



House Bill 5324

AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION MANDATE RELIEF

Testimony of the Department of Administrative Services

Education Committee

March 4, 2026

Senator McCrory, Representative Leeper, Senator Berthel, Representative Zupkus, and distinguished members of the Education Committee. We thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on **House Bill 5324: An Act Concerning Education Mandate Relief**.

We will center our comments on **Section 4** of the bill, which would eliminate a reporting requirement that local school districts currently have to provide to the Commission for Educational Technology (CET).

By way of background, CET is empowered by the General Assembly through C.G.S. § 61a to envision, coordinate, and oversee the management and successful integration of technology in Connecticut's schools, libraries, colleges, and universities. As part of its responsibilities as the state's principal educational technology adviser, it designs and stewards the State Educational Technology Plan (the "State Plan") that helps ensure equity of access to technology-based learning solutions. The State Plan includes initiatives across five focus areas: Technology-Enabled Learning, Digital Equity, Competencies, Sustainability, and Data Privacy and Security.

For the past seven years, local school districts have been statutorily required to submit a report to the Commission for Educational Technology concerning the use of internet websites, online services, or mobile applications that do not have a contract that meets the standards required under the state data privacy laws. This proposal aims to eliminate this reporting requirement because the Commission has not received any feedback during this time, and research indicates that the data has not been used by education stakeholders for decision-making or improving educational practices.

Removing this obligation would reduce unnecessary data-collection and reporting burdens on local education agencies and the Commission. This would free limited resources to fulfill the Commission's responsibility to promote the effective use of technology in teaching and learning.

We would like to highlight that this provision was included in Section 98 of [Senate Bill 298](#), which has passed both chambers and is currently awaiting the Governor's signature. If it is signed into law, we kindly request that this provision be removed from any substitute language for the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts with the Committee.