

## Rationale for Proposed Policy Revisions

Policy	Rationale for Proposed Revisions
1004	In 2023 Public Act No. 23-145 established a statutory definition of the term "sexual orientation." The policy is revised to include the new definition and to reflect the federal requirement that boards of education provide equal access to the Boy Scouts and other groups. There are also technical revisions to the policy for clarity.
4005	Effective October 1, 2023, the definition of "sexual contact" and "sexual assault in the fourth degree" have been expanded to include sexual contact with the deceased. We revised the appendix to reflect the new definitions.
4011	Effective January 1, 2023, the definition of erased records has been expanded. In addition, Connecticut General Statutes Section 31-51i now requires that employment applications that contain a question concerning the criminal history of the applicant also contain a specific notice in "clear and conspicuous language." Revisions identify this notice requirement and include the required notice language.
4012	Revisions to this policy provides additional details regarding eligibility for and administration of leave consistent with the requirements of FMLA and applicable state law.
4016	In 2023, Public Act No. 23-145 established a statutory definition of the term "sexual orientation." Revision to this policy includes this new protected class definition. There are also technical revisions to the policy for clarity.
4017	Effective July 1, 2023 state law requires that the policy be named the "increasing educator diversity

	<p>The new law also changes various uses from "minority" to "diverse" without changing the term's underlying meaning. The revision accounts for the language changes. The Increasing Educator Diversity Act pursuant to Section 10 of Public Act 23-167 is required to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education by March 15, 2024 for review and approval.</p>
5001	<p>In 2022, the General Assembly revised state law regarding the administration of medication in schools to allow specific school personnel to maintain and administer opioid antagonists to students in emergency circumstances, provided certain requirements are met. Among other things, boards of education were authorized to enter into agreements with prescribing practitioners and pharmacists ("prescribers") related to the distribution and administration of opioid antagonists (e.g., Narcan) for the reversal of an opioid overdose. The law was revised again this year to specify that this agreement may apply to any intranasally (administered through the nose) or orally administered opioid antagonists. The law was also revised to allow boards of education and prescribers to enter into agreements permitting boards to install a "secure box" containing opioid antagonists and/or a "vending machine" distributing opioid antagonists on their premises, provided certain requirements are met. The revised policy includes provisions for boards that enter into these new agreements.</p>
5002	<p>In 2021, the Connecticut legislature directed the State Board of Education to amend its definitions of "excused absence" and "unexcused absence" as they relate to student attendance during remote learning. In the fall of 2022, the State Board of Education responded to this mandate by</p>

	revising its definition of "in attendance."
5011	Revisions to the policy and administrative regulation removing the requirement for parents/guardians to sign every fundraiser to require communications go out to parents/guardians in regard to any fundraiser their scholar may participate in.
5016	We revised this policy to include the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid ("FAFSA") graduation requirements for students graduating in 2025 and beyond. Students in these graduating classes are now required to satisfy one of the following before graduation: (1) complete a FAFSA; (2) for students without legal immigration status, complete and submit to a public institution of higher education an application for institutional financial aid; or (3) complete a waiver of completion of the FAFSA and/or financial aid application. We further revised this policy to identify that certain certified educators may complete a waiver on behalf of any graduating student, under specific circumstances. In addition, we have made technical revisions for clarity.
5019	Public Act No. 23-159 and Public Act No. 23-101 add new play-based learning requirements for preschool through fifth grade. Beginning with the <u>2024-2025</u> school year, each board of education must provide for play-based learning during the instructional time of each regular school day for students in preschool and kindergarten. Teachers who instruct students in grades one to five must be permitted to utilize play-based learning during the instructional time of a regular school day. We revised this policy to include these upcoming play-based learning requirements. The new law also includes a definition of "recess," which has been incorporated throughout the policy.



	Includes minor technical revisions for clarity.
5029	<p>Under current law, boards are required to adopt a written policy and procedures for addressing youth suicide prevention and youth suicide attempts. State law also authorizes, but does not require, boards of education to establish a student assistance program, which if established by the board must identify risk factors for youth suicide, procedures to intervene with such youths, referral services, and training for teachers and other school professionals and students who provide assistance to such program. If established, such student assistance program must comply with statutory requirements, including but not limited to Public Act 23-167's new requirement that the risk factors identified in a school district's student assistance program be based on the state-wide strategic suicide prevention plan developed by the Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board ("CSAB"). In addition, boards of education may now use an assessment, from a list recommended by the Connecticut State Department of Education ("CSDE"), to determine the suicide risk of students who: (1) exhibit mental health distress, (2) have been identified as at risk of suicide or (3) are considered to be at an increased risk of suicide based on the risk factors identified by statute and in the CSAB's suicide prevention plan. We updated our policy and administrative regulations to comply with current legislative requirements. Boards of education should take note that, if they choose to adopt a student assistance program and/or use an assessment recommended by the CSDE, they must ensure such program and assessment comply with Public Act 23-167 and relevant state guidance and statutes, and align with board policy and</p>

	<p>administrative regulations regarding suicide prevention and intervention. We updated our policy and administrative regulations to comply with current legislative requirements. Boards of education should take note that, if they choose to adopt a student assistance program and/or use an assessment recommended by the CSDE, they must ensure such program and assessment comply with Public Act 23-167 and relevant state guidance and statutes, and align with board policy and administrative regulations regarding suicide prevention and intervention.</p>
6007	<p>We revised this policy to comply with Public Act No. 23-160, which requires boards of education to make available all curriculum approved by the district's curriculum committee and all associated curriculum materials in accordance with the requirements of the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendments ("PPRA"). The new state law mirrors the existing requirements of the PPRA.</p>
<p><b>NEW POLICY</b> 5035</p>	<p>Under current law, boards of education are required to cause each child five years of age and over and under eighteen years of age who is not a high school graduate and is residing within the district to attend school in accordance with state law. In addition, current law requires children to be at least five years old on or before January 1 of the school year in order to enroll in the public schools. Beginning July 1, 2024, children must turn five years old on or before September 1 of the school year in order for that child's parent or guardian to enroll the child in kindergarten. The new law further provides, effective July 1, 2024, that a child who is not five years old on or before September 1 of the school year may be admitted to public school (1) upon written request by the child's parent or</p>

guardian to the school principal and (2) after the principal and an appropriate certified staff member conduct an assessment of the child to ensure that admitting the child is developmentally appropriate. In light of the new statutory requirements, we drafted a new policy to address admission to the public schools. We will continue to monitor whether additional guidance will be provided by the State Department of Education as related to the new statutory provisions.