




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Series: 2018-2019
Circular Letter: C-1

TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education 

DATE: July 12, 2018

SUBJECT: Summary of Education-Related Legislation Enacted in the 2018 Regular Session of the Connecticut General Assembly

The Connecticut General Assembly has adjourned its 2018 Regular Session. The State Department of Education (SDE) is hereby providing you with a summary of the public acts passed during the regular session that appear to be of applicability and interest to school districts.

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

1. This document does not describe every 2018 public act affecting the operation of a school district or provide every detail of the summarized acts. This is a summary of new legislation that was being tracked by the Department, therefore, each superintendent or designated district leader should review the actual text of any act that may affect his or her district.
2. If you are viewing this document electronically, clicking the Public Act title appearing above each summary will allow you to view the full language of that act. Clicking the title of the act in the contents page will bring you to that section of the document.
3. The summaries are organized by Public Act number.
4. Following the table of contents is a summary of each enacted bill, including the effective date. In some cases where only portions of a public act relate to education, only those sections of the act have been included in this summary.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura J. Stefon, Chief of Staff, at 860-713-6493 or laura.stefon@ct.gov.

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[An Act Concerning Assistance To School Districts That Enroll Students From Puerto Rico Who Have Been Displaced By Hurricane Maria](#)

This Act allows, for the school years commencing July 1, 2018, and July 1, 2019, a local or regional board of education to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the local or regional board of education for a surrounding town to share classrooms and other resources for the purpose of educating and supporting recently-enrolled students from Puerto Rico who have been displaced as a result of natural disasters in Puerto Rico.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

[An Act Concerning A Study On Access To Information Regarding The Safety Of Sports Helmets](#)

This Act requires the Department of Public Health to convene a working group to develop recommendations for creating a system for rating the safety of youth athletic protective headgear and for public disclosure of such protective headgear's safety rating.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018

[An Act Establishing A Task Force To Study The Processing And Retention Of Fingerprint Records And Criminal History Records For Educators](#)

This Act establishes a task force to (1) examine the state's system for fingerprinting and processing of state and national criminal history records checks, for employees, applicants for employment, substitute teachers and volunteers of local and regional boards of education, interdistrict magnet school operators and regional educational service centers, and (2) make recommendations for the improvement of such system.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

[An Act Establishing A Working Group To Study And Make Recommendations Concerning Issues Relating To The Search And Seizure Of Students' Personal Electronic Devices](#)

This Act establishes a working group to study and make recommendations concerning issues relating to the search and seizure of students' personal electronic devices.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

[An Act Waiving Any Penalties Imposed On A Board Of Education For Making Reductions To Its Budgeted Appropriation For Education As A Result Of Cuts To Its Education Cost-Sharing Grant For Fiscal Year 2018](#)

This Act waives, for FY 18, the state penalty for violating the law prohibiting a town from reducing its budgeted amount for education, as long as the town meets certain criteria under the Act.

Current law prohibits a town from budgeting less for education than it did in the previous FY unless it can demonstrate specific changes within its school district (such as reduced student enrollment). This prohibition is commonly referred to as the minimum budget requirement (MBR).

The Act waives the state penalty for violating the MBR for FY 18 if a town meets the following requirements:

1. the town's FY 18 equalization aid (i.e., education cost sharing (ECS)) grant was reduced due to (a) reductions in allotments (i.e., to achieve unallocated budgeted lapses and targeted savings in the General Fund) authorized in the budget act (PA 17-2, June Special Session, §§ 13 and 14) or (b) withholdings or reductions in state assistance to help pay for rental rebate assistance (CGS § 12-170f(d), as amended by PA 17-4, June Special Session, § 25) and
2. the town subsequently reduced its FY 18 budgeted appropriation for education in an amount up to the reduction in its ECS grant.

