Series: 2001-2002

Circular Letter: C-7

TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Theodore S. Sergi, Commissioner of Education

DATE: August 17, 2001

SUBJECT: Final Summary of 2001 Education Legislation

Circular Letter C-1, dated July 6, 2001, summarized the major education legislation passed by the 2001 General Assembly. This report is a more comprehensive summary of the public and special acts which were enacted this year and are of general applicability and interest to school districts.

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

- While comprehensive, this document does not describe every public or special act affecting the operation of a school district or provide every detail of the acts that are summarized.
- When specificity is required, the actual statutory language should be reviewed.
   The public and special acts are available on the Department of Education's website at www.state.ct.us/sde/legal/bills2001.htm. If you have questions about accessing this information or would like a copy of a particular bill, please call Marybeth Aleskwiz at (860) 713-6511.
- The narrative description of each act summarizes either the act as a whole or selected sections. Where a section has been summarized, the section number of the act follows the narrative.
- Many of the acts became effective on July 1, 2001. For those that did not, the effective date is in the parenthesis after the narrative.
- Selected public acts concerning matters under the jurisdiction of state agencies other than the Department of Education have been included for your information. Questions concerning those acts should be directed to the appropriate state agency.
- The following abbreviations have been used:

P.A. means Public Act; S.A. means Special Act; and JSS means June Special Session.

To assist you, also included are:

- An index to key legislation; and
- A table that lists the sections of the Connecticut General Statutes and the public and special acts which have been amended or repealed by the summarized legislation (Attachment A).

Please use this circular letter as a supplement to the State Board of Education's Connecticut Education Laws as of January 1, 2001, which does **not** contain the changes to the General Statutes summarized in this letter.

If you have any questions about the new legislation, Department of Education staff members are ready and willing to help you. In most cases you will know from past experience whom to consult. However, if you do not know whom to contact or have general questions about this letter, please call Attorney Katherine Nicoletti of the Office of Legal and Governmental Affairs at (860) 713-6520.

TSS:knb Attachments

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## P.A. 01-84 AN ACT MAKING TECHNICAL AND OTHER CHANGES TO CERTAIN JUDICIARY-RELATED STATUTES

• Amends provisions concerning the **crime of possession of a weapon on school grounds** (Sec. 8).

## P.A. 01-121 AN ACT CONCERNING CRIME PREVENTION AND A STATE PREVENTION COUNCIL

Establishes a State Prevention Council to establish a prevention framework
for the state, recommend a statewide prevention plan, coordinate prevention
expenditures across state agencies and increase fiscal accountability. For
purposes of this legislation, "prevention" is defined as policies and programs
that promote healthy, safe and productive lives and reduce the likelihood of
crime, violence, substance abuse, illness, academic failure and other socially
destructive behaviors (Secs. 1 to 5, inclusive).

# P.A. 01-124 AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AND REFUSALS OF THE USE OF PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS BY CHILDREN AND UTILIZATION REVIEW DETERMINATIONS RELATED TO MENTAL AND NERVOUS CONDITIONS

Requires local and regional boards of education to adopt and implement
policies prohibiting any school personnel from recommending the use of
psychotropic drugs for any child. Only school medical staff may
recommend that a child be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner,
and school personnel may consult with such a practitioner with the consent of
the parent or guardian of such child (Sec. 1, effective October 1, 2001).

## P.A. 01-137 AN ACT CONCERNING BENEFITS AND ELIGIBILITY UNDER THE HUSKY PLAN

Requires the Commissioner of Education to establish procedures (1) with the
Commissioner of Social Services for the sharing of information in applications
for free and reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Program
for the purpose of determining whether children participating in the meal
program are eligible for health insurance coverage under the HUSKY Plan
and (2) for an individual to apply for coverage under the HUSKY Plan at the

same time the person applies for the National School Lunch Program (Secs. 6 and 7).

## P.A. 01-142 AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE CHILD PROTECTION LAWS

Provides that if the Commissioner of Children and Families, after an
investigation, has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused
by a staff member of a public or private child-caring institution or facility or
private school, such commissioner must forthwith notify the state agency that
issued the individual's professional license or certificate and provide records
concerning the investigation (Sec. 5, effective October 1, 2001).

## P.A. 01-161 AN ACT CONCERNING ZONING REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENCES FOR CHILDREN WITH MENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

 Restates the existing law relative to the responsibility for the costs of special education and related services which must be provided to each eligible child who has been placed by a state agency in a community residence or child-care facility which houses six or fewer children who have a disability. Generally, such responsibility is assigned to the board of education in whose jurisdiction the child's parent resides (Sec. 3).

## P.A. 01-165 AN ACT CONCERNING AN ARTICULATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CONSTITUENT UNITS OF THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

 Specifies that the Advisory Council on Student Transfer and Articulation is to develop and implement a plan to ensure that there are articulation agreements between all of the regional vocational-technical school programs, community-technical college programs and high school programs in regions of the state where such schools and colleges exist. Such programs are to include, but are not limited to, business, nursing, allied health and other professional or pre-professional programs selected by the advisory council (Sec. 1, effective July 6, 2001).

