The distinctive line drawing of the Capitol building which appears on the cover was graciously donated to CABE by the late Richard Welling, a Hartford artist. The artwork is a particularly appropriate piece for our issue of the 2016 Education Law Summaries. We are delighted to be able to feature a work by this very talented artist.
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- PA 16-2: An Act Adjusting The State Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2017
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- CABE Board of Directors
INTRODUCTION

Education Law Summaries

This publication is devoted to the 2016 Education Law Summaries. Included in this material are summaries of the laws that have an impact on public education passed during the 2016 regular and special sessions of the Connecticut General Assembly. You will note there are gaps in the numerical sequence of the Public and Special Acts. This is because Acts unrelated to education or to the operation of school districts have been omitted.

The Governor signs into law two kinds of Acts, Public and Special. Public Acts, which are valid enactments that have general application, become part of the Connecticut General Statutes. They either add to, modify, or replace current statutes. Special Acts do not become part of the General Statutes. They are valid enactments created to address a particular set of circumstances or involve specific individuals, corporations, cities, towns or special districts.

Every effort has been made to be as complete and accurate as possible so that the Education Law Summaries provide a reliable resource. The format of the summaries is geared to facilitate reading and enhance comprehension. The number and title of each Act are provided for identification and to cue subject matter. The number and title are followed by individual summaries. In most cases, the summary will be sufficient for one to understand the Act and how it will apply to school districts. However, where it seems necessary and appropriate, the entire text of the act or the text of individually summarized programs in the Act is also included.

As you read the Education Law Summaries, keep three points in mind: (NEW) indicates that the material which follows is an entirely new section added to the statutes under the Act, material printed in boldface type is also new to the statutes as a result of the Act, and bracketed material indicates language that has been deleted from the statutes under the Act.

We trust you will find this CABE service to be useful and informative.

7/2016
2016 Education Law Summaries

PA 16-23
AN ACT CONCERNING
THE PALLIATIVE USE OF MARIJUANA

SUMMARY: The act applies the same program requirements and prohibitions when minors are patients as for adults under existing law. For example:
1. patients who comply with the law may not be arrested, prosecuted, or otherwise penalized, including being subject to civil penalties, or denied any right or privilege, including being disciplined by a professional licensing board, for the medical use of marijuana;
2. these protections do not apply if the patient ingests marijuana in certain settings, such as at work, at school, or in public;
3. schools, landlords, and employers are prohibited from taking certain actions against a medical marijuana patient or caregiver if solely based on the person’s status as such, unless the actions are required by federal law or to obtain federal funding;

Research Program Subjects
The act requires anyone seeking to participate as a research program subject to first register with DCP. The commissioner must prescribe registration standards and procedures.

The act generally extends the legal protections noted above to a research program subject with a valid registration certificate, for the use of marijuana while acting within the scope of an approved research program.

However, these protections do not apply to marijuana use in certain settings, similar to the restrictions on other medical marijuana users under existing law and the bill. Thus, the protections for research subjects do not apply if the person’s marijuana use endangers the health or well-being of someone else, other than a research program employee. The protections also do not apply if the person ingests marijuana:
1. in a motor bus, school bus, or other moving vehicle;
2. at work; and
3. on school grounds or any public or private school, dormitory, college, or university property, unless the college or university is participating in a research program and the marijuana use is part of that program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2016

PA 16-37
AN ACT CONCERNING
CONNECTICUT’S FARM TO
SCHOOL PROGRAM

SUMMARY: This act requires a food service management company to include in its response to a board of education’s request for proposal (RFP) or bid solicitation for a school nutrition program how the RFP or bid is consistent with the state’s farm to school program and how it facilitates the purchase of products from local farmers. The requirement applies to RFPs and bids posted to the state contracting portal, which the Department of Administrative Services maintains. When awarding a contract, which must be done in accordance with any applicable laws, regulations, or rules, the act requires the board of education to give preference to the RFP or bid that promotes the purchase of local farm products, all other factors being equal.

The act also requires the State Board of Education (SBE), by October 1, 2017, to amend state regulations on nutrition standards for school breakfasts and lunches. The amended regulations must facilitate purchases by boards of education from local farmers to support the state’s farm to school program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2016, except for the regulations provision, which is effective upon passage.

PA 16-39
AN ACT CONCERNING
THE AUTHORITY AND
RESPONSIBILITIES OF ADVANCED
PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES

SUMMARY: Among other provisions, this act allows advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to certify, sign, or otherwise document medical information in several situations that currently require a physician’s signature, certification, or documentation, including:
• Order for administration by a qualified school employee of (1) glucagon using injectable equipment or (2) antiepileptic medication; and
• Order stating a child’s need for, and capability of, performing blood glucose self-testing at school.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2016
PA 16-41
AN ACT CONCERNING
THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE MINORITY TEACHER
RECRUITMENT TASK FORCE

SUMMARY: This act:
1. extends, from February 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, the report deadline for the minority teacher recruitment task force, expands its mission to include an analysis of the causes of minority teacher shortages in Connecticut, adds the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission executive director, or her designee, to the task force, and extends the task force’s duration until January 1, 2026 (§ 1);
2. establishes the Minority Teacher Recruitment Policy Oversight Council (“council”) within the State Department of Education (SDE) (§ 2);
3. requires SDE to conduct an annual survey of students on the effectiveness of minority teacher recruitment programs in the state (§ 3);
4. eliminates a satisfactory score on the Praxis competency exam for reading, writing, and math as an entrance requirement for teacher preparation programs and instead requires the score to be used for diagnostic purposes for any necessary remedial instruction in those programs (§§ 4 & 5);
5. requires SDE to report annually on the effectiveness of minority teacher recruitment programs using results-based accountability methods (§ 6);
6. requires SDE to review and approve proposals to create alternative route to certification (ARC) programs for school support staff (board certified behavior analysts or assistant behavior analysts) and to award educator certificates to qualified applicants who successfully complete the programs (§ 7);
7. modifies the criteria for awarding an educator certificate to out-of-state teachers and makes the certification awarded a provisional rather than a professional certification (§ 8); and
8. modifies the criteria for teacher certification interstate agreements (§ 9).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage for the task force changes and the new SBE teacher preparation remedial guidelines and July 1, 2016 for the other provisions.

