

Sec. 274. (Effective July 1, 2015) (a) There is established a regional educational service center special education funding working group. The working group shall: (1) Study the funding provided to and expenditures of regional educational service centers for the provision of special education and related services, including, but not limited to, the sources of special education funds received by regional educational service centers and the ways in which regional educational service centers use such funds to provide special education and related services, and (2) make recommendations regarding how regional educational service centers can access additional special education funding and use such funds more efficiently and in ways that expand the provision of special education services, such as transportation, training and therapeutic services.

(b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and one of whom shall be a representative of the Capitol Region Education Council;

(2) Two members appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be a chief executive officer of a town, city or borough in this state and one of whom shall be a representative of the Area Cooperative Educational Services;

(3) Two members appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a director of pupil personnel and one of whom shall be a representative of Education Connection;

(4) Two members appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall be a superintendent of schools and one of whom shall be a representative of LEARN;

(5) Two members appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials and one of whom shall be a representative of EASTCONN;

(6) Two members appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall be a representative from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and one of whom shall be a representative of Cooperative Educational Services;

(7) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee; and

(8) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

(c) All appointments to the working group shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(d) The chairpersons of the working group shall be (1) a member of the working group jointly selected by the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate, and (2) the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(e) The RESC Alliance shall provide administrative support to the working group.

(f) Not later than July 1, 2016, the working group shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations related to special education funding for and expenditures of regional educational service centers, as described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or July 1, 2016, whichever is later.