## P.A. 01-166 AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AND THE CONNECTICUT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE TEST

Provides that on or before September 1, 2002, each local and regional board
of education must specify the basic skills necessary for graduation for
classes graduating in 2006, and thereafter, and include a process to assess a
student's level of competency in such skills. The assessment criteria are to
include, but not exclusively be based on, the results of the Connecticut
Academic Performance Test (CAPT). For those students who do not
successfully complete the assessment criteria, boards must identify a course

of study to assist such students in reaching a satisfactory level of competency prior to graduation (Effective October 1, 2001).

## P.A. 01-169 AN ACT CONCERNING PRIVATIZED PUBLIC RECORDS

• Extends the **Freedom of Information** Act's provisions to make private companies hired to operate a government program more accountable to the public (Effective October 1, 2001).

(For further information about this public act, please contact Eric Turner, Director of Public Education for the Freedom of Information Commission, at (860) 566-5682.)

### P.A. 01-170

## AN ACT ESTABLISHING CAREER LADDER PROGRAMS FOR CRITICAL EMPLOYMENT AREAS AND REQUIRING A REVIEW OF APPRENTICESHIP HIRING RATIOS

 Requires that not later than September 1, 2003, the Commissioners of Education and Higher Education, in consultation with others, must establish career ladder programs for high school students seeking to pursue careers in occupations in the state with projected workforce shortages, as forecasted by the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (Secs. 1 and 2, effective October 1, 2001).

## P.A. 01-173 AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES

- Adds that the Commission for Educational Technology is to provide all public schools with access to a core set of on-line full text resources and to collaborative purchasing for other collections in order to maximize buying power. The commission is already required to provide such access to all public libraries and libraries at institutions of higher education (Sec. 4).
- Requires the Commissioner of Education to establish an international education advisory committee to explore international education opportunities and the availability of curriculum materials and federal and nonprofit agency funding for such purposes. The committee is to advise the Department of Education and the General Assembly. The Department is to provide information to boards of education (Sec. 8).
- Specifies that priority school districts are required to provide additional instruction, and possible summer school, to children who fail to meet the statewide standard for remedial assistance on the <u>reading component</u> of the 4th grade Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT). Previously, the law required such

- additional instruction and summer school for students who failed to meet the statewide standard for remedial assistance on the 4<sup>th</sup> grade CMT (Sec. 23).
- Requires the Commissioners of Education and Public Health to convene a
  task force to study the relationship between illness and the performance of
  children in school. The task force is to report to the General Assembly on
  or before February 1, 2002, on any recommendations for statutory changes to
  implement policies or programs that would assist ill children in improving their
  school performance (Sec. 30).
- Eliminates the requirement that the State Library plan and develop a computer-based and telecommunications-based network known as the "Connecticut Library Network" (Sec. 41).
- Specifies that the State Historian is, among other responsibilities, to assist the State Board of Education in efforts to promote the **teaching of history** in schools and teacher preparation programs (Sec. 42).
- Allows private school students to enroll in **part-time interdistrict magnet school programs** under certain conditions (Sec. 65).
- Makes miscellaneous technical and clarifying changes to various education statutes.

### **Grant Programs**

- Allows new applicants to be eligible for youth service bureau grants if they meet certain conditions (Sec. 7, effective July 6, 2001).
- Makes nonsectarian nonprofit organizations approved by the Commissioner
  of Education eligible for interdistrict cooperative grants and allows
  interdistrict cooperative grant funds to be used for interdistrict magnet school
  programs that are conducted at a magnet school and primarily serve children
  not enrolled in the magnet school (Sec. 10).
- Extends the minimum expenditure requirement (MER) calculation for towns pursuant to Section 10-262j of the Connecticut General Statutes for 2001-02 and 2002-03 (Sec. 62).

### **School Construction**

 Allows the Commissioner to approve school construction grant applications for certain portable classroom projects without requiring that such projects be submitted to and approved by the General Assembly on the annual priority list of projects (Sec. 26).

- Allows buildings built before July 1, 1951, rather than only those built before 1950, to qualify for a 25% increase in the maximum square-footage-perpupil limit for computing school construction grants provided the board of education applies to the Department of Education for such increased percentage by June 30, 2002 (Sec. 27).
- Allows a town or regional school district to submit final plans and specifications for school construction projects solely for **network wiring** costing less than \$1M to local officials, instead of the Department of Education, for review and written approval. Local officials already have the authority to review oil tank and roof replacement projects regardless of cost, and asbestos abatement, code violation, and energy conservation projects costing less than \$1M (Sec. 28).
- Specifies the reimbursement percentage for a school construction project to design and build a **central kitchen** to provide school food services and exempts such a project from the standard space specification requirements as long as the Commissioner of Education finds the project's size and scope to be reasonable (Sec. 29).
- Increases the school construction **bonus for secondary regional school districts** from 5% to 10%, making it the same as the bonus for kindergarten to grade 12, inclusive, regional school districts (Sec. 50).
- Provides that applications for new construction and alteration or renovation of a school building must include an affirmation by the superintendent that the school district considered the maximization of natural light in the project (Sec. 63).
- Specifies that new construction on buildings eligible for school construction grants and put out to bid on and after July 1, 2004, shall include an automatic fire extinguishing system on each floor (Sec. 66).

(Additional information describing these school construction changes will shortly be on the Department of Education's website for the Division of Grants Management, School Facilities Unit.)