PA 16-42
AN ACT CONCERNING
THE TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM

SUMMARY: This act makes changes to the budgetary process for the Connecticut technical high school system (CTTHS). The act specifies that the State Board of Education (SBE) must review, but cannot amend, the system’s proposed budget, after the CTTHS board reviews, amends, and approves the budget.

The act also (1) makes several changes to the budgeting process for technical high school system staffing needs and (2) requires the CTTHS superintendent to provide additional information at an annual legislative meeting about technical high school and state workforce issues.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

PA 16-55
AN ACT CONCERNING
RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
REGARDING HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS, CAR DEALERS,
eLECTRONIC REGISTRATION,
STUDENT TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE
OPERATORS, DIVERSION PROGRAMS,
MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTORS
AND MINOR REVISIONS TO
THE MOTOR VEHICLE STATUTES

SUMMARY: Among many changes in motor vehicle laws, this act allows motor vehicle inspectors performing their official duties to carry weapons on school grounds.

Current law allows people age 70 or older to transport special education students if the driver (1) meets minimum physical requirements set by the commissioner and (2) has a physical exam twice a year or when asked to do so by a school superintendent. The act reduces the frequency of the physical exam to once annually and complies with federal law by requiring that a federally certified medical examiner conduct it. It requires the driver to have more frequent physical exams if the medical examiner or a school superintendent directs it.

Effective Date: July 1, 2016, except for the provision allowing motor vehicle inspectors to carry weapons on school grounds, which is effective October 1, 2016
PA 16-66
AN ACT CONCERNING
VARIOUS REVISIONS TO
THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES

SUMMARY: The act prohibits municipal health directors in towns with a population of at least 40,000 for five consecutive years from having a financial interest or job that substantially conflicts with the director’s duties.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This provision is effective July 1, 2016

PA 16-67
AN ACT CONCERNING
THE DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN
EDUCATION PERSONNEL RECORDS

SUMMARY: This act adds new requirements to the hiring processes of boards of education, charter schools and magnet school operators for positions that would place applicants in direct contact with students.

The act requires applicants to make disclosures containing (1) current and past employers’ contact information; (2) authorization allowing contact with such employers; and (3) statements about any past misconduct, discipline, or licensure penalties as a result of sexual misconduct or abuse allegations.

It also requires employers, before hiring such applicants, to (1) ensure that applicants complete the above three requirements; (2) review applicants’ employment history after making a documented, good faith effort to contact previous employers for information; and (3) request any available information about applicants from SDE.

The act requires SDE to (1) share with requesting employers any available information about past discipline or criminal charges relating to an applicant and (2) design a standardized form for past employers of such applicants to complete and make it available to boards of education by June 30, 2016.

The act also:
1. prohibits boards of education from offering employment to any applicant who was previously terminated or resigned from employment after he or she was convicted of failure to report the abuse, neglect, or injury of a child or imminent risk of serious harm to a child, when an allegation of abuse, neglect, or sexual assault has been substantiated;
2. establishes requirements for investigating substitute teachers and employees of contractors prior to hire;
3. requires boards of education to communicate with SDE and other boards when learning of an applicant’s or current employee’s disciplinary history;
4. prohibits boards from entering into agreements that contain certain provisions contradicting investigatory efforts;
5. allows temporary hires by boards for up to 90 days under certain conditions; and
6. establishes punitive measures for (a) applicants who provide false information about their history and (b) boards of education that fail to follow the act’s investigatory requirements for hiring.

The act also:
• increases the penalty for 1st degree threatening, from a class D felony to a class C felony, if the threat was made with intent to cause the evacuation of a building or the grounds of a public or private preschool, school, or higher education institution during instructional hours or when the facility or the grounds are being used for school- or institution-sponsored activities.
• increases the penalty for 2nd degree threatening, from a class A misdemeanor (punishable by imprisonment for up to one year, a fine of up to $2,000, or both) to a class D felony, if the threatened person was in the building or on the grounds of such a school facility during instructional hours or when the facility or the grounds is being used for school- or institution-sponsored activities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016, except the provision establishing a date by which SDE must make the standardized employment form available takes effect upon passage, and the provisions on threatening crimes are effective October 1, 2016.

PA 16-79
AN ACT CONCERNING
A TWO-GENERATION
INITIATIVE FOR FAMILIES

SUMMARY: This act changes the content of the report of the interagency working group that oversees the state’s two-generational school readiness and workforce development pilot program.

The report must contain:
1. the parent-informed strategies selected for success;
2. the challenges and opportunities in working with a
parent and child concurrently to promote school and workforce success;
3. the changes in policy, program, budget, or communications at local and state levels to achieve the program’s goals;
4. child, parent, and family outcomes in areas of school readiness and school success, as determined by the interagency working group in consultation with state and national evaluators; and
5. workforce readiness, work success, and family support outcomes, as determined by the interagency working group in consultation with state and national evaluators.

The act retains requirements that the report contain (1) the cost of the program in both state and private dollars and (2) recommendations to expand the program to additional communities statewide. The report is due July 1, 2017.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

PA 16-91
AN ACT MAKING CHANGES TO THE TEACHERS’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM TO ALLOW RETENTION OF THE PLAN D COPARTICIPANT OPTION AFTER DIVORCE AND TO CEASE CREDITING INTEREST ON CERTAIN INACTIVE, NONVESTED MEMBERS, AND ELIMINATING CERTAIN OBSOLETE LANGUAGE

SUMMARY: Among other provisions, this act allows retired educators employed by a board of education an exemption from the limit on compensation in certain circumstances:
• Commencing July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2018, the exemption from the limitation on the compensation of a reemployed educator applies to a educator who (A) is receiving retirement benefits from the system based on thirty-four or more years of credited service, (B) is reemployed in a district designated as an alliance district pursuant to section 10-262u, and (C) was serving in that district on July 1, 2015.
• On and after July 1, 2016, an educator receiving retirement benefits from the system may be employed and receive compensation, health insurance benefits, and other employment benefits provided to educators employed by such school system, provided such educator does not receive a retirement income during such employment. Payment of such educator’s retirement income shall resume on the first day of the month following the termination of such employment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

PA 16-92
AN ACT CONCERNING DYSLEXIA

SUMMARY: This act requires any person applying for a remedial reading, remedial language arts or reading consultant endorsement on or after July 1, 2017 to have completed a program that includes reading and language diagnosis, and remediation, and instruction in the detection of and interventions for students with dyslexia and a supervised practicum.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

PA 16-100
AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

SUMMARY: The act extends to all license-exempt child care programs the requirement that they notify the parents or guardians of participating children that the program is not licensed by OEC.

