

STATE MANDATES

Highlights

As outlined in the *Circular Letter C-4 (August 17, 2006)*, local boards of education must:

- Implement the educational interests of the State
- Give all children as nearly equal advantages as practical
- Provide adequate books, supplies, materials, equipment, and staffing
- Provide for equitable allocation of resources among its schools
- Proper maintenance of facilities
- Provide for a safe school setting
- Make a continuing study of the need for school facilities and a long-term school building program
- Implement an indoor air quality program that provides for ongoing maintenance and facility reviews necessary for the maintenance and improvement of indoor air quality
- Protect and insure all buildings and capitol equipment
- Determine the number, age, and qualifications of students to be admitted to each school
- Implement a written plan for minority staff recruitment
- Have a plan to employ and dismiss teachers
- Provide for transportation and make contracts covering periods of not more than five years
- Designate the schools which shall be attended by various children within the school district
- Adopt and implement policies and procedures for management, discipline, homework, retention, attendance (students must stay in school until age 18), drug and alcohol use, sale and possession of school property, youth suicide, truancy, encouragement of parent-teacher communication, weighted grading for honors and AP courses, bullying, pledge of allegiance, and displaying flags
- Specify basic skills necessary for graduation and determine minimum high school graduation requirement according to state mandates
- Develop and implement a K-3 reading improvement plan
- Employ, evaluate, train and indemnify certified and qualified staff and develop and implement teacher evaluation and professional development programs according to the state mandates
- Report on the programs and activities to reduce racial, ethnic and economic indicators
- Provide at least 180 days for K-12 and 900 hours for full day K and grades 1-12 (450 hours for half-day K)
- Provide full access to regional vocational-technical schools
- Provide special education and related services to all eligible children
- Provide bilingual education, English as a Second Language and other support services
- Provide adult education services for adult residents
- Furnish transportation to eligible public and private schools – including charter and magnet schools
- Allow parents access to their children's records
- Maintain sanitary and safe schools, and operate health programs
- Report child abuse, or suspected child abuse

Series 2006-2007

Circular Letter C-4

To: Superintendents of Schools

From: George A. Coleman, Interim Commissioner of Education

Date: August 17, 2006

Subject: Most Important Educational Mandates and ED001 Certification

Attached you will find a document entitled "Connecticut General Statutes Which Have a Major Impact on the Operation of School Districts." It contains the most important mandates imposed on our school districts by Connecticut state law, and has been revised to include legislation enacted in the 2006 regular session of the General Assembly.

Please note that there are many other statutes and regulations, both state and federal, which impose additional requirements. We have been providing you with as much information as possible, for example, about the federal No Child Left Behind Act. However, this document has been prepared to provide you with a summary of those state laws which we feel are the most vital to the orderly operation of your schools. You may wish to share it with members of your boards of education.

Please note that all Superintendents of Schools are required to certify that their schools have been maintained according to law on the ED001, which is due on September 1st of each year. You may use this document in making this certification, keeping in mind that the certification is for the 2005-06 school year. Therefore, the italicized provisions contained in the document are not applicable to that certification. Please note any exceptions from statutory requirements by letter addressed to Attorney Karen Flanagan, Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs, at the address below.

I hope this document is helpful to you. While it provides general information about the laws governing the operation of public schools, you should always refer directly to the law for specific information.

If you have any questions about these mandates or the ED001 certification, please contact Attorney Karen Flanagan, Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs, at (860) 713-6517.

GAC:kf
Attachment