### **Special Education**

- Amends provisions concerning the Advisory Council for Special Education to conform the council's duties to federal requirements (Sec. 49, effective July 6, 2001).
- Changes two deadlines in the schedules for administering state grants for special education excess costs to give districts until March 1, rather than February 1, to submit claims for additional children not included in their

December 1 filing and to require the state to pay the balance of the grants in May rather than April (Sec. 64 and P.A. 01-1, JSS, Sec. 39, below).

### **Educators**

- Allows professional educator certificate holders to substitute documented completion of a **national board certification assessment** in the appropriate endorsement area for the requirement that they complete not less than 90 hours of continuing education during a five-year period (Sec. 15).
- Adds teachers with secondary academic endorsements to the group of teachers who must include in their continuing education units (CEUs) at least 15 hours of training in the use of computers in the classroom, and excepts from this requirement teachers with elementary, middle grades and secondary academic endorsements who can demonstrate technology competency, in a manner determined by their board of education, based on state standards (Sec. 15).
- Extends the provisions concerning the revocation and denial of educator certificates to **authorizations and permits** issued by the State Board of Education, e.g., coaching permits, substitute teacher authorizations (Sec. 53).
- Expands the types of **convictions** for which a certificate, permit or authorization is deemed revoked or is not issued or reissued (Secs. 53 and 54).
- Reduces, from 90 to 30 days, the time public school employees have after they are hired to submit to state and national criminal history records checks and expands the types of people who must submit to the checks to include workers placed in a school under a public assistance employment program if they perform services that involve direct contact with students. Additionally, it exempts from the criminal history records check requirements students employed by the school district where they attend school (Sec. 55). (See also, P.A. 01-175, Sec. 2, below, for additional changes to this section.)
- Provides that if a board of education receives notice that a person holding a
  certificate, authorization, or permit issued by the State Board of Education
  has been convicted of a crime, the board must send such notice to the
  State Board (Sec. 55).
- Requires the State Board to periodically submit, to the State Police Bureau of Investigation, databases of (1) all applicants for an initial issuance of a certificate, authorization, or permit, and (2) all persons who hold certificates, authorizations or permits. The State Police must conduct a state criminal history records check against the databases and notify the State Board of any person with a criminal conviction. The State Board may not issue a

certificate, authorization, or permit until it receives and evaluates the results of the check and may deny an application or revoke a certificate, authorization or permit of such a person (Sec. 55).

- Provides that before hiring any person, a board of education must make a documented **good faith effort to contact previous employers** of the person in order to obtain information and recommendations that may be relevant to the person's fitness for employment (Sec. 56).
- Requires the Department of Education to apply for funding for participation in the federal **Troops to Teachers Program** (Sec. 61).

## **Regional Vocational-Technical Schools**

- Increases the threshold amount from \$350,000 to \$500,000 as the amount that can be kept in the regional vocational-technical school (RVTS) industrial account before the excess reverts to the state's general fund (Sec. 13).
- Allows certified teachers employed by RVTSs in priority or transitional school
  districts to qualify for the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority's **Teachers**Mortgage Assistance Program. In order to be eligible for the mortgage
  assistance, the teacher must be purchasing a house that is to be the
  teacher's principal residence and is located in the priority or transitional
  school district (Sec. 57).

(For further information about this section, please contact Lou Bolella, Manager, Residential Mortgage Underwriting at the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority at (860) 571-4226.)

- Requires the Department of Education to conduct a study of, and report to the General Assembly on, the relationship between student admissions scores and performance in the RVTS system (Sec. 58).
- Specifies that the State Board of Education establish specific **achievement goals for students** at the RVTSs at each grade level (Sec. 59).
- Provides that the director of each RVTS must meet with members of the business community in the school's geographic area to develop a plan to assess workforce needs and implement curriculum modifications to address those needs (Sec. 60).

### P.A. 01-175

## AN ACT CONCERNING IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED FOR CHECK CASHING AND CONCERNING STATE AND NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECKS

 Provides that the process for conducting a criminal history records check for a school employee is consistent with such checks for other types of individuals for whom such checks are required (Sec. 2, effective October 1, 2001, and Sec. 31, effective July 1, 2001). (See also, P.A. 01-173, Sec. 55, above, for additional changes to this section.)

## P.A. 01-176 AN ACT CONCERNING CASE PLANNING INFORMATION

• Specifies that boards of education, as well as the Department of Children and Families and the Judicial Department, must provide to the superintendent of schools any educational records within their custody of a child seeking to enter or return to a school district from a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, or any other residential placement, prior to the child's entry or return. Receipt of the educational records shall not delay a child from enrolling in school. The superintendent of schools must provide such information to the principal at the school the child will be attending. The principal must disclose such information to appropriate staff as is necessary for the education or care of the child (Effective October 1, 2001).

#### P.A. 01-192

## AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF FLASHING WHITE HEAD LAMPS, FAILURE TO YIELD TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES, AND DUTY TO STOP FOR STOPPED SCHOOL BUSSES

 Requires authorized emergency vehicles to stop at least 10 feet from a school bus displaying flashing red signal lights and to remain there until the flashing red signal lights are turned off (Sec. 3, effective October 1, 2001).

(For further information about this section, please contact Lt. Delbert N. Cornell of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Division of the Department of Motor Vehicles at (860) 263-5447.)