The act extends the notification requirement specific to education, to the following:
1. programs administered by public school systems or municipal agencies or departments;
2. programs administered by private schools which are (a) in compliance with state law regarding private school student attendance reporting and (b) State Board of Education (SBE) approved, or accredited by an SBE recognized accrediting agency;
3. (a) classes in music, dance, drama, and art that are less than two hours long; (b) classes that teach a single skill that are less than two hours long; (c) library programs that are less than two hours long; (d) scouting; (e) programs that offer exclusively sports activities; (f) rehearsals; (g) academic tutoring programs; or (h) programs exclusively for children age 13 or older;

The act expands the required members of local school readiness councils to include the local homeless education liaison designated by a board of education under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. School districts must form local councils to apply for and receive
school readiness funding from the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016 for the sections on OEC licensing exemptions; October 1, 2016 for the sections on authority to waive license requirements and conforming and technical changes; and upon passage for all other sections.

PA 16-114
AN ACT ENCOURAGING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO CONSIDER CAREERS IN MANUFACTURING

SUMMARY: This act requires the education commissioner, in collaboration with the Board of Regents, to establish a committee to coordinate efforts to educate middle and high school students about manufacturing careers. The committee must annually (1) compile a catalog of manufacturing training programs at public and private educational institutions in the state and (2) analyze, in consultation with the manufacturing industry, whether current programs available to Connecticut students are meeting workforce needs. It must annually report its findings to the Commerce and Higher Education committees, with the first report due February 1, 2017.

The act also requires the education commissioner to develop (1) a program, in consultation with the committee, to introduce middle and high school students to manufacturing careers and (2) a best practices guide, in consultation with representatives from the manufacturing industry and the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT), to help boards incorporate relationships with the manufacturing industry in their middle and high school curricula.

Finally, the act requires the Department of Labor to update its apprenticeship website, by March 1, 2017, with certain information, such as a list of occupations in which apprentices are employed and apprenticeship coursework and cost.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

PA 16-132
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A RED RIBBON PASS PROGRAM

SUMMARY: This act requires SDE to establish a Red Ribbon PASS Program recognizing school districts that qualify as “highly performing” or “improving” physically active school systems (PASS). Under the act, SDE must (1) develop or adopt existing standards to use to recognize school districts under the Red Ribbon PASS Program and (2) make information about the program available on the department’s website. SDE may accept private donations for this program. The act allows a board of education to request Red Ribbon PASS Program recognition by providing SDE with (1) the school district’s results on the Connecticut physical fitness assessment and (2) a demonstration of the district’s satisfaction of PASS standards.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

PA 16-139
AN ACT CONCERNING MAGNET SCHOOL TUITION

SUMMARY: This act prohibits a Board of Education magnet school operator from charging magnet school tuition, if they had not previously charged tuition, unless they receive permission from the Commissioner of Education and provide notice one year in advance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

PA 16-142
AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SERVICES PROVIDED TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

SUMMARY: This act establishes, within the Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight (MAPOC), a standing subcommittee to study and make recommendations on children and adults with complex health needs.

The subcommittee must submit reports to the governor, MAPOC, and the Children’s, Human Services, and Public Health committees on the efficacy of support systems for children and young adults age 21 or younger with developmental disabilities, with or without co-occurring mental health conditions. The first report is due by July 1, 2017; the second is due by January 1, 2018.

The act requires that the Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, or his designee serve on the subcommittee.
The report the subcommittee must submit by July 1, 2017 must include:

1. metrics to evaluate the quality of state-funded services to children and young adults age 21 or younger with developmental disabilities, with or without co-occurring mental health conditions, that can be used by state agencies that fund the services;
2. statutory changes needed to promote effective service delivery for such children and young adults and their families; and
3. any other changes needed to address gaps in services for the children, young adults, or their families identified by the subcommittee or council.

The report the subcommittee must complete by January 1, 2018 must assess:

1. available early intervention services for those children and young adults;
2. the system of community-based services for them;
3. the treatment provided by congregate care settings that provide residential supports and services and how the quality of care is measured; and
4. how the State Department of Education, local school boards, Department of Children and Families, Department of Developmental Services, and other appropriate agencies can collaborate to improve educational, developmental, medical, and behavioral health outcomes for such children and young adults and reduce the number at risk of entering institutional care.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

PA 16-144
AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONALISM

SUMMARY: This act makes several changes related to increasing municipal efficiencies and regional cooperation, including:

1. authorizes municipalities to purchase equipment, supplies, materials, or services from certain entities, including Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs);
2. expands the types of entities that are eligible for regional performance incentive program (RPIP) grants to include boards of education or RESCs serving a population greater than 100,000;
3. ends the option to apply for RPIP grants to cover operating and capital costs associated with connecting to the statewide high-speed network (i.e. Nutmeg Network) effective December 31, 2018; and
4. requires the SDE to study methods and practices districts can use to reduce costs and increase efficiency in school transportation, including the development of a statistical model for evaluating efficiencies, using linear programming. The study is due not later than 6/30/17. It is funded by the RPIP in an amount not greater than $250,000.

Sec. 4. (Effective from passage) The Department of Education shall conduct a study regarding methods and practices local school districts may utilize to reduce costs and increase efficiencies in the provision of student transportation. Such methods and practices shall include, but need not be limited to, the development of a statistical evaluation of efficiency model, using linear programming that considers distances, start times, end times, routes, population tiers, utilization and model contract provisions, for local school district student transportation operations. Not later than June 30, 2017, the Department of Education shall submit a report of the results of such study and any recommendations for the efficient transportation of students to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and local governments, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: These provisions are effective upon passage

PA 16-147
AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

SUMMARY: This act makes several changes affecting juvenile detention and other juvenile justice matters, children returning to school after a juvenile justice placement, and other school disciplinary and related matters.

