



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 5262

LCO No. 1796



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING A SEXUAL ABUSE AND ASSAULT SURVEY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-101q of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

3 (a) Not later than July 1, 2023, the Department of Children and
4 Families, in collaboration with the Department of Education and
5 Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence, or a similar entity, shall
6 identify or develop a state-wide sexual abuse and assault awareness and
7 prevention program for use by local and regional boards of education.
8 Such program shall be implemented in each local and regional school
9 district and shall include:

10 (1) For school employees, as defined in section 53a-65, instructional
11 modules that may include, but not be limited to, (A) training regarding
12 the prevention and identification of, and response to, child sexual abuse
13 and assault, (B) resources to further student, teacher and parental
14 awareness regarding child sexual abuse and assault and the prevention
15 of such abuse and assault, (C) bystander training program, and (D)

16 appropriate interaction with children training program;

17 (2) For students, age-appropriate educational materials designed for
18 children in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, regarding child
19 sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention that may include,
20 but not be limited to, (A) the skills to recognize (i) child sexual abuse
21 and assault, (ii) boundary violations and unwanted forms of touching
22 and contact, and (iii) ways offenders groom or desensitize victims, and
23 (B) strategies to (i) promote disclosure, (ii) reduce self-blame, and (iii)
24 mobilize bystanders; [and]

25 (3) A uniform child sexual abuse and assault response policy and
26 reporting procedure that may include, but not be limited to, (A) actions
27 that child victims of sexual abuse and assault may take to obtain
28 assistance, (B) intervention and counseling options for child victims of
29 sexual abuse and assault, (C) access to educational resources to enable
30 child victims of sexual abuse and assault to succeed in school, and (D)
31 uniform procedures for reporting instances of child sexual abuse and
32 assault to school staff members; and

33 (4) On and after July 1, 2024, a sexual abuse and assault awareness
34 prevention survey that has been developed jointly by the Departments
35 of Public Health, Education and Children and Families with input from
36 stakeholders.

37 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2023, and each school year
38 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall implement
39 the sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program
40 identified or developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

41 (c) No student in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, shall be
42 required by any local or regional board of education to participate in the
43 sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program offered
44 within the public schools. A written notification to the local or regional
45 board of education by the student's parent or legal guardian shall be
46 sufficient to exempt the student from such program in its entirety or
47 from any portion thereof so specified by the parent or legal guardian.

48 (d) If a student is exempted from the sexual abuse and assault
49 awareness and prevention program pursuant to subsection (c) of this
50 section, the local or regional board of education shall provide, during
51 the period of time in which the student would otherwise be
52 participating in such program, an opportunity for other study or
53 academic work.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2024	17a-101q

Statement of Purpose:

To include a sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention survey as part of the state-wide sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program implemented by school districts.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]