#### P.A. 01-193

# AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE CONNECTICUT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

- Provides that the Department of Education establish, within available appropriations, a **pilot program** to encourage students in kindergarten to grade 12, inclusive, to pursue **careers in information technology** (Sec. 3).
- Provides that the Commissioner of Education and other state agency leaders

   (1) evaluate and recommend improvements for certification and degree programs offered by the regional vocational-technical schools and the community-technical colleges to ensure that such programs meet the employment needs of business and industry and (2) develop strategies to strengthen the linkage between skill standards for education and training and the employment needs of business and industry. The Commissioner must report to the General Assembly on such activities (Sec. 6).
- Requires the Department of Education to encourage the creation of additional interdistrict magnet school programs with a special emphasis on information technology curriculum (Sec. 8).

## P.A. 01-205 AN ACT CONCERNING MASTERY TEST EXEMPTIONS

- Reduces from 30 months to 10 months the bilingual and English as a second language (ESL) enrollment period during which bilingual and ESL students are exempt from having to take the Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMTs) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) (Sec. 1).
- Specifies that all special education students are to take the CMTs and CAPT "except in the rare case" when the planning and placement team determines that an alternate assessment, as specified by the State Board of Education, is appropriate (Sec. 1).
- Provides that the Department of Education is to (1) conduct a review of the feasibility of providing **native language subject matter assessment** instruments for use in school districts with bilingual education programs and (2) report the results of the review to the General Assembly (Sec. 2).

## P.A. 01-206 AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION AND EQUITABLE WAGES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS

 Requires the Department of Social Services to develop, within available funds, and evaluate initiatives to increase the compensation paid to child day care providers for educational opportunities (Effective October 1, 2001).



## S.A. 01-7 AN ACT CONCERNING THE HARTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

 Amends Special Act 97-4 that established a State Board of Trustees for the Hartford Public Schools (Effective October 1, 2001). (See P.A. 01-9, JSS, Sec. 96, below, for additional changes to this special act.)

## S.A. 01-8 AN ACT REQUIRING COORDINATION OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

 Provides that the Commissioner of Education and other state agency leaders are to develop a comprehensive plan for the coordinated expenditure of funds for, and for the coordinated delivery of services to, children with special health care needs (Effective October 1, 2001).

## S.A. 01-12 AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS

- Authorizes the Commissioner of Education to enter into grant commitments for school construction projects, including previously authorized projects that have changed substantially in scope or cost (Sec. 1, effective July 6, 2001).
- Enacts special provisions for **individual school construction projects** (Secs. 2 to 10, inclusive, effective July 6, 2001).

# PUBLIC ACTS JUNE SPECIAL SESSION

## JUNE SPECIAL SESSION, P.A. 01-1 AN ACT CONCERNING EXPENDITURES FOR THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### **New Grant Programs**

- Provides that the Department of Education establish a competitive safe learning grant program to assist school districts in developing school environments where children learn in safety without fear of physical or verbal harm or intimidation. The program may be a public and private partnership (Sec. 32). (\$500,000 was appropriated in S.A. 01-1, JSS, Sec. 47, below, for the purposes of this program.)
- Transfers \$200,000 from the Department of Information Technology to the
  Department of Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, to establish
  a competitive grant for local and regional school districts for basic
  technology purposes to facilitate communications (Sec. 52).

## **Changes to Existing Grant Programs**

- Amends the education cost sharing (**ECS**) formula as follows (Secs. 1 to 4, inclusive):
  - 1. Each town whose ECS grant is capped under the ECS formula will receive a proportional share of \$25M for FY 2001-02 and of \$50M in FY 2002-03. Each town's share is based on the difference between its capped grant and its "target aid" (the amount its grant, excluding any density supplements, would be without the cap). The provisions eliminating the ECS cap starting in FY 2003-04 have not been changed;
  - 2. For FY 2001-02, **all towns** must receive a minimum ECS grant increase of 1.68% over their FY 2000-01 grant and, for FY 2002-03, all towns must receive a total ECS grant increase of at least 1.2% over their FY 2001-02 grant excluding funds received under the cap supplement and the 1.68% increase provision; and
  - 3. The current ECS **foundation** of \$5,891 remains at that level through FY 2002-03.
- For FY 2002-03, and each fiscal year thereafter, the local contribution in the special education excess cost (school district placements) grant will be reduced from five times the school district's average per pupil education costs for the prior fiscal year to four and one-half times such costs (Sec. 5).

### JSS, P.A. 01-1 (continued)

- Amends the state reimbursement for the provision of health services to children in private schools for towns meeting certain conditions (Sec. 9).
- Consolidates the following additional programs as priority school district grant appropriations while maintaining the funding level for each component: school readiness, early reading success, summer school, and extended school hours and support (Secs. 33, 45 and 46).
- Changes two deadlines in the schedules for the administration of state grants to districts for **special education excess costs** (Sec. 39 and see P.A. 01-173, Sec. 64, above, for explanation).
- Amends provisions concerning grants to (1) districts that no longer qualify as
   priority school districts and (2) districts that become eligible to receive
   priority school district grants (Sec. 42).
- Makes transitional school district grants subject to available appropriations, rather than entitlements (Sec. 43).
- Specifies how **transitional school district grants** are to be distributed (Sec. 47 which amends Sec. 73 of S.A. 01-1, JSS, Sec. 73, below).
- Increases the minimum **education technology grants** for 2002-03 from \$10,000 for all school districts to \$30,000 for the 113 poorest districts and \$15,000 for the other districts (Sec. 44).

### **Educators**

- Provides that the Department of Higher Education (1) with the approval of the Commissioner of Education and within available appropriations, is to expand its alternate route to certification (ARC) programs, and (2) in collaboration with the Department of Education, is to develop regional ARC programs targeted to subject shortage areas and an ARC for former teachers whose certificates have expired (Sec. 6).
- Requires the Department of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Higher Education and within available appropriations, to establish (1) an accelerated cross endorsement process for each subject shortage area and (2) a program for formerly certified teachers to regain certification (Sec. 7).

### **School Readiness**

- Permits towns applying for school readiness grants to establish regional school readiness councils as alternatives to convening local school readiness councils (Secs. 11 and 15).
- Establishes a **minimum school readiness grant** of \$150,000 for priority school districts and former priority school districts (Sec. 12).
- Provides that the Department of Education may **reallocate** to other towns up to 50%, rather than 10%, of any school readiness grant amounts a town has not earmarked for expenditure in a plan submitted by January 1 and subsequently approved (Sec. 12).
- Allows the Commissioner of Education during the first three years a town receives a school readiness grant, rather than for specified years, to (a) approve the use of school readiness grant funds for the **preparation** of a facility or staff for operating a program and (b) **adjust such a grant** based on the number of days of operation of a program if a shorter term of operation is approved (Sec. 13).
- Allows the inclusion of pre-literacy development in the standards for school readiness programs and requires each school readiness program to include a plan for the incorporation of appropriate pre-literacy practices and teacher training in such practices (Secs. 11 and 14).
- Adds some additional uses for Department of Social Services supplemental quality enhancement grants (Sec. 16).
- Makes other related changes to the school readiness statutes (Secs. 10 to 16, inclusive).

#### Reading

- Specifies that the Early Reading Success Institute shall use training curriculum that incorporates comprehensive instruction in reading as determined by the state's Early Reading Success Panel (Sec. 17).
- Requires priority school districts to revise their in-service reading instruction training plans and implement them on or before October 1, 2001 (Sec. 18).
- Provides that the **Department of Education** is to:
  - Oversee curriculum development for the Early Reading Success Institute:
  - 2. Establish qualifications for teacher training providers;

#### JSS, P.A. 01-1 (continued)

- 3. Recommend how to align the State Board of Education's **reading competency standards** with the research of the Early Reading Success Panel:
- 4. Specify the knowledge and skills a person needs to be certified as an **elementary education teacher** or as a **reading specialist**;
- 5. Examine curriculum module designs and teacher training implementation based on the reading panel's report; and
- 6. **Report** on these actions to the General Assembly (Sec. 19).
- Provides that the Department of Education is to contract, within available appropriations, for an **independent evaluation** of the early reading success **teacher training and curriculum modules** (Sec. 20).
- Adds new requirements to what proposals for grants for full-day kindergarten and intensive early intervention reading programs in priority school districts are to include and what funded full-day kindergarten programs are to do (Sec. 21).
- Specifies that reading programs and personal reading plans for certain priority district students in grades one to three, inclusive, are to incorporate the reading panel's findings (Sec. 22).
- Extends the deadline, from January 1, 2001, to January 1, 2002, for the Commissioner of Education's report to the General Assembly on the **longitudinal study** of the educational progress of children during and following participation in early reading success grant programs (Sec. 23).
- Increases the **school construction reimbursement bonus** from 5% to 10% for the portion of an elementary school building in a priority school or priority district used primarily for a full-day kindergarten program or to reduce grades kindergarten to three class sizes to no more than 18 students (Sec. 24).
- Requires the Commissioners of Education and Higher Education, within
  available appropriations, to provide for a study of teacher education
  programs at institutions of higher education that provide coursework in
  reading instruction and report to the General Assembly on the results of the
  study and any recommendations for revisions to such programs (Sec. 25).

#### **Interdistrict Programs and Charter Schools**

 Provides that for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2001, and July 1, 2002, if enrollment in **charter schools** is below the number of students for which funds are appropriated, the **additional funds** will not lapse and are to be used by the Commissioner of Education for grants for interdistrict cooperative

#### JSS, P.A. 01-1 (continued)

programs, OPEN Choice interdistrict student attendance programs, or interdistrict magnet schools (Sec. 27).

- Establishes, for 2001-02 and 2002-03 and within available funding, a new grant to assist **state charter schools** in financing **school building projects**, general improvements to school buildings and repayment of debt incurred for prior school building projects. Each charter school may receive only one grant, and no grant may exceed \$500,000 (Secs. 26 and 28).
- Provides that the **OPEN Choice student attendance program** shall continue to operate in Hartford, Bridgeport, New Haven and New London, provided that beginning with the 2001-02 school year, the proportion of students who are not minority students to the total number of students leaving these cities to participate in the program shall not be greater than the proportion of students who were not minority students in the prior year to the total number of students enrolled in such cities in the prior year (Sec. 29).
- Sets special conditions for the participation of students from New London attending schools in other districts in the 2000-01 school year (Secs. 29 and 30).
- Beginning with the 2003-04 school year, priority school districts other than
  those described above may operate a new voluntary enrollment program
  in which students from districts in the geographic area of a priority school
  district may attend school in the priority school district under certain
  conditions (Sec. 29).
- Provides that regional educational service centers (RESCs) are to receive annual grants in unspecified amounts, rather than \$175,000, to assist school districts in administering the OPEN Choice program (Sec. 29).
- Specifies that admission policies in the OPEN Choice program be consistent not only with the education statute prohibiting discrimination in education programs, but also with the statutes concerning participation in the OPEN Choice program. Formerly, they were to be consistent only with the discrimination statute (Sec. 29).
- Provides that each **RESC** shall support regional efforts to (1) recruit and retain minority educators and (2) collect and analyze data on school district efforts to reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation (Sec. 31).
- Specifies how funds appropriated in the state budget act (S.A. 01-1, JSS, Sec. 47) for **RESC based magnet schools** are to be distributed and repeals a related provision in the budget act (Secs. 48 and 53).