The Act prohibits the State Board of Education (SBE) from making a determination that such a town failed to meet the MBR requirements, and SBE cannot require the town to forfeit its ECS grant in an amount equal to two times the reduction.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

[An Act Concerning School Counselors](#)

This Act adds “school counselor” to every state law that currently mentions “guidance counselor.” While neither “school counselor” nor “guidance counselor” is defined in state law, in practice SDE currently issues a school counselor special services certificate endorsement and no longer issues a guidance counselor endorsement. The department continues to recognize the guidance counselor endorsement. Specifically, the Act adds school counselors to the following situations:

1. membership on the committee to coordinate the education of middle school and high school students about manufacturing careers (§ 1);
2. the State Department of Education's (SDE) program to introduce students, parents, and counselors to manufacturing careers (§ 2);
3. the definition of “mental health professionals” for statutes governing school-based primary mental health programs (§ 3);
4. the list of school employees who can attest on a student's public school withdrawal form that the school district provided the student's parent with information on the educational options available in the school system and community (§ 4);
5. membership on district and school attendance review teams (§ 5);
6. the definition of “school employee” for the statute that requires board of education policies prohibiting school employees from (a) preventing a student from participating in physical exercise during the school day as a form of punishment and (b) requiring any kindergarten through grade 12 student to engage in physical activity during the school day as a form of discipline (§§ 6 & 7);

7. the definition of “school employee” for statutes governing safe school climate plans (§ 8);
8. the listing of individuals to be assisted by the Office of Higher Education in becoming better informed about matters concerning student financial assistance affairs (§ 9);
9. the definition of “counselor” for statutes governing abortions for minors (§ 10);
10. the list of professionals required to report suspected abuse or neglect of individuals who have an intellectual disability or receive autism spectrum disorder services (§ 11);
11. the definition of “school employee” for statutes governing sex offenses (§ 12); and
12. the list of professionals to whom a victim may disclose a personal injury and thereby be entitled to compensation through the Office of Victim Services or a victim compensation commissioner (§ 13).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

[An Act Requiring Behavior Analysts To Be Mandated Reporters Of Suspected Child Abuse And Neglect](#)

This Act adds licensed behavior analysts to the statutory list of mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and neglect.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

[An Act Concerning The Inclusion Of Holocaust And Genocide Education And Awareness In The Social Studies Curriculum](#)

This Act adds Holocaust and genocide education and awareness to the required courses of study for public schools and requires all local and regional boards of education to include this topic in their social studies curriculum beginning in the 2018-19 school year.

It also allows these boards of education to do the following in order to develop and implement this new curriculum: (1) use existing and appropriate public or private materials, personnel, and other resources and (2) accept gifts, grants, and donations, including in-kind donations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

[An Act Concerning The Recommendations Of The Juvenile Justice Policy And Oversight Committee And Concerning The Transfer Of Juvenile Services From The Department Of Children And Families To The Court Support Services Division Of The Judicial Branch](#)

Beginning July 1, 2018, this Act transfers legal authority from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to the judicial branch over any child who was committed to DCF as a delinquent pursuant to a juvenile court order entered before that date. The branch's Court Support Services Division (CSSD) must, in turn, assume responsibility for supervising the children and may exercise its powers, duties, and functions to provide such supervision (§ 8).

Under existing law, the juvenile court is prohibited, starting July 1, 2018, from committing a child to DCF as a result of a delinquency adjudication. Existing law also (1) establishes a one-year transition period, from July 1, 2018 to January 1, 2019, during which the judicial branch may place a child convicted as delinquent in a DCF-operated congregate care setting or order the child to receive community-based DCF services and (2) requires the agencies to enter into an agreement that (a) allows the judicial branch to use these settings and services and (b) requires it to pay DCF for their use (PA 17-2 June Special Session (JSS) (§§ 321 & 323)).

The Act also makes numerous other changes to the juvenile justice statutes. Principally, it:

