

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

The Legislation and Policy Development Committee

Wednesday, January 15, 2025 -- 2:30 p.m.

State Office Building, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, Connecticut

Conference Room: **Plaza North, Meeting Room E**

Bonnie E. Burr, Chair

Kristen A. Record, Seth D. Zimmerman

Minutes

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education Legislation and Policy Development Committee [“LPDC”] met in person on January 15, 2025.

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Bonnie E. Burr called the meeting to order at 2:30. In addition to Ms. Burr, also present at the meeting were Committee Members Kristen A. Record and Seth D. Zimmerman, and the State Board’s student members, Sreenidi Bala and Sophia Messina. Joining the Board members from the CSDE were: Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer and Michael P. McKeon, Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs.

Presenter:

Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer, CSDE

II. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Record moved, and Dr. Zimmerman seconded, approval of the November 6, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Discussion: Kindergarten Enrollment Trends – Preliminary Data

Mr. Gopalakrishnan began his presentation by noting that for the 2024-2025, kindergarten enrollment declined by 12.3% (4,264 students) and Pre-Kindergarten enrollment increased by 6.0% (1,190 students). Dr. Zimmerman asked whether this has had any effect upon the preexisting regulations with respect to childcare students, such as child find. Mr. Gopalakrishnan responded that it has not. Mr. Gopalakrishnan observed that there appears to have been a decision by districts to hold off enrollment of traditionally aged Pre-Kindergarten students in favor of students who fell between the prior and the current statutory birthdate cutoffs for Kindergarten enrollment.

Mr. Gopalakrishnan reviewed how some districts are implementing programs which they are labeling or treating as a kind of transitional kindergarten. There have been in general fewer pre-birthdate eligible students enrolled in Alliance Districts but an increase in Pre-Kindergarten

enrollment. Mr. Gopalakrishnan noted that the CSDE did not as yet have the statewide breakdown between enrollment of special education and regular education students.

Mr. Gopalakrishnan explained that some districts may be transitioning students from Pre-Kindergarten to Kindergarten during the course of the school year, depending on a particular student's aptitude or developmental status. Attorney McKeon explained that as there is no legal requirement in Connecticut that students attend kindergarten, districts have the flexibility to permit this.

Committee members expressed concern about the long-term effects on students that may potentially be engendered by these changes to Kindergarten enrollment. The Committee was also interested in what the data would show about the breakdown in Kindergarten enrollment between regular-education and special-education students.

Following the close of Mr. Gopalakrishnan's presentation, and the subsequent discussion between Committee members regarding the information he had shared, Dr. Zimmerman moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Record seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 2:58.