The act makes various changes affecting schools, including:

1. requiring schools to offer an alternative educational opportunity to a larger category of expelled students;
2. eliminating a child’s truancy as permissible grounds for a family with service needs complaint;
3. requiring schools with a disproportionately high truancy rate to implement an approved intervention model; and
4. requiring SDE, in collaboration with other agencies, to develop plans on certain matters, such as school-based diversion initiatives and addressing
The act also includes provisions on, among other matters, police training, a recidivism reduction framework, and training on and monitoring of de-escalation efforts.

**SCHOOL EXPULSION**
The act makes various changes concerning school expulsion. By law, an “expulsion” is the exclusion from school privileges for between 11 days and one year.

**Notice of Hearing and Right to an Attorney or Advocate**
By law, except in emergencies, a school board must hold a formal hearing before expelling a student. If the student is a minor, the school board must give the parent or guardian notice of the hearing.

The act requires school boards to provide the notice to the student’s parent or guardian at least five business days before the hearing. It requires the notice to include information on the parent’s or guardian’s and student’s legal rights. The law already requires the notice to include information on free or low-cost legal services and how to obtain them.

The act specifies that an attorney or advocate may represent any student subject to expulsion proceedings. It allows the parent or guardian to postpone the hearing for up to one week to provide time to find representation, except in emergencies.

Under existing law and the act, in an emergency, the hearing must be held as soon after expulsion as possible. An emergency is when the student’s continued presence poses such a danger or disruption as to require a pre-hearing exclusion from school, with the hearing held as soon as possible after the exclusion.

**Alternative Education for Expelled Students**
Existing law requires school boards to offer an alternative educational opportunity to expelled students under age 16. Generally, students between ages 16 and 18 who are expelled for the first time must also be offered this opportunity. This already applies to such students seeking to re-enroll after placement in a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, or any other residential placement.

**Reports to Police**
Under current law, if a student is expelled for possessing a firearm or deadly weapon, the school board must report the violation to the local police, or the State Police if the student was enrolled in a technical high school. The act specifies that this reporting requirement also applies to expulsions for possessing dangerous instruments or martial arts weapons. (Generally, “dangerous instruments” are those that can be used to cause death or serious physical injury.)

**Returning to School After Placement in the Juvenile Justice System**
Under the act, if a student who committed an expellable offense was not expelled and is seeking to return to school after participating in a diversionary program, the school district must (1) allow the student to re-enroll and (2) not expel the student for additional time for the offense. This already applies to such students seeking to re-enroll after placement in a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, or any other residential placement.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** August 15, 2017

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

Sec. 12. Section 10-233d of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective August 15, 2017):

(a) (1) Any local or regional board of education, at a meeting at which three or more members of such board are present, or the impartial hearing board established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, may expel, subject to the provisions of this subsection, any pupil in grades three to twelve, inclusive, whose conduct on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity is violative of a publicized policy of such board or is seriously disruptive
of the educational process or endangers persons or property or whose conduct off school grounds is violative of such policy and is seriously disruptive of the educational process, provided a majority of the board members sitting in the expulsion hearing vote to expel and that at least three affirmative votes for expulsion are cast. In making a determination as to whether conduct is seriously disruptive of the educational process, the board of education or impartial hearing board may consider, but such consideration shall not be limited to: (A) Whether the incident occurred within close proximity of a school; (B) whether other students from the school were involved or whether there was any gang involvement; (C) whether the conduct involved violence, threats of violence or the unlawful use of a weapon, as defined in section 29-38, and whether any injuries occurred; and (D) whether the conduct involved the use of alcohol.

(2) Expulsion proceedings pursuant to this section, except as provided in subsection (i) of this section, shall be required for any pupil in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, whenever there is reason to believe that any pupil (A) on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity, was in possession of a firearm, as defined in 18 USC 921, as amended from time to time, or deadly weapon, dangerous instrument or martial arts weapon, as defined in section 53a-3, (B) off school grounds, did possess such a firearm in violation of section 29-35 or did possess and use such a firearm, instrument or weapon in the commission of a crime under chapter 952, or (C) on or off school grounds, offered for sale or distribution a controlled substance, as defined in subdivision (9) of section 21a-240, whose manufacture, distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing, transporting or possessing with intent to sell or dispense, offering, or administering is subject to criminal penalties under sections 21a-277 and 21a-278. Such a pupil shall be expelled for one calendar year if the local or regional board of education or impartial hearing board finds that the pupil did so possess or so possess and use, as appropriate, such a firearm, instrument or weapon or did so offer for sale or distribution such a controlled substance, provided the board of education or the hearing board may modify the period of expulsion for a pupil on a case-by-case basis, and as provided for in subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section.

(3) Unless an emergency exists, no pupil shall be expelled without a formal hearing held pursuant to sections 4-176e to 4-180a, inclusive, and section 4-181a, provided whenever such pupil is a minor, the notice required by section 4-177 and section 4-180 shall also be given to the parents or guardian of the pupil at least five business days before such hearing. If an emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible. The notice shall include information concerning the parent’s or guardian’s and the pupil’s legal rights and concerning legal services provided free of charge or at a reduced rate that are available locally and how to access such services. An attorney or other advocate may represent any pupil subject to expulsion proceedings. The parent or guardian of the pupil shall have the right to have the expulsion hearing postponed for up to one week to allow time to obtain representation, except that if an emergency exists, such hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible.

(b) For purposes of conducting expulsion hearings as required by subsection (a) of this section, any local or regional board of education or any two or more of such boards in cooperation may establish an impartial hearing board of one or more persons. No member of any such board or boards shall be a member of the hearing board. The hearing board shall have the authority to conduct the expulsion hearing and render a final decision in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-176e to 4-180a, inclusive, and section 4-181a.

(c) (1) In determining the length of an expulsion and the nature of the alternative educational opportunity to be offered under subsection (d) of this section, the local or regional board of education, or the impartial hearing board established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, may receive and consider evidence of past disciplinary problems that have led to removal from a classroom, suspension or expulsion of such pupil.