1. specifies a deadline by which the appropriate school district must enroll a child in detention who is not otherwise enrolled in school and requires that the student remain enrolled in that district for the duration of his or her detention (§ 3);
2. requires school districts with over 6,000 students enrolled in the 2016-17 school year to designate at least one liaison to facilitate transitions between the district and the juvenile and criminal justice systems (§ 4);
3. requires the technical high school system superintendent and board, by January 1, 2019, to develop a plan to address education, training, and work experience for children in post-conviction justice system custody (§ 5);
4. requires the State Department of Education (SDE), by January 1, 2020, to develop a plan related to a statewide information technology platform (§ 6);
5. imposes various new juvenile justice-related reporting requirements on the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) and certain state agencies (§ 7);
6. deems any child transferred from DCF to CSSD under the Act to be on probation for a period no longer than his or her remaining delinquency commitment to DCF as of June 30, 2018, and requires the court to review and, if appropriate, modify the probation conditions (§ 8); sets forth the court's authority to modify or enlarge conditions of probation, and provides for a probation status review hearing and the detention of a child (§37);
7. allows the Department of Corrections (DOC) to transfer an inmate under age 18, to CSSD under certain conditions, instead of allowing it to transfer such an inmate to DCF as under current law (§ 23);
8. limits and modifies the ways that a juvenile court may dispose of a delinquency adjudication and adds to the factors the court must consider when making a disposition (§ 36);
9. modifies the probation conditions the court may order, allows a juvenile probation supervisor's designee to establish the term of non-judicial supervision for a juvenile for whom the court entered a non-judicial disposition, and makes various other changes to laws related to juvenile probation (§§ 25, 31, 23, 32, 36-38);
10. makes changes to several definitions in the juvenile matters laws and adds several new ones (§§ 15 & 25);

11. eliminates provisions that permit the DCF commissioner, in certain circumstances, to transfer a child committed to the department to the John R. Manson Youth Institution or York Correctional Institution, as appropriate (§ 20);
12. eliminates a provision that (a) explicitly allows a judge hearing a juvenile matter to make any order in connection to it that a Superior Court judge is authorized to grant and (b) gives such an order the same force and effect as a Superior Court order (§ 27);
13. modifies various juvenile justice system goals (§ 28);
14. permits the judicial branch to contract to establish secure residential facilities and requires it to develop a continuum of community-based programs (§ 29);
15. permits, instead of requires, the judicial branch to consult with the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System to address the needs of minorities in the juvenile justice system (§ 29);
16. limits the circumstances in which DCF employees may have access to juvenile court records and adds to the records of delinquency proceedings that must be disclosed to the DMV commissioner (§ 30);
17. designates the chief court administrator or his designee, instead of the DCF commissioner or her designee, as administrator of the Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) (The compact enables states to transfer a juvenile's supervision between states and return a runaway juvenile to his or her home state) (§§ 9 & 18);
18. eliminates as possible qualifications for members of the state Advisory Council on Children and Families that the member (a) represent young people, parents, and others interested in delivering juvenile justice services or (b) is a parent, foster parent, or family member of a child who has received or is receiving juvenile justice services (§ 17);
19. eliminates a requirement that a law enforcement officer who arrests a youth for prostitution report suspected abuse or neglect to DCF (§ 33);
20. specifies that, as required under existing law, CSSD and other state agencies must develop a community-based diversion system and school-based diversion plan (§§ 1 & 2);
21. makes numerous changes to conform with the transferred responsibility for children adjudicated delinquent from DCF to CSSD by eliminating references throughout the Act to (a) children committed to DCF for delinquency and (b) the Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS), which was a DCF-run secure detention facility for juveniles that permanently closed in April 2018 (§§ 10-14, 16, 18, 19, 21-22 & 35);
22. repeals several provisions pertaining to DCF responsibility for juveniles adjudicated delinquent, CJTS, and certain CSSD responsibilities (§ 43);
23. makes minor, technical, and conforming changes (§§ 26, 34, & 39-42).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018; except the provisions on the community-based diversion system and school-based diversion plan, school district liaisons, the technical high school system, the statewide

information technology platform, and various reporting requirements are all effective upon passage; and the provision on school enrollment of students at detention facilities takes effect August 1, 2018.

An Act Concerning Minority Teacher Recruitment And Retention

This Act makes a number of changes in the teacher certification laws to make it easier, in certain areas, to obtain certification or cross endorsement (§§ 4 & 8).