## Schools in Need of Improvement

- Delays, from October 1, 2001, to February 1, 2003, the date by which the Commissioner of Education must issue a new list of elementary and middle schools in need of improvement and requires the commissioner to issue subsequent lists every three years, rather than every two years, thereafter (Sec. 36).
- Specifies that **improvement plans** for schools identified as in need of improvement (1) be submitted to the Department of Education as well as to the board of education, (2) be approved by the board of education after being commented on by the Department and before being implemented and (3) include criteria for use in measuring progress (Sec. 36).
- Makes grants to boards of education with one or more schools in need of improvement ongoing, rather than limited to the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001. These grants continue to be within available appropriations (Sec. 37).
- Adds a requirement that plans for spending grant funds include actions that are necessary for the school to be accredited (Sec. 37).

## JUNE SPECIAL SESSION, P.A. 01-2 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPENDITURES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

- Provides that a minor parent who is without a high school diploma, is not married and has a child who is at least twelve weeks of age, who is in such parent's care, is ineligible for temporary family assistance unless such parent is participating in educational activities directed toward the attainment of a high school diploma or its equivalent (Sec. 13). (This section was amended by Sec. 124 of P.A. 01-9, JSS, below.)
- Adds preschools operated by local boards of education and Head Start
  programs to the types of settings in which a dental hygienist with at least
  two years of experience is allowed to work without a dentist's supervision.
  Other settings in which they can work under these conditions are community
  health centers, group homes and schools (Sec. 21).

(For further information about this section, please contact Karen Buckley-Bates or Joseph Oros, Legislative Liaisons for the Department of Public Health, at (860) 509-7269.)

• Exempts **interpreters** who provide interpreting services in educational settings from new credentialing requirements until July 1, 2003 (Sec. 24).

#### JSS, P.A. 01-2 (continued)

(For further information about this section, please contact Stacie Mawson, Executive Director of the Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, at (860) 561-0196.)

- Requires state agencies that place children in residential facilities to
  enter into written agreements with the facility at the time of the placement and
  specifies what is to be in such agreements. Also, the placing agency is to
  ensure that a discharge plan is initiated within two weeks of the child's
  placement in the facility (Sec. 25).
- Creates a Parent Trust Fund to fund programs aimed at improving children's health, safety, and education by training parents in civic leadership skills and supporting increased, sustained parental engagement in community affairs. The fund shall receive federal or private money from grants and gifts through the existing Children's Trust Fund (Secs. 39 and 40, effective October 1, 2001).
- Revises the state's system of care for providing behavioral health services for children and youth, renaming it Connecticut Community KidCare. The system of care continues to be administered by the Departments of Children and Families and Social Services (Secs. 42 to 51, inclusive).

## JUNE SPECIAL SESSION, P.A. 01-4 AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR VARIOUS STATE HEALTH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES . . .

- Provides that parents are not prohibited from administering medications to their own children on school grounds (Sec. 11).
- Beginning with the 2003-04 school year, requires all children to have a chronic disease assessment, which includes asthma, before they enroll in pubic school, in 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>, and in 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade as part of the health assessments already required at those times (Sec. 41, effective July 1, 2002).
- Requires boards of education on and after February 1, 2004, to annually report to the Department of Public Health (DPH) and their local health departments certain information concerning students having a diagnosis of asthma as recorded on school health assessment forms. Beginning October 1, 2004, and every three years thereafter, the DPH is to review the asthma information collected and report to the General Assembly on asthma trends and the distribution of asthma among pupils enrolled in the public schools (Sec. 41, effective July 1, 2002).

- Requires the Commissioner of Public Health to establish, maintain and report on a system of monitoring asthma and a comprehensive statewide asthma plan (Sec. 42, effective October 1, 2001).
- (Adds licensed naturopaths and chiropractors to the practitioners who can perform all required school health assessments (Sec. 41) but P.A. 01-9, JSS, Sec. 105, below, repealed this change.)

# JUNE SPECIAL SESSION, P.A. 01-7 AN ACT INCREASING CERTAIN BOND AUTHORIZATIONS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND CONCERNING CERTAIN UNEXPENDED BOND PROCEEDS

 Increases the amount of the bond funds authorized to finance school construction grants and decreases the amount of bond funds authorized for interest subsidy grants (Secs. 4 and 17). (See also S.A. 01-1, JSS, below for additional funding for school construction grants.)

## JUNE SPECIAL SESSION, P.A. 01-8 AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

 Makes the Commissioner of Education a nonvoting, ex-officio member of the new Community Mental Health Strategy Board that is to approve commitments and disbursements from the new Community Mental Health Strategic Investment Fund (Secs. 1 to 3, inclusive, and 11).