(2) For any pupil expelled for the first time pursuant to this section and who has never been suspended pursuant to section 10-233c, except for a pupil who has been expelled based on possession of a firearm or deadly weapon as described in subsection (a) of this section, the local or regional board of education may shorten the length of or waive the expulsion period if the pupil successfully completes a board-specified program and meets any other conditions required by the board. Such board-specified program shall not require the pupil or the parent or guardian of the pupil to pay for participation in the program.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of section 10-220, local and regional boards of education shall only be required to offer an alternative educational opportunity in accordance with this section.] Any pupil under sixteen years of age who is expelled shall be offered an alternative educational opportunity, which
shall be equivalent to alternative education, as defined by section 10-74j, with an individualized learning plan, during the period of expulsion, provided any parent or guardian of such pupil who does not choose to have his or her child enrolled in an alternative educational program shall not be subject to the provisions of section 10-184. Any pupil expelled for the first time who is between the ages of sixteen and eighteen and who wishes to continue his or her education shall be offered such an alternative educational opportunity if he or she complies with conditions established by his or her local or regional board of education. Such alternative educational opportunity may include, but shall not be limited to, the placement of a pupil who is at least seventeen years of age in an adult education program pursuant to section 10-69. Any pupil participating in an adult education program during a period of expulsion shall not be required to withdraw from school under section 10-184. A local or regional board of education shall count the expulsion of a pupil when he was under sixteen years of age for purposes of determining whether an alternative educational opportunity is required for such pupil when he is between the ages of sixteen and eighteen. A local or regional board of education may offer an alternative educational opportunity to a pupil for whom such alternative educational opportunity is not required pursuant to this section.

[(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section concerning the provision of an alternative educational opportunity for pupils between the ages of sixteen and eighteen, local and regional boards of education shall not be required to offer such alternative to any pupil between the ages of sixteen and eighteen who is expelled because of conduct which endangers persons if it is determined at the expulsion hearing that the conduct for which the pupil is expelled involved (1) possession of a firearm, as defined in 18 USC 921, as amended from time to time, or deadly weapon, dangerous instrument or martial arts weapon, as defined in section 53a-3, on school property or at a school-sponsored activity, or (2) offering for sale or distribution on school property or at a school-sponsored activity a controlled substance, as defined in subdivision (9) of section 21a-240, whose manufacture, distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing, transporting or possessing with the intent to sell or dispense, offering, or administration is subject to criminal penalties under sections 21a-277 and 21a-278, the board of education shall refer the pupil to an appropriate state or local agency for rehabilitation, intervention or job training, or any combination thereof, and inform the agency of its action. Whenever a local or regional board of education notifies a pupil between the ages of sixteen and eighteen or the parents or guardian of such pupil that an expulsion hearing will be held, the notification shall include a statement that the board of education is not required to offer an alternative educational opportunity to any pupil who is found to have engaged in the conduct described in this subsection.]

(f) Whenever a pupil is expelled pursuant to the provisions of this section, notice of the expulsion and the conduct for which the pupil was expelled shall be included on the pupil’s cumulative educational record. Such notice, except for notice of an expulsion of a pupil in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, based on possession of a firearm or deadly weapon as described in subsection (a) of this section, (1) shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record by the local or regional board of education if a pupil graduates from high school, or (2) may be expunged from the cumulative educational record by the local or regional board of education before a pupil graduates from high school if (A) in the case of a pupil for which the length of the expulsion period is shortened or the expulsion period is waived pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section, such board determines that an expungement is warranted at the time such pupil completes the board-specified program and meets any other conditions required by such board pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section, or (B) such pupil has demonstrated to such board that the conduct and behavior of such pupil in the years following such expulsion warrants an expungement. A local or regional board of education, in determining whether to expunge such notice under subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, may receive and consider evidence of any subsequent disciplinary problems that have led to removal from a classroom, suspension or expulsion of such pupil.

(g) A local or regional board of education may adopt
the decision of a pupil expulsion hearing conducted by another school district provided such local or regional board of education or impartial hearing board shall hold a hearing pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section which shall be limited to a determination of whether the conduct which was the basis for the expulsion would also warrant expulsion under the policies of such board. The pupil shall be excluded from school pending such hearing. The excluded student shall be offered an alternative educational opportunity in accordance with the provisions of subsections (d) and (e) of this section.

(h) Whenever a pupil against whom an expulsion hearing is pending withdraws from school after notification of such hearing but before the hearing is completed and a decision rendered pursuant to this section, (1) notice of the pending expulsion hearing shall be included on the pupil’s cumulative educational record, and (2) the local or regional board of education or impartial hearing board shall complete the expulsion hearing and render a decision. If such pupil enrolls in school in another school district, such pupil shall not be excluded from school in the other district pending completion of the expulsion hearing pursuant to this subsection unless an emergency exists, provided nothing in this subsection shall limit the authority of the local or regional board of education for such district to suspend the pupil or to conduct its own expulsion hearing in accordance with this section.

(i) Prior to conducting an expulsion hearing for a child requiring special education and related services described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (5) of section 10-76a, a planning and placement team shall convene to determine whether the misconduct was caused by the child’s disability. If it is determined that the misconduct was caused by the child’s disability, the child shall not be expelled. The planning and placement team shall reevaluate the child for the purpose of modifying the child’s individualized education program to address the misconduct and to ensure the safety of other children and staff in the school. If it is determined that the misconduct was not caused by the child’s disability, the child may be expelled in accordance with the provisions of this section applicable to children who do not require special education and related services. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (d) and (e) of this section, whenever a child requiring such special education and related services is expelled, an alternative educational opportunity, consistent with such child’s educational needs shall be provided during the period of expulsion.

(j) An expelled pupil may apply for early readmission to school. Except as provided in this subsection, such readmission shall be at the discretion of the local or regional board of education. The board of education may delegate authority for readmission decisions to the superintendent of schools for the school district. If the board delegates such authority, readmission shall be at the discretion of the superintendent. Readmission decisions shall not be subject to appeal to Superior Court. The board or superintendent, as appropriate, may condition such readmission on specified criteria.

(k) Local and regional boards of education shall submit to the Commissioner of Education such information on expulsions for the possession of weapons as required for purposes of the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994, 20 USC 8921 et seq., as amended from time to time.

(l) (1) Any student who commits an expellable offense and is subsequently committed to a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School or any other residential placement for such offense may be expelled by a local or regional board of education in accordance with the provisions of this section. The period of expulsion shall run concurrently with the period of commitment to a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School or any other residential placement.

(2) If a student who committed an expellable offense seeks to return to a school district after [having been] participating in a diversionary program or having been detained in a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School or any other residential placement and such student has not been expelled by the local or regional board of education for such offense under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the local or regional board of education for the school district to which the student is returning shall allow such student to return and may not expel the student for additional time for such offense.

PA 16-171
AN ACT EXTENDING THE SCHOOL SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

SUMMARY: This act extends until June 30, 2017 the program to provide grants to develop or improve security infrastructure in schools, based on the results of school building security assessments conducted under the supervision of local law enforcement agencies. The program reimburses towns, state charter schools, technical high schools, incorporated or endowed high
schools or academies, private schools, and regional education service centers for certain expenses: (1) developing or improving security infrastructure; (2) training personnel to operate and maintain the security infrastructure; and (3) buying portable entrance security devices, such as metal detectors.

Eligible infrastructure includes the installation of surveillance cameras, penetration-resistant vestibules, ballistic glass, solid core doors, double-door access, computer-controlled electronic locks, entry door buzzer systems, scan card systems, panic alarms, or other systems.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

PA 16-185
AN ACT ADOPTING
THE REQUIREMENTS OF NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS V. FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION AND REVISING CERTAIN BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS STATUTES

SUMMARY: Among other provisions, this act extends, from two to four years, the terms of Education Arbitration Panel members, who arbitrate between boards of education and their employees on collective bargaining agreements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective upon passage

PA 16-188
AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCACTION ISSUES

SUMMARY: This act makes the following changes to the education and human services statutes:
1. requires the State Board of Education (SBE), in consultation with the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, to award an exemplary veterans education program distinction to deserving local and regional boards of education (§1);
2. requires boards of education to post the telephone number for the Department of Children and Families’ (DCF) child abuse hotline in a conspicuous school location for students to view (§§ 2 & 3);
3. requires public schools to add cancer awareness to their health and safety program of instruction, including age- and developmentally appropriate instruction in performing self-examinations to screen for breast cancer and testicular cancer (§ 4);
4. establishes a task force to review, streamline, and align state policies relating to school climate, bullying, school safety, and social-emotional learning. CABE has an appointment (§ 5);
5. requires the East Haven school district to participate in a pilot program in school years 2016-17 through 2025-26 to transport students whose private schools have closed to equivalent private schools located in New Haven (§ 6);
6. requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to reimburse the Franklin board of education for any special education and transportation costs incurred during FYs 12 to 14 attributed to any “no-nexus” student (i.e., one in DCF custody and involved in a parental rights termination proceeding) (§ 7); and
7. adjusts the calculations for special education state aid eligibility for the town of Newtown for FYs 15-17.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016, except the provisions about minor and technical DCF hotline changes, the school climate task force, and the Franklin special education reimbursement take effect upon passage.

PA 16-189
AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT DATA PRIVACY

SUMMARY: This act restricts how student information may be used by (1) entities that contract to provide educational software and electronic storage of student records (“contractors”) and (2) operators of websites, online services, or mobile applications (i.e., apps).

Regarding software contractors that do business with a board of education, the State Board of Education, or State Department of Education, the act:
1. requires contracts between such contractors and boards of education, SBE, or SDE to contain specific provisions relating to the use and security of student information;
2. prohibits such contractors from using personally identifiable information from student records to engage in advertising or for any purposes other than those contractually authorized; and
3. requires boards of education to notify students and parents within five business days of executing a contract with such contractors.
These provisions apply to contracts entered into, amended or renewed on or after October 1, 2016. For operators of websites, online services, or mobile apps, the act:

1. requires such operators to maintain reasonable security practices to protect student information and delete student information upon student, parent, guardian, or board of education request;
2. prohibits such operators from engaging in targeted advertising, creating student profiles for purposes unrelated to school, or selling or disclosing student information, with some exceptions; and
3. allows such operators to use student information and de-identified student information for purposes related to student learning or operational improvements.

The act does not provide any specific enforcement mechanism or penalties; however, existing law provides a civil penalty for each violation.

The act establishes a task force to study issues relating to student data privacy. CABE has an appointment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2016, and the provision regarding (1) contracts is applicable to contracts entered into, amended, or renewed on or after that date and (2) directory information takes effect July 1, 2016.

Special Act 16-9
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY ISSUES RELATING TO THE RECRUITMENT OF MANUFACTURING TEACHERS AND ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATORS

SUMMARY: This act establishes a task force to study ways to improve efforts to recruit manufacturing teachers. This act also establishes a task force to examine issues related to the professional development and in-service training requirements for educators. Specifically, this task force will review implementation by boards of education; review the content, frequency and, time required each year for mandates; and costs and the effects of provision of instruction. The task force will make recommendations to streamline, combine or eliminate mandates by January 1, 2017. CABE has an appointment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Special Act 16-10
AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL INTERESTED IN PURSUING A COLLEGE DEGREE IN EDUCATION

SUMMARY: This act establishes a teacher pathways pilot program to encourage and recruit minority 11th and 12th grade students to pursue a career in education by allowing enrollment in existing courses. The University may not charge for the introductory course, and alliance funding may be utilized for credit courses. The district shall designate an existing employee to serve as a counselor. Partners are: Western CSU with Danbury Public Schools; Southern CSU with New Haven and West Haven Public Schools; Eastern CSU with Windham Public Schools and Central CSU with New Britain School District.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016
Special Act 16-11
AN ACT CONCERNING MAGNET SCHOOL REIMBURSEMENT FOR NEW LONDON

SUMMARY: The act waives racial minority percentages for the limited purpose of eligibility to receive a state grant for students enrolled in New London who are not New London residents.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

May 2016
Special Session Public Acts

PA 16-2
AN ACT ADJUSTING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIAL ENDING JUNE 30, 2017

SUMMARY: The FY 2016-17 revised budget decreases the SDE budget by $108.6 million or 3.5 percent.

