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Regulations to Implement the Racial Imbalance Law

Sec. 10-226e-1. Definitions

As used in sections 10-226e-1 to 10-226e-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies:

(1) "Pupil" means an individual for whom instruction is provided in a public elementary and secondary school under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education.

(2) "School" means any public elementary or secondary school under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education, excluding a unique school.

(3) "Board of education" means the board of education of a local or regional school district.

(4) "Grade" means that portion of a school program which represents the work of one regular school term, identified either as kindergarten, grade one, grade two, etc., or in an ungraded school program, identified on the basis of educational need.

(5) "School district" means a school system under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education.

(6) "Jurisdiction" means the authority granted local and regional boards of education by statute to exercise control and supervision of pupils, schools and school districts.

(7) "Plan" means that document submitted by a board of education in compliance with Section 10-226c of the Connecticut General Statutes.

(8) "Racial minorities" means those groups listed under subsection (b) of Section 10-226a of the Connecticut General Statutes.

(9) "Diverse school" means a school, within a school district having a minority school population of fifty percent or more; which school has a minority population of at least twenty-five percent, *but less than seventy five percent*.

(10) "Unique school" means an interdistrict or intradistrict magnet, local or state charter, lighthouse, regional vocational agriculture, regional vocational-technical, alternative, or special education school or other school designated by the Commissioner which offers specialized programs or provides for the voluntary enrollment of students.

(Effective April 1, 1980; amended November 29, 1999)

Sec. 10-226e-2. School reports

Each board of education shall annually submit, in such manner and at such time as specified by the Commissioner of Education, information on the racial composition of each school by grade, the racial composition of the teaching staff of each school, and the number of pupils in each elementary school who are eligible to receive free or reduced price lunches pursuant to federal law and regulation.

(Effective April 1, 1980; amended November 29, 1999)

Sec. 10-226e-3. Determination of racial imbalance

(a) Reports submitted pursuant to Section 10-226e-2 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies will be reviewed annually by the State Department of Education. The proportion of pupils of racial minorities in each school will be compared to the proportion of pupils of racial minorities in comparable grades in the school district as a whole, as follows:

(1) Proportion for the school. The total number of pupils of racial minorities in the school, as reported pursuant to Section 10-226e-2 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, shall be divided by the total number of pupils in the school. The resulting percentage shall be the Proportion for the School.

(2) Comparable proportion for the school district. For all grades of a given school, the total number of pupils of racial minorities enrolled in the same grades throughout the school district shall be divided by the district-wide total pupil enrollment in such grades. The resulting percentage shall be the Comparable Proportion for the School District for such school.

(b) Any school in which the Proportion for the School falls outside of a range from 25 percentage points less to 25 percentage points more than the Comparable Proportion for the School District, shall be determined to be racially imbalanced.

(c) If the State Board of Education determines that one or more schools in a school district is racially imbalanced, said board shall promptly notify the board of education having jurisdiction of such school or schools.

(Effective April 1, 1980; amended November 29, 1999)

Sec. 10-226e-4. Determination of impending racial imbalance

(a) Any school not previously cited for racial imbalance, in which the Proportion for the School falls outside a range of from 15 percentage points less to 15 percentage points more than the Comparable Proportion for the School District, shall be deemed to have impending racial imbalance.

(b) The State Board of Education shall notify, in writing, a board of education having jurisdiction of a school district which includes one or more schools with impending racial imbalance.

(c) Any board of education notified pursuant to subsection (b) of this section may be required to provide the Commissioner of Education with information concerning student building assignments, interdistrict educational activities and other evidence of addressing issues of racial, ethnic and economic isolation.

(Effective April 1, 1980; amended November 29, 1999)

Sec. 10-226e-5. Plans

(a) Any board of education which has received notification from the State Board of Education pursuant to Section 10-226e-3 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies shall submit to the State Board of Education a plan to correct racial imbalance in the school which has been determined to be racially imbalanced. All plans shall be subject to the requirements of this section; provided, however, that any school district so notified, which has a minority student enrollment of fifty percent or more may, in lieu of filing a plan, demonstrate that such racially imbalanced school is a diverse school.

(b) Preparation of the plan.

(1) Upon notification of a determination of racial imbalance, the board of education shall prepare a policy statement addressing racial imbalance in the school district.

(2) The board of education may, in writing, request technical assistance from the Commissioner of Education for the development of a plan. The Commissioner shall, within the limits of available resources, provide such assistance.

(3) The board of education shall conduct a public hearing on its plan prior to submission to the State Board of Education. Adequate notice of the time and place of such hearing shall be published and a complete record of such hearing shall be kept.

(4) A plan shall be submitted to the State Board of Education within 120 days following receipt of notification of a determination of racial imbalance, except that a school district may request an extension of time, not to exceed ninety days, if the number of students causing said imbalance in any school is fewer than five.

(c) Content of the plan.