## JUNE SPECIAL SESSION, P.A. 01-9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPENDITURES OF THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

- Specifies that the Department of Information Technology may make grants to further the use of technology, including **education in technology** (Sec. 79).
- Changes how the three members named to the **Hartford Board of Education** by the mayor for the period from December 3, 2002, to December 5, 2005, are to be appointed (Sec. 96). (See S.A. 01-7, Sec. 2, above.)
- Repeals the addition of licensed naturopaths and chiropractors to the list of practitioners who can perform all required school health assessments (Sec. 105, amending P.A. 01-4, JSS, Sec. 41, above).
- Clarifies a newly enacted provision (P.A. 01-2, JSS, S. 13, above) concerning
  the temporary family assistance eligibility of unmarried minor parents
  without high school diplomas by specifying that such parents with the
  equivalent of a high school diploma do not have to participate in the required
  educational activities (Sec. 124).

 Makes technical corrections to newly enacted provisions (Secs. 92 and 118).



## JUNE SPECIAL SESSION, S.A. 01-1 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2003, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR

This act appropriates funds to state agencies, including the Department of Education, for 2001-02 and 2002-03. Highlights of the new appropriations and increases to programs funded in prior years are as follows, in approximate amounts:

## **Funding for New Programs**

• A competitive safe learning grant program for school districts to develop school environments where children learn in safety without fear of physical or verbal harm or intimidation has been funded with \$500,000 to be used during 2001-02 and 2002-03 (Sec. 47). (See also P.A. 01-1, JSS, Sec. 32, above.)

## **Increased Funding for Existing Programs**

- The appropriation for the education cost sharing (ECS) formula has been increased by \$70.7M for FY 2001-02 and by an additional \$56.5M for FY 2002-03 (Secs. 1 and 11). (See also, P.A. 01-1, JSS, S. 1 to 4, inclusive, above, for changes in the ECS formula.)
- Funding for the **special education excess cost** (school district placements) grant has been increased by \$9.5M from 2001-02 to 2002-03 in part to allow for the reduction in the local contribution for this grant from 5 times the school district's average per pupil education costs for the prior fiscal year to 4 ½ times such costs (Secs. 1 and 11). (See also P.A. 01-1, Sec. 5, above.)
- The sum of \$2.8M has been appropriated for RESC based interdistrict magnet schools for 2001-02 (Sec. 47). (See P.A. 01-1, JSS, Sec. 48, above, for how those funds are to be distributed.)
- The sum of \$2M has been appropriated to the Office of Workforce Competitiveness for school-to-work for 2001-02 (Sec. 47).
- The sum of \$600K appropriated to the Department of Information Technology shall be transferred to the Department of Education for expansion of digital classrooms in the regional vocational-technical schools (Sec. 47).

- The Commissioner of Education may allocate up to \$5M of the amount appropriated for **school construction** grants for the reimbursement of the cost of issuance of certain refunding bonds (Sec. 47).
- The sum of \$600K has been appropriated for **stipends to mentors** in the BEST mentoring program for 2001-02 (Sec. 47).
- The sum of \$150K has been appropriated to the Department of Motor Vehicles to expedite the approval of school endorsement licenses to protect the safety of children using school transportation vehicles (Sec. 47).
- Provides for the **reduction of certain appropriations** in Section 47 of this public act if the State Comptroller determines that the unappropriated surplus in the General Fund is not sufficient to fund the Budget Reserve Fund at a specified level (Sec. 47).
- (Note: Section 73 of this act concerns grants to transitional school districts and was amended by P.A. 01-1, JSS, Sec. 47, above.)

## JUNE SPECIAL SESSION, S.A. 01-2 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORIZATION OF BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND OTHER PURPOSES

- Authorizes up to \$18.2M for 2001-02 and \$15M for 2002-03 for alterations and improvements to buildings and grounds at all of the regional vocational-technical schools provided not more than \$3.2M of the \$18.2M for 2001-2002 shall be for renovations and improvements at the A.I. Prince/Community Technical College building (Sec. 2, effective July 1, 2001, and Sec. 17, effective July 1, 2002).
- Authorizes up to \$13.1M to the Department of Education for 2001-02 and 2002-03 for grants-in-aid to assist priority school districts with alterations, repairs and improvements to buildings and grounds (Sec. 9, effective July 1, 2001, and Sec. 28, effective July 1, 2002).
- Provides that notwithstanding the statutory provisions concerning school construction projects, the Commissioner of Education shall provide financing for the following projects from either bonds or available appropriations: (1) for the relocation of Ellis Regional Vocational-Technical School, up to \$2M, and (2) for renovations and improvements to facilities at Brainard Airport for educational purposes, up to \$8M (Sec. 93).
- Authorizes funding for the Department of Environmental Protection for **grants-in-aid for schools** in three towns (Sec. 9).
- Makes technical changes to previous bond authorizations for two interdistrict magnet schools (Secs. 62 and 73).