($32.1 million) Education Cost Sharing grant
($26.7 million) Eliminate the two transportation grants (transportation mandate remains)
($11.9 million) Magnet schools
($1.9 million) Charter schools
($7.8 million) Connecticut Technical High School System
($4.2 million) Excess Cost special education grants
($3.2 million) Educator improvement programs and talent development
($1.9 million) Educator professional development associated with the implementation of new academic standards
($2.9 million) Open Choice
($2.5 million) Priority School District grant
($2.3 million) State-administered student assessments
($1.5 million) To eliminate School Accountability, a program to turnaround low-achieving schools

PA 16-3
AN ACT CONCERNING REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIAL ENDING JUNE 30, 2017

SUMMARY: § 62 — MEMBERSHIP OF SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE

The act expands, from eight to 12, the number of members that form the School Building Project Review Committee. It specifies that the members are the co-chairs and ranking members of the Appropriations; Finance, Revenue and Bonding; and Education committees. Under current law, the House speaker, House minority leader, Senate president pro tempore, and Senate minority leader each choose two legislators to be on the committee, but the law does not specify what committees the legislators represent.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

§ 66 — PRIORITIZATION FOR ADDITIONAL MAGNET SCHOOL SEATS

Current law permits SDE to limit (1) per-student grant payments to an interdistrict magnet school to an amount the school was eligible to receive based on its enrollment level on October 1, 2013 and (2) funding for additional students based on certain criteria. The act modifies this mechanism for FY 17.

First, instead of the October 1, 2013 baseline for calculating payments, the act allows SDE to limit payments to the amount the school was eligible to receive based on its enrollment on October 1, 2013 or October 1, 2015, whichever is lower.

Second, it eliminates some of the criteria that permits additional funding for enrollment above the baseline for (1) a school moving into a permanent facility for the school year starting July 1, 2014 and (2) new enrollments for a new magnet school starting operation on or after July 1, 2014, to help meet the 2013 Sheff stipulation on school desegregation.

The act keeps the remaining criteria for SDE to prioritize additional magnet school funding and adds a provision for planned new grade levels for the school year starting July 1, 2015 (number 3 below).

The act provides the following priority order:
1. increases in enrollment for a school adding planned new grade levels for school years beginning July 1, 2015 and July 1, 2016;
2. increases in enrollment for a school that added planned new grade levels for school years beginning July 1, 2014 and that was funded during FY 15;
3. increases in enrollment for a school that added planned new grade levels for school years beginning July 1, 2015 and that was funded during FY 16; and
4. increases in enrollment for a school to ensure compliance with the state magnet school law’s requirements for racial and economic diversity, special curriculum, and at least a half-time educational program.

The act also allows magnet school grants to be paid to each magnet school operator as an aggregate total of the amount each operator is eligible to receive under state law. It provides that each operator may distribute the aggregate grant among its magnet schools according to a distribution plan that the education commissioner approves.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

§ 81 — EDUCATIONAL AID FOR BLIND CHILDREN
The act allows, rather than requires, Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) to use funds appropriated to its Educational Aid for the Blind and Visually Handicapped Children account to provide the following for blind or visually impaired children: (1) specialized books, materials, equipment, and supplies; (2) adaptive technology services and devices; (3) specialist examinations and aids; and (4) preschool programs and vision-related independent living services, excluding primary education placement.

Under current law, DORS must spend funds appropriated to the account on these supplies, services, and programs first, before spending funds in other ways allowed by law (e.g., to pay for teaching services). The act removes this requirement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

§ 87 — SUPPLEMENTAL MAGNET SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION GRANTS
The act extends for FY 16, the education commissioner’s authority to make supplemental magnet school transportation grants, within available appropriations, to assist Sheff stipulation school integration goals (i.e., Capitol Region Education Council) and to EASTCONN, a regional education service center. For FY 16 up to 50% of the grant is paid on or before June 30, 2016 and the remainder is paid on or before September 1, 2016 after completion of a comprehensive financial review. The review must be funded by part of the grant amount.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 94 — STATE AID FOR CHILD CARE CENTERS FOR DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN
Current law allows the state, through the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) commissioner, to contract with municipalities, human resource development agencies, or nonprofit corporations to develop and operate child care centers for disadvantaged children. The act allows such contracts, which provide state grants for these purposes, to provide grants in an amount up to $8,927 for each child enrolled in the program aged three or four years, as well as for five-year-olds who are ineligible to enroll in kindergarten. Such centers must also maintain services to children under three years old.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

§ 95 — SCHOOL READINESS AND CHILD CARE FACILITY STUDY
The act requires the OEC commissioner to submit a report to the Appropriations Committee by October 1, 2016 and quarterly thereafter, through the quarter ending December 31, 2018, about school readiness and state-funded child care facilities program capacity and utilization. Each report must include, for each program, information about the (1) number of spaces, by type, that are available and were filled and (2) rates being paid for each space type for each age group. Such information must be specific to the quarter for which each report is submitted.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

§ 126 — CALCULATIONS FOR EDUCATION COST SHARING (ECS) GRANT INCREASES AND DECREASES
Current law provides a formula for calculating whether a town has received an increase in ECS aid during a fiscal year: a town has received an ECS increase if the amount paid to the town in the current FY exceeds the amount paid in the prior FY.

The act specifies that the ECS increase formula is limited to FY 17, using FY 17 as the current ECS amount and FY 16 as the prior ECS amount. It also specifies that if the amount received in FY 17 is greater than the FY 16 amount, the FY 17 amount minus the FY 16 amount yields the ECS increase amount.

The act establishes a similar formula for calculating
whether a town has received an ECS decrease in FY 17. Under the act, a town has received an ECS decrease if the amount paid to the town in FY 16 exceeds the amount paid in FY 17. The FY 16 amount minus the FY 17 amount yields the ECS decrease amount.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

§ 127 — MINIMUM BUDGET REQUIREMENT (MBR) REDUCTIONS AND EXEMPTIONS

MBR Reductions
By law, a town is prohibited from budgeting less for education than it did in the previous FY, unless it can demonstrate specific achievements or changes within its school district. This prohibition is commonly referred to as the minimum budget requirement (MBR).

