software platforms used by public safety agencies. By October 1, 2026, DESPP must create eligibility criteria, develop application forms, and post a description of the program on its website. Starting by January 1, 2028, the department must annually report on the program to the Public Safety and Security Committee, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-125 Education of Homeless Youth

This law requires boards of education to provide educational services to homeless children and youths in conformity with the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. This session, the legislature specified that these services must be provided as established in federal law as of December 23, 2022, *effective October 1, 2026*.

PA 26-131 Test Bed Technologies Program

It creates a process for state agencies to administer pilot test programs to test the effectiveness of certain technologies, products, or processes (“projects”) at reducing operating costs. The bill allows the commissioner of each state agency to administer a program for pilot testing projects that promote operational cost reduction, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-139 § 1 Armed Security Guards in Schools

This newly enacted law, former parole officers meeting certain qualifications may provide armed security services in public schools. Under prior law, only sworn members of local police departments and qualified retired police officers could provide these services. The new law subjects former parole officers to the same annual training requirements that other retired officers must complete to qualify. Retired police officers and parole officers must have retired or left service in good standing to be hired as an armed security guard. The new law specifies that good standing means the officer’s employment did not end due to disciplinary action, while under investigation, or while a disciplinary action was pending. It also specifies that retired police officers cannot provide security services if they are prohibited from being hired as a police officer due to being dismissed for malfeasance or other serious misconduct or resigning while under investigation, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-139 § 3 School Administrator Mentorship Program

This law requires the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards, in consultation with the Connecticut Association of Schools, to create a pilot program for a new school administrator mentorship program. The pilot program must include support, training, and professional development for new school administrators. The council must (1) submit a pilot program implementation plan to the Education Committee by July 1, 2027; (2) implement the program for the 2027-28 school year in the districts it identifies in the plan; and (3) by January 1, 2029, report to the Education Committee on the pilot's results, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-139 § 3 Academic Standards for Participation in Athletics

Starting July 1, 2027, this law prohibits school boards from requiring students in grades 9 to 12 who participate in interscholastic athletics to meet academic eligibility standards that are higher than those set by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC). In practice, CIAC's current standards generally require students to have earned a passing grade in at least four quarter credits at the end of the most recent marking period or, for fall sports, at least four credits toward graduation during the prior school year or marking period, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-139 § 4 Therapeutic Arts Program Grants

This law requires SDE to establish, within available appropriations, a grant program for a therapeutic arts program in public schools starting in the 2027-28 school year. Any school board or regional educational service center (RESA) is eligible for grants, but SDE must prioritize those serving school districts with high rates of exclusionary discipline (like suspensions), low access to behavioral health services, and an existing social-emotional learning program, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-139 § 6 Repeal of Educator Preparation Regulations

PA 24-41, § 51, repealed numerous SBE educator preparation program and certification regulations such as regarding certification requirements and the educator preparation program approval, effective July 1, 2026. *A new law delays the effective date to July 1, 2027.*

PA 26-139 §§ 7-9 & Limiting Assessments and Approval to Amend ESSA Plans

This law does the following: 1. establishing a school district incentive program that limits broad assessments, integrates formative assessment tools, and increases teacher competency in the assessment process; 2. requiring SDE to give school boards guidance on reducing discretionary local student assessments; and 3. allowing SDE to ask the U.S. Department of Education to amend the state's approved plan under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to reduce the weight assigned to the academic achievement indicator and increase the weight for other relevant indicators, such as college and career-oriented measures, effective July 1, 2026, except the provision about the state's ESSA plan is *effective upon passage*.

PA 26-139 § 10 Mathematics Pathways, Instruction, and Specialist Guidance

The General Assembly passed a new law that requires SDE to (1) redesign the state's high school mathematics pathways (designed sequences of courses) for students; (2) develop a list of professional development providers for high-quality mathematics instruction; (3) explore the feasibility of launching MathConn (a professional learning series for educators); and (4) develop mathematics specialist guidelines, *effective upon passage*.

PA 26-139 § 11-13 Misconduct-Related Information Disclosure During Prospective School Employee Hiring Process

This law makes various revisions to the laws on disclosing certain misconduct-related information when hiring a prospective school employee who will have contact with children (applicant). These include: 1. expanding the scope of what the applicant, current and former employers, and SDE must disclose about the applicant to include allegations currently under investigation; 2. requiring the applicant's written statement and the forms that previous and current employers must complete to include a disclosure of whether the applicant was, or is currently, facing an allegation involving the injury or risk of injury to, or impairing the morals of, a minor; 3. allowing school operators to request information from SBE on whether SDE has been notified by a former employer that the applicant is under investigation for abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct unless the investigation resulted in a finding that all allegations were false; and 4. extending similar provisions to cover school contractors and their applicants, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-140 Advertising Purchased by the State

This law requires state agencies to provide a summary of all advertising purchased during the preceding fiscal year to the Commissioner of DAS, no later than November 1, 2026, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-145 Centralization of Workforce Development Information

This law requires DOL to create a centralized webpage on the Department's website with information and resources on workforce development opportunities and links to external resources, *effective October 1, 2026*.

PA 26-149 § 1 Reading Interventions

This law requires SDE to create guidance on implementing multitiered systems of support (MTSS) or response to intervention (RTI) frameworks for students identified as struggling in reading and distribute it to school boards. MTSS and RTI are educational approaches that identify struggling students and offer them targeted, personalized instruction to meet their needs, with services that increase in intensity (for example, in frequency or duration) as student need increases, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-149 § 2 & 3 Aspiring Educator Scholarship

This law changes "aspiring educators," rather than "diverse educators," eligible for the existing teacher recruitment scholarship, potentially broadening the pool of eligible candidates. An "aspiring educator" is someone from a population subgroup that (1) is underrepresented in the teaching profession in Connecticut and (2) has been identified under state law as a teacher shortage area. The new legislation also broadens the eligibility criteria by giving eligibility to graduates of any high school in the state, rather than just high schools in alliance districts. The scholarships are up to \$10,000 a year for those enrolled in good standing in a teacher preparation program at any four-year institution of higher education, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-149 § 6 & 7 Paraeducators Health Insurance Subsidy

This law makes permanent two health care subsidy programs for paraeducators employed by school boards and expands the programs to include paraeducators at charter schools. The legislation also

requires the comptroller to report to the Education and Appropriations committees by January 1, 2027, on the cost of expanding the programs for paraeducators at charters, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 26-150 Adopting the Integrated Setting Standard of the ADA for Public Entities

This law requires state and local agencies and other public entities to administer services, programs, and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of people with disabilities who are eligible to receive them. Under the act, public entities are (1) executive, legislative, and judicial branch state agencies, including any office, department, board, council, commission, institution, higher education constituent unit, or technical education and career school; and (2) local governments or departments, agencies, special purpose districts, or other local government instrumentalities, *effective July 1, 2026*.

PA 151 § 1 & 2 and PA 26-149 §4 & 5 American Sign Language Working Group

This law requires the education commissioner to create an American Sign Language (ASL) working group to make recommendations to SDE on, among other things, teacher certification standards and curriculum guidance for ASL instruction. Starting by July 1, 2028, the working group must annually report on its work to the Education and Human Services committees. Then, by July 1, 2030, SDE must issue the curriculum guidance to school districts, *effective October 1, 2026*.