## ATTACHMENT A

## TABLE OF AMENDED AND REPEALED STATUTES AND PUBLIC AND SPECIAL ACTS - 2001

Statute	Public Act
1-200	01-169, S. 1
4-124w	01-170, S. 1
4d-80(c)(2)	01-173, S. 4, 67
8-265pp	01-173, S. 57, 67
10-4o (a)	01-173, S. 6, 67
10-14q	01-205, S. 1, 3
10-160	JSS, 01-1, S. 10, 54
10-16p (a)	JSS, 01-1, S. 15, 54
10-16p (b), (c)	JSS, 01-1, S. 11, 54
10-16p (e)	JSS, 01-1, S. 12, 54
10-16p (g), (h)	JSS, 01-1, S. 13, 54
10-16p (j)	01-173, S. 48, 67
10-16q (a)	JSS, 01-1, S. 14, 54
10-19o (a)	01-173, S. 7, 67
10-27	01-173, S. 8, 67
10-51 (b)	01-173, S. 9, 67
10-65 (d)	01-173, S. 11, 67
10-66j (e) (added)	JSS, 01-1, S. 31, 54
10-66aa	JSS, 01-1, S. 26, 54
10-66ee	JSS, 01-1, S. 27, 54
10-74d (a), (b)	01-173, S. 10, 67;
	JSS, 01-1, S. 30, 54
10-76d (e)(5)	JSS, 01-1, S. 39, 54
10-76g (b)	01-173, S. 64, 67;
	JSS, 01-1, S. 5, 54
10-76i (a)	01-173, S. 12, 67
10-76i (c)	01-173, S. 49, 67
10-95	01-173, S. 59, 67
10-99	01-173, S. 13, 67
10-144d (b)	01-173, S. 14, 67
10-145b ( <i>l</i> )(1)	01-173, S. 15, 67
10-145b (m)	01-173, S. 53, 67
10-145i	01-173, S. 54, 67
10-151 (d)	01-173, S. 16, 67
10-153f (a)	01-173, S. 17, 67
10-153f (c)(2)	01-173, S. 18, 67
10-155d	JSS, 01-1, S. 6, 54

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10-200	01-195, S. 77, 181
10-206	JSS, 01-4, S. 41, 58
10-206 (a)	JSS, 01-9, S. 105, 131
10-212	JSS, 01-4, S. 11, 58
10-217a (b)(1)	JSS, 01-1, S. 9, 54
10-220 (a)	01-173, S. 19, 67
10-220d	01-173, S. 20, 67
10-221d	01-173, S. 55, 67
	01-175, S. 2, 32
10-221 <i>l</i>	JSS, 01-1, S. 17, 54
10-221m	JSS, 01-1, S. 18, 54
10-223a	01-166
10-223b	JSS, 01-1, S. 36, 54
10-223c	JSS, 01-1, S. 37, 54
10-233k	01-176
10-261 (a)(2)	01-173, S. 21, 67
10-262f (9)	JSS, 01-1, S. 1, 54
10-262f (22)	01-173, S. 22, 67
10-262f (28)	JSS, 01-1, S. 2, 54
10-262f (32) (added)	JSS, 01-1, S. 3, 54
10-262h (a)(6)	JSS, 01-1, S. 4, 54
10-262j (d)	01-173, S. 62, 67
10-262n	JSS, 01-1, S. 44, 54
10-263c (a)	JSS, 01-1, S. 43, 54
10-264 <i>l</i> (i) (added)	01-173, S. 65, 67
10-265f	JSS, 01-1, S. 21, 54
10-265g (b)	JSS, 01-1, S. 22, 54
10-265k	JSS, 01-1, S. 23, 54
10-265 <i>l</i>	01-173, S. 23, 67
10-265m (b)	01-173, S. 24, 67
10-266p (a)	JSS, 01-1, S. 33, 54
10-266aa	JSS, 01-1, S. 29, 54
10-276a (b), (c)	JSS, 01-1, S. 42, 54
10-282 (3)	01-173, S. 25, 67
10-283 (a)(1)	01-173, S. 63, 67
10-283 (b)	01-173, S. 26, 67
10-285a (b)	01-173, S. 50, 67
10-285a (h)	JSS, 01-1, S. 24, 54
10-286 (c)	01-173, S. 27, 67

## ATTACHMENT A (continued)

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10-292 (b)	01-173, S. 28, 67
10-292k	JSS, 01-7, S. 17, 28
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11-1d	01-173, S. 42, 67
14-279(a)	01-192, S. 3
17a-1	JSS, 01-2, S. 42, 69
17a-4	JSS, 01-2, S. 50, 69
17a-4a	JSS, 01-2, S. 51, 69
17a-18	JSS, 01-2, S. 40, 69
17a-22a	JSS, 01-2, S. 43, 69
17a-22b	JSS, 01-2, S. 44, 69
17a-50	JSS, 01-2, S. 39, 69
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17a-101i(a)	01-173, S. 43, 67
17a-101i(d)	01-173, S. 44, 67
17a-127	JSS, 01-2, S. 45, 69
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17a-242	01-195, S. 132, 181
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17b-749c	JSS, 01-1, S. 16, 54
19a-62a	JSS, 01-2, S. 42, 58
20-126 <i>l</i>	JSS, 01-2, S. 21, 69
29-315(a)	01-173, S. 66, 67
46a-33a	JSS, 01-2, S. 24, 69
52-434d	01-173, S. 47, 67
53a-217b	01-84, S. 8, 26

Public/Special Act	Public/Special Act
S.A. 97-4, S. 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9	S.A. 01-7, S. 1 to 7, inclusive
	JSS, P.A. 01-9, S. 96, 131
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JSS = June Special Session P.A. = Public Act S.A. = Special Act

S. = Section