It also:

1. requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to identify and utilize or support a number of practices and programs to boost minority teacher recruitment (§ 1);
2. requires SDE to develop or review and approve a new alternate route to certification (ARC) program for people in certain professions to be teachers, including paraeducators, charter school teachers, veterans, and others (§ 2);
3. adds a new member to the teacher Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC) and requires the council to work collaboratively with the Minority Teacher Recruitment Task Force (§ 3);
4. authorizes (a) the chairpersons of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Task Force to appoint a new member to the task force who will serve as the third chairperson and (b) the Commission on Equity and Opportunity executive director to appoint three members of the task force, instead of the executive director, or her appointee, serving on the task force (§ 5);
5. requires the State Board of Education's (SBE) five-year education plan to include a statement that the state's teacher workforce should reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the state (§ 6);
6. limits local and regional boards' of education's minority recruitment plans to educators, rather than staff (§ 7); and
7. requires SDE to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with teacher licensure test vendors to allow some test takers to get a free retake of the exam under certain conditions (§ 9).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018, except the provision regarding the MOU to address the retaking of licensure exams is upon passage.

An Act Concerning The Failure To File For Certain Grand List Exemptions, Validating A Connecticut Green Bank Agreement And Certain Actions Of The City Of Derby, Concerning Payment Of A Grant-In-Aid To The Town Of Darien And The Criteria Of Certain Members Of School Governance Councils And Extending A Provision Concerning Reemployment Of Certain Teachers

The Education sections of this Act specify that elementary, middle, and high school governance councils may include students' parents or guardians who are public officials (§ 8); and extend, by two years, a provision allowing certain retired teachers and administrators to exceed the annual earnings limit without having to pay back the excess to the Teachers Retirement System (§ 9).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018, except the provision concerning retired teachers and administrators which is effective upon passage.

An Act Implementing The Recommendations Of The Department Of Education

This Act makes a number of changes to education statutes including:

(1) changing the payment date for one magnet school transportation grant, moving the finalization date from March 1st to January 31st for the October 1st data to be used for the May magnet payment, and clarifying that payments are made at the operator rather than the magnet school level (§§1, 2, 3); and

(2) Defining “exclusionary time out,” requiring all boards of education to establish a policy for the use of exclusionary time outs according to requirements specified in the law by January 1, 2019, and prohibiting school districts from using seclusion as a planned student intervention in a student’s behavioral intervention plan, individualized education program or plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (§4); and

(3) providing the State Board of Education's (SBE) with the authority to suspend or place on probation a teacher's credential and authorizing the SBE to consider and rely on findings and conclusions of disciplinary authorities in other states (§ 5); and

(4) giving the education commissioner discretion to allow a teacher with a grades one through six endorsement to teach kindergarten for one year under certain conditions and to permit an additional year of teaching if the teacher is enrolled in a program to meet the requirements for the appropriate endorsement to teach kindergarten (§ 6); and

(5) making various revisions to the certification statutes (§7, 8); and

(6) adding a provision exempting certain adult education teachers from background checks (§9).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

An Act Concerning Revisions To The State Budget For Fiscal Year 2019 And Deficiency Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2018

Section 15 – Appropriates \$1,500,000 to the Department of Education, in the Talent line item for the Teacher Education and Mentoring Program.

Section 19 – Appropriates \$400,000 to the Department of Education, for Bilingual Education, to be distributed to the top six school districts with the largest concentration of Hurricane Maria evacuees.

Section 52 – Increases the per pupil reimbursement rate for students enrolled in agricultural science and technology centers from three thousand two hundred dollars per pupil to four thousand two hundred dollars.

[An Act Concerning Revisions To The Student Data Privacy Act](#)

This Act makes numerous changes in the student data privacy law. The law restricts how website, online service, and mobile application (i.e., “online service”) operators and consultants who contract with local and regional boards of education process and access student data. The law requires operators and consultants to use reasonable security practices to safeguard student data.

The Act requires the Commission for Educational Technology (CET) to develop a student data privacy terms-of-service agreement addendum that may be used in contracts entered into pursuant to the student data privacy law.