A plan shall include at least the following items:

(1) The board of education policy statement addressing racial imbalance in the school district;

(2) A description of the process the board of education undertook to prepare the plan;

(3) Presentation and analysis of relevant data, including (A) projections of the racial composition of the public schools in the school district for the subsequent five-year period under the proposed plan, (B) analysis of conditions that have caused or are contributing to racial imbalance in the school district, and (C) analysis of student achievement in the cited school as compared to other schools in the district;

(4) The proposed methods for eliminating racial imbalance and for preventing its recurrence in the school district. These methods may include voluntary interdistrict and intradistrict enrollment plans acceptable to the State Board of Education as an alternative to mandatory pupil reassignment, provided any such voluntary enrollment plan addresses methods which will be used to increase student achievement;

(5) Identification of proposed school construction and school closings, if any, and an explanation of any impact on the plan;

(6) Specific proposals for minimizing any disruptive effects of plan implementation;

(7) Provisions for monitoring plan implementation and evaluating plan effectiveness, including procedures for revising and updating the plan, if necessary;

(8) A timetable for completion of each step in the plan and for implementation of the plan as a whole;

(9) Demonstration that school district resources have been equitably allocated among all schools within the district; and

(10) Demonstration that any disparity in student achievement levels among schools is being addressed and a description of the methods being used to decrease the disparity.

(c) Other plan requirements.

(1) Any inconvenience caused by implementation of the plan shall not be borne disproportionately by any single racial minority nor disproportionately by racial minorities as a whole within the school district.

(2) Implementation of the plan shall not result in segregation within schools, or among or within programs. Any substantially disproportionate racial minority representation within school classes and programs shall (A) be justified solely on the basis of educational need and (B) occur less than a majority of the time during the school day with the exception of pupils enrolled in bilingual education.

(3) A plan shall not include reassignment of pupils whose dominant language is other than English and whose proficiency in English is limited if such reassignment is a denial of existing participation in a program of bilingual education.

(4) Upon submission of a plan, a board of education may request exceptions to one or more of the plan requirements pursuant to this section. The State Board of Education (A) may grant such exception when said board finds such exception shall otherwise contribute to the purposes of Sections 10-226a to 10-226e, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes; and (B) shall grant such exception when the plan is in compliance with a final order of a court of competent jurisdiction or federal administrative agency order which addresses the requirements of Sections 10-226a to 10-226e, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes and which addresses the current condition of racial imbalance found in accordance with Section 10-226e-3 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(Effective April 1, 1980; amended November 29, 1999)

Sec. 10-226e-6. Approval of plans

(a) Upon receipt of a plan pursuant to Section 10-226e-5 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the State Board of Education shall determine whether the plan complies with the requirements of said section and shall (1) approve, (2) conditionally approve, or (3) disapprove such plan, within 60 days.

(b) If the State Board of Education approves the plan, said Board shall promptly notify the board of education submitting the plan, which board shall implement the plan in accordance with the timetable indicated in such plan.

(c) If the State Board of Education conditionally approves the plan, said board shall promptly give written notice to the board of education submitting the plan. Such notice shall specify the portions of the plan requiring revision and the date for submission of such revisions. Those portions of the plan which do not require revision shall be implemented by the board of education in accordance with the timetable indicated in such plan.

(d) If the State Board of Education disapproves the plan, said board shall promptly notify the board of education submitting the plan. Such notice shall specify the reasons for disapproval and the date for resubmission of the plan.

(e) Upon receipt of a revised plan or portion thereof, the State Board of Education shall (1) approve, (2) conditionally approve, or (3) disapprove such revised plan or portion thereof in accordance with the provisions of subsections (b), (c), and (d) of this Section within 30 days following receipt of such revised plan or portion thereof.

(f) If a board of education submits a plan or a revision to such a plan which is not approved by the State Board of Education within one year of notification to the board of education of the existence of racial imbalance pursuant to Section 10-226e-3 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies or a board of education fails to submit a plan or revision within the required time limits, the State Board of Education may undertake such other actions as may be authorized by law to cause the board of education to be in compliance with the provisions of Sections 10-226a to 10-226e, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes and Sections 10-226e-1 to 10-226e-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(Effective April 1, 1980; amended November 29, 1999)

Sec. 10-226e-7. Review of plan implementation

(a) All approved and conditionally approved plans shall be subject to continuing review and evaluation by the State Board of Education. If the State Board of Education finds that the status of the plan is not in conformity with the timetable indicated in such plan, said board shall investigate the reasons for such discrepancy. If the State Board of Education finds that the board of education has failed to take substantial steps to implement the plan in accordance with the timetable therein, the State Board of Education shall notify the board of education of non-compliance with the provisions of Section 10-226a to 10-226e, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes and Sections 10-226e-1 to 10-226e-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and may undertake such other actions as may be authorized by law to cause the board of education to be in compliance.

(b) A board of education may submit proposed amendment to an approved or conditionally approved plan. Such proposed amendment shall not take effect until after review and approval by the State Board of Education. Such proposed amendment shall be accompanied by written materials documenting the reasons for the amendment.

(Effective April 1, 1980; amended November 29, 1999)

Sec. 10-226e-8. Review of the decision of the State Board of Education

(a) Upon notification of disapproval of a plan, a board of education may file written notice with the Commissioner of Education requesting a review of such disapproval. Such request shall be submitted within 30 days following receipt of notification by the State Board of Education of such disapproval.

(b) Within 30 days following receipt of a request for review, a hearing shall be held in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 54 of the General Statutes.

(Effective April 1, 1980; amended November 29, 1999)

Sec. 10-226e-9. Unique schools requirements

(a) Unique schools shall provide data in the same manner as required of all other schools pursuant to Section 10-226e-2 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(b) Unique schools shall report to the Commissioner on all activities undertaken to provide educational opportunities for students to interact with students and teachers from other racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds.

(c) The Commissioner may require the responsible authority of any unique school to appear before him to respond to inquiries concerning the racial, ethnic or economic diversity of students or teaching staff and the educational opportunities provided for students to interact with students and teachers from other racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds.

(Adopted effective November 29, 1999)