

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NED LAMONT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 14E

**PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC –
REEMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED TEACHERS TO HELP ADDRESS TEACHER
SHORTAGE**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I declared public health and civil preparedness emergencies throughout the State of Connecticut in response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak caused by the SARS-Cov-2 virus in the United States and Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, on several occasions since March 10, 2020, acting within my authority pursuant to Sections 19a-131 and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes as well as Special Acts 21-2, 21-4, and 21-5 of the General Assembly, and in response to the continued need to respond adequately to the COVID-19 pandemic, I renewed the declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and also issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declarations, I have issued executive orders to protect public health, limit transmission of COVID-19, and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 presents increased risk of severe illness, complications, and death to older adults and particularly those with chronic conditions, as well as serious health effects and long-term health problems for some people who have no underlying conditions; and

WHEREAS, the highly transmissible omicron variant has caused COVID-19 infections to rapidly increase within the United States and Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, vaccination is the most effective means of preventing infection, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 and of limiting transmission and outbreaks of the disease, and is therefore a critical tool to respond to and slow the ongoing pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with Executive Order No. 13G, Connecticut has made significant progress in administering vaccines to school employees, with more than 93% of school employees fully vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, while currently available vaccines continue to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths resulting from infection with the omicron variant, public health experts are seeing waning protection over time especially in people 65 years and older, and in response have recommended that vaccinated individuals receive a booster dose; and

WHEREAS, according to data collected by the Department of Public Health, the number of laboratory confirmed new COVID-19 cases amongst school employees increased from 477 reported cases on December 29, 2021 to 2,338 reported cases on January 5, 2022; and

WHEREAS, during the same period, the number of laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases amongst students increased from 1,363 cases to 7,612 cases; and

WHEREAS, the increase in staff COVID-19 cases has resulted in teacher shortages across the state that appear to be disproportionately affecting Connecticut's largest urban districts; and

WHEREAS, there are currently almost 200 retired teachers who have exhausted their 45% pay limitation or expended a year of eligibility under CGS 10-183v and more than 5,000 teachers residing in CT that have retired in the last 5 years who could be eligible to participate under that statute; and

WHEREAS, Section 10-183v(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes limits the ability of school boards to reemploy retired teachers to no more than forty-five percent of the maximum salary level for the assigned teaching position; and

WHEREAS, application of the statute tends to result in retired teachers being able to work and be fully paid for approximately 80 days each school year and many of these retired teachers exhausted their paid days during the recently completed fall semester; and

WHEREAS, Section 10-183v(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes only allows school districts to hire retired teachers for a maximum of two school years in districts designated by the Commissioner of Education as a subject shortage area or at a school located in a school district identified as a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p of the Connecticut General Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Teachers' Retirement Board has represented that providing temporary relief from the limits set forth in subsections (a) and (b) of Section 10-183v of the Connecticut General Statutes would allow teachers who exhausted their payable days or yearly limits to return to school for the spring semester; and

WHEREAS, temporarily modifying the statute will help the state address the teacher shortage caused by the recent surge in COVID-19 cases caused by the omicron variant;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NED LAMONT, Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Connecticut, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT**:

- 1. Reemployment of Retired Teachers to Help Address Teacher Shortage.**
Notwithstanding anything contained in Section 10-183v(a), for purposes of the forty-

five percent (45%) rule, any benefits received by a teacher during the period beginning July 1, 2021 and ending February 15, 2022 shall be excluded. Notwithstanding anything contained in Section 10-183v(b), with respect to teachers who become reemployed pursuant to Section 10-183v(b) for the period beginning July 1, 2021 and ending February 15, 2022, such period of reemployment shall not be included for purposes of determining the two (2) year maximum eligibility period.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 11th day of January 2022.



Ned Lamont
Governor

By His Excellency's Command



Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State