With respect to the privacy law, the Act also:

1. creates certain exceptions for contractors and operators from requirements for deleting student data at a board of education's, student's, parents', or guardian's request;
2. creates an exception, under certain conditions, for boards when they have special education students using a particular online service that is necessary, but unable to meet the contract requirements;
3. eliminates a requirement that boards electronically notify students and parents of new contracts;
4. requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to add more information to the guidance it must already provide school districts;
5. requires boards of education to annually report to CET on using any online service that does not operate under a contract as required by the law and the Act;
6. adds the Connecticut Association of Schools' executive director, or her designee, as a member of the student data privacy task force; and
7. makes minor and technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018, except the provisions regarding the agreement addendum and the task force member are effective upon passage.

[An Act Concerning The Alignment Of The Coordinated State-Wide Reading Plan With The State's Two-Generational Initiative](#)

This Act (1) requires the State Department of Education to include the alignment of reading instruction with the two-generational initiative in its statewide reading plan and (2) allows the Office of Early Childhood, in its two-generational initiative and within available appropriations, to consider the alignment of state and local support systems around the statewide reading plan for students in kindergarten to grade three.

By law, the reading plan must contain various research-driven strategies and frameworks for effective reading instruction. The two-generational school readiness and workforce development initiative promotes early childhood care and education, health, and workforce readiness and self-sufficiency across two generations in the same household. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

An Act Concerning Teacher Permits For Spouses Of Transferred Members Of The Armed Forces

This Act requires the State Board of Education, upon receipt of a proper application, to issue a “military spouse teacher permit” to certain military spouses who have taught for at least two years under an appropriate certificate issued by another state, the District of Columbia, a U.S. territory or possession, or Puerto Rico. The Act applies to the spouse of any member of the armed forces who has received military orders to come to Connecticut.

“Armed forces” means the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force, or any reserve component, including the National Guard performing duty under Title 32 of federal law (e.g., certain Homeland Security missions).

Under the Act, a military spouse teacher permit:

1. exempts the teacher from having to complete the Connecticut teacher education and mentoring program;
2. is valid for three years; and
3. may be renewed by the Education commissioner for good cause upon the request of the superintendent for the school district employing the teacher.

The Act also exempts certain military spouse teacher permit applicants from state law's requirement to complete a course of study in special education, if they can demonstrate equivalent knowledge in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. This exemption applies to applicants who successfully completed a teacher preparation program or an alternate route to certification program in, and hold an appropriate certificate issued by, another state, the District of Columbia, a U.S. territory or possession, or Puerto Rico.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

An Act Concerning Third-Party Fingerprinting Services, Minimum Standards And Practices For The Administration Of Law Enforcement Units And Reports Of Police Pursuits

This Act makes changes affecting the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) and the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST). Generally, it:

1. allows the DESPP commissioner to enter into agreements with contractors to electronically take and transmit fingerprints and demographic information to the State Police Bureau of Identification (SPBI) for processing criminal history record checks;
2. requires, within available appropriations, POST and the DESPP commissioner to jointly develop (a) minimum standards and practices for administering and managing law enforcement units and (b) a process for reviewing compliance, including a certificate of compliance;
3. requires, beginning January 1, 2019, law enforcement units to adopt and maintain POST's minimum standards and practices or a higher level of accreditation standards; and

4. establishes a series of reporting requirements concerning police pursuits, including for police officers, local police chiefs, the DESPP commissioner, and POST.

The Act also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018, except that the provisions on (1) police pursuits are effective October 1, 2018, and (2) minimum standards and practices are effective January 1, 2019.

[An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions To The Public Health Statutes](#)

Sections 80 & 81 of this Act require local and regional boards of education to request that students have an oral health assessment prior to public school enrollment, in grade 6 or 7, and in grade 9 or 10. It establishes related requirements on providers authorized to perform the assessments, parental consent, assessment forms, notification, and records access.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

[An Act Concerning Revisions To Certain Environmental Quality And Conservation Programs Of The Department Of Energy And Environmental Protection And Certain Farmland Preservation Programs Of The Department Of Agriculture And Establishing A Working Group On Microfiber Pollution, Authorizing School Instruction And Curriculum On Climate Change, Requiring Updated Hazardous Mitigation Plans For Certain Hazardous Chemical Facilities, Permitting Sunday Bow Hunting Of Deer Throughout The State And Establishing A Pilot Program On The Separate Collection Of Glass From Other Recycling Programs](#)

