



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Raised Bill No. 7250

LCO No. 4940



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPROVEMENT OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PLAY.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-221o of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

3 (a) Each local and regional board of education shall require each
4 school under its jurisdiction to (1) offer all full day students a daily
5 lunch period of not less than twenty minutes, and (2) include in the
6 regular school day for each student enrolled in [elementary school]
7 grades kindergarten to five, inclusive, time devoted to physical
8 exercise or undirected play of not less than [twenty] fifty minutes in
9 total divided among two blocks of time dedicated for such purpose,
10 except that a planning and placement team may develop a different
11 schedule for a child requiring special education and related services in
12 accordance with chapter 164 and the Individuals With Disabilities
13 Education Act, 20 USC 1400 et seq., as amended from time to time. In
14 the event of a conflict with this section and any provision of chapter
15 164, such other provision of chapter 164 shall be deemed controlling.

16 (b) Not later than October 1, [2013] 2019, each local and regional
 17 board of education shall adopt a policy, as the board deems
 18 appropriate, concerning the issue regarding any school employee
 19 being involved in preventing a student from participating in the entire
 20 time devoted to physical exercise or undirected play in the regular
 21 school day, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, as a form of
 22 discipline. For purposes of this section, "school employee" means (1) a
 23 teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school
 24 superintendent, guidance counselor, school counselor, psychologist,
 25 social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional or coach
 26 employed by a local or regional board of education or working in a
 27 public elementary, middle or high school; or (2) any other individual
 28 who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with
 29 students and who provides services to or on behalf of students
 30 enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high school, pursuant to a
 31 contract with the local or regional board of education.

32 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) Each preschool program
 33 provider shall include as part of any preschool program offered by
 34 such provider, time devoted to undirected play of not less than fifty
 35 minutes in total each day divided among two blocks of time dedicated
 36 for such purpose. For purposes of this section, "preschool program"
 37 means an early childhood education program for children ages three
 38 and four years that is (1) offered by a local or regional board of
 39 education, state or local charter school or interdistrict magnet school
 40 operator, (2) a school readiness program, as defined in section 10-16p
 41 of the general statutes, or (3) a child care center, as defined in section
 42 19a-77 of the general statutes, that is funded by the state pursuant to
 43 section 8-210 or 17b-737 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-221o
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require school districts and preschool program providers to include at least fifty minutes of undirected play during each day in order to develop children's social skills, physical development and emotional well-being.

[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.]