The act allows a town to reduce its MBR when it experiences an ECS decrease in a fiscal year in an amount equal to the ECS decrease, as calculated under the act and described above. By law and unchanged by the act, alliance districts are prohibited from reducing their MBR in FYs 16 and 17.

MBR Exemptions
Current law allows towns to claim an MBR exemption for earning district performance index (DPI) scores among the top 10% of all districts; however, DPI has been eliminated from statute and replaced with other measures that the State Department of Education (SDE) uses to rank school districts. The act specifies that accountability index scores instead be used to rank districts when determining MBR relief.

By law, SDE may calculate accountability index scores for each public school district and school using multiple student, school, or district-level measures, as weighted by SDE. Such measures must include the performance index score and high school graduation rates and may include (1) academic growth over time, (2) attendance and chronic absenteeism, (3) postsecondary education and career readiness, (4) enrollment in and graduation from higher education institutions and postsecondary education programs, (5) civic and arts education, and (6) physical fitness. SDE has announced all the factors it now uses in the accountability index, and they include additional factors such as standardized testing participation rates.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

§ 128 — ALLIANCE DISTRICT FUNDING
Current law requires the comptroller to hold back any ECS grant increase in FYs 14-17 over FY 12’s amount that is payable to an alliance district (one of the 30 lowest performing districts). The comptroller must transfer the money to the education commissioner, who can withhold it until the alliance district supplies her with a plan that addresses objectives and targets to improve student achievement.

The act revises the alliance district holdback requirement for FY 17. It requires the comptroller to withhold from an alliance district any ECS grant increase received in FY 17 over FY 12’s amount, minus any ECS decrease received in FY 17 compared with FY 16.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

§§ 191-193 — MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAMS

Regional Services Grants
Beginning in FY 17, the law requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to distribute regional services grants to councils of governments (COGs), based on a formula determined by the OPM secretary. Beginning in FY 18, the act requires COGs to use 35% of these grant funds to help regional education service centers merge their human resource, finance, or technology services with such services provided by municipalities in the region.

§ 207 — AUTHORITY TO AMEND ADOPTED MUNICIPAL BUDGETS

The act authorizes municipalities, from the act’s passage through June 30, 2017, to amended an adopted budget if (1) state aid to the municipality is reduced below the amount projected for the adopted budget, (2) the budget amendment does not exceed the amount of the reduced state aid, and (3) the budget amendment is approved in the same manner as the original budget.

This authorization applies to towns, cities, boroughs, consolidated towns and cities, and consolidated towns and boroughs. It applies regardless of conflicting (1) statutes affecting boards of education, municipalities, and property tax levy and collection; (2) special acts; or (3) municipal charters or home rule ordinances.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage
SB 503
AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES AND AUTHORIZING STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS

SUMMARY: The act authorizes 17 state school construction grants totaling $270 million. It also allows districts that have received a school construction grant within the last 25 years to delay implementing the new high school graduation requirements by one year. The requirements would now be effective with the class graduating in 2022.

§ 310 — AUTHORITY TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
The act allows any town that has received a school construction grant from the state during the last 25 years to delay the implementation of the new high school graduation requirements until the 2018-19 school year. This includes all school districts.

Under current law, the new graduation requirements apply to the graduating class of 2021, which means they apply to freshman in the 2017-18 school year. The scheduled changes require students to, among other things, (1) earn 25 credits, rather than 20; (2) pass state exams for five specific courses; and (3) complete a senior project.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 322 — INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND PRIVATE USE OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS
The act requires that any independent college that operates an interdistrict magnet school that was built using public school construction grants and makes private use of any portion of the school must submit an annual report to the education commissioner. The report must show that the college provides an equal to or greater than in-kind or supplemental benefit of its facilities to the magnet school students that outweighs the private use of the school building. The bill does not indicate when the report is due each year.

Under the act, if the commissioner finds that the private use of the school building exceeds the in-kind or supplemental benefit to the magnet school students, the commissioner may require the college to refund to the state the unamortized balance of the state grant. School construction grants are amortized over a 20-year period.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

§ 323 — INCREASED SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PROJECTS
The act permits any regional school board that is created or expanded on or after July 1, 2016 to receive the highest reimbursement rate from among the towns participating in the regional district and an additional 10%, provided the project application (1) is submitted within 10 years of the district’s expansion or establishment and (2) relates to the district’s expansion or establishment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016
CABE Government Relations Committee & Sub-Committee

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**Sheila McKay**  
Senior Staff Associate for Government Relations

**Gail Heath**  
Administrative Associate for Government Relations

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Executive Director

Patrice McCarthy  
Deputy Director and General Counsel

Sheila McKay  
Senior Staff Associate for Government Relations

Gail Heath  
Administrative Associate for Government Relations
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Hampton

Robert Mitchell
First Vice President
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Vice President
for Government Relations
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Vice President
for Professional Development
Waterbury

Elaine Whitney
Secretary/Treasurer
Westport

Richard Murray
Immediate Past President
Killingly

John Prins
Member at Large
Branford

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Area 1 Director
Region 1

Bryan Hall
Area 2 Co-Director
East Hartford

Susan Karp
Area 2 Co-Director
Glastonbury

Michael Purcaro
Area 3 Director
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Douglas Smith
Area 4 Director
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Area 5 Director
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Area 7 Director
Wallingford

Lon Seidman
Area 8 Director
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Andrea Ackerman
Area 9 Director
Groton

NSBA Director
Lydia Tedone
Simsbury

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Richard Wareing
City Representative
Hartford

Carlos Torre
City Representative
New Haven

Charles Stango
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Resolutions Chmn
Plainville

Robert Trefry
Federal Rel. Chmn
CT Technical High School System

Christopher Wilson
State Relations Chmn
Bristol

Associates
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Associate
Old Saybrook

Sharon Beloin-Saavedra
Associate
New Britain

Robert Guthrie
Associate
West Haven

Robert Trefry
Associate
CT Technical High School System