Section 8 of this Act amends C.G.S. §10-16b to add climate change curriculum consistent with the Next Generation Science Standards as a permissible area of instruction within the science curriculum. The Act designates the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as an available resource to boards of education in developing a climate change curriculum.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018

[An Act Concerning Minor Revisions And Additions To The Education Statutes](#)

This Act makes the following changes in the education statutes:

1. delays, by one year, the transition of the Technical Education and Career System (TECS) (formerly known as the technical high school system) into an independent state agency, separate from the State Department of Education (SDE) (§§ 7-17);
2. makes instruction on opioid use and related disorders part of the state's required public school program of instruction (§ 2);
3. requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to assist local and regional boards of education in including instruction related to Connecticut's "safe haven law" (§ 2);

4. creates a process to exempt small school districts from enrolling as Medicaid providers and other related state requirements (§ 15);
5. extends youth service bureau grant eligibility to bureaus who applied for grants in FY 18 (§ 1);
6. requires school districts' chronic absenteeism and prevention plans to include a way to collect and analyze data on student attendance, truancy, and chronic absenteeism for students with disabilities (§ 3);
7. requires SDE to identify effective truancy intervention models for boards of education that address the needs of students with disabilities and include them in a listing made available to the boards (§ 4);
8. establishes a 12-member task force to study high school interscholastic athletics programs and must submit its report to the Education Committee by January 1, 2019 (§ 14); and
9. prohibits, for the school year commencing July 1, 2018 only, a board of education from prohibiting certain students from enrolling in agricultural science and technology education center ("ASTE center") programs (§ 16).

It makes other minor changes, including requiring (1) the Children's Committee's annual children's report card to include, in addition to existing categories, data indicators according to disability (§ 5) and (2) the After School Committee to report recommendations to the Appropriations and Education committees to improve summer and after school programs (§ 6). The Act also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018, except where otherwise noted in the Act.

[An Act Implementing The Recommendations Of The Auditors Of Public Accounts Concerning Private Providers Of Special Education](#)

This Act requires, starting July 1, 2019, a local or regional board of education to have a written contract, instead of an agreement as under current law, with a private special education provider in order to receive a state reimbursement grant for special education costs (known as the excess cost grant). Under the excess cost grant program, the state reimburses a board when the cost of a student's special education services exceed four and a half times the average per pupil educational cost of that school district.

The Act requires that any agreements entered into or amended on or after July 1, 2018 but before June 30, 2019 and any contract entered into or amended on or after July 1, 2019 must include an explanation of how the provider's tuition or costs for services provided are calculated. It makes the same change to the current law's requirements that districts must follow when they choose to enter into a contract for private special education services.

The Act also requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to develop standards and a process for documenting special education services provided by private providers that includes the use of standard forms or other electronic reporting systems.

It also requires any private provider providing special education services for a local or regional board of education to annually submit its operating budget to SDE.

Lastly, the Act also makes other minor, conforming, and technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

[An Act Concerning The Recommendations Of The Task Force On Life-Threatening Food Allergies In Schools](#)

This Act makes several changes to education laws addressing food allergies in schools. It allows any student with a medically diagnosed life-threatening allergic condition, with the written authorization of a parent or guardian and written order of a qualified medical professional, to (1) possess, (2) self-administer, or (3) possess and self-administer his or her medication to protect against serious harm or death.

The Act requires SDE, in conjunction with the Department of Public Health (DPH), to revise, review, and update its guidelines for managing students with life-threatening food allergies and glycogen storage disease. It additionally requires SDE to update its health and physical education curriculum standards and apply for external funding to raise public awareness about food allergies.

The Act requires school transportation carriers to provide training in identifying and appropriately responding to severe allergic reactions to all school bus drivers, not later than June 30, 2019. Finally, the Act extends the protections of the “Good Samaritan” law to cover school bus drivers rendering certain emergency first aid in response to a student's allergic reaction.

The Act also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018, except the provisions relating to SDE's curriculum revisions and funding applications (§ 2) take effect upon passage.