



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## Office of Higher Education

### 2016 Legislative Highlights

#### **[Public Act 16-36, An Act Concerning Program Approval for Independent Institutions of Higher Education](#)**

This Act creates an exemption under § 10a-34 of the General Statutes for non-profit independent institutions of higher education that meet certain criteria. New academic programs and program modifications proposed by these schools are exempt from approval by the Office of Higher Education as long as the institution maintains its status. The exemption includes a sunset provision and terminates on July 1, 2018.

#### **[Public Act 16-155, An Act Concerning Private Occupational Schools](#)**

This Act makes several technical changes to the statutes governing CT postsecondary career schools.

#### **[Public Act 16-24, An Act Concerning the Private Occupational School Student Protection Account](#)**

This Act adds distance learning schools and removes home-study schools from the statutes that deal with the Private Occupational School Student Protection Account, and cleans up language modified in 2015 by streamlining the calculation of payments into the account.

#### **[Special Act 16-22, An Act Concerning Teacher Preparation Programs](#)**

This Act requires the CT State Dept. of Education and the Office of Higher Education, by December 31, 2016, to enter into an agreement with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) for the purposes of accrediting and establishing standards for educator preparation programs.

#### **[Public Act 16-120, An Act Concerning Participation in the Standard Authorization Reciprocity Agreement Regarding Distance Learning Programs](#)**

This Act requires, not later than January 1, 2017, the Office of Higher Education to enter into a multistate or regional reciprocity agreement to enable CT and its higher education institutions to participate in a reciprocity agreement establishing uniform standards for programs across states, and eliminating the need for a participating state to assess the quality of a distance learning program offered by an out-of-state institution via that state's authorization and licensing process.

#### **[Public Act 16-44, An Act Concerning Higher Education Certificate Programs](#)**

This Act requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Office of Higher Education to collaborate on developing a written definition for all sub-baccalaureate certificates earned on a for-credit or noncredit basis at an institution of higher education or a postsecondary career school in CT for the purpose of creating consistency among sub-baccalaureate certificate programs. The Act aims to publish a variety of statistics provided by schools regarding such programs to enable prospective students to make informed decisions about programs prior to enrolling.

#### **[Public Act 16-179, An Act Concerning the Governor's Scholarship Program](#)**

This Act makes changes to the Governor's Scholarship program including adjustments to how awards are calculated and allotted, and renaming the program the Roberta B. Willis Scholarship program.

**Public Act 16-2, An Act Adjusting the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2017**

Adjustments to appropriations to the Office of Higher Education for the second half of the biennium include:

	Original	Adjusted
Personal Services	\$1,800,433	\$1,634,530
Other Expenses	\$100,307	\$77,738
Minority Advancement Program	\$2,188,526	\$1,845,041
Alternate Route to Certification	\$97,720	\$47,883
National Service Act	\$299,969	\$268,964
Minority Teacher Incentive Program	\$447,806	\$366,705
Governor's Scholarship	\$41,023,498	\$36,234,026

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