

Sec. 7. Section 10-158a(a) of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof, with the remaining subsections renumbered accordingly (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) Any two or more boards of education may, in writing, agree to establish cooperative arrangements to provide school accommodations services, programs or activities, special education services, health care services, alternative education, as defined in section 10-74j, or administrative and central office duties to enable such boards to carry out the duties specified in the general statutes. Such arrangements may include the establishment of a committee to supervise such programs, the membership of the committee to be determined by the agreement of the cooperating boards. Such committee ~~shall~~ may be a local education agency pursuant to 34 CFR sec. 303.23 and have the power, in accordance with the terms of the agreement, to (1) apply for, receive directly and expend on behalf of the school districts which have designated the committee an agent for such purpose any state or federal grants which may be allocated to school districts for specified programs, the supervision of which has been delegated to such committee, provided such grants are payable before implementation of any such program or are to reimburse the committee pursuant to subsection (d) of this section for transportation provided to a school operated by a cooperative arrangement; (2) receive and disburse funds appropriated to the use of such committee by the cooperating school districts, the state or the United States, or given to the committee by individuals or private corporations; (3) hold title to real or personal property in trust, or as otherwise agreed to by the parties, for the appointing boards; (4) employ personnel; (5) enter into contracts; and (6) otherwise provide the specified programs, services and activities. Teachers employed by any such committee shall be subject to the provisions of the general statutes applicable to teachers employed by the board of education of any town or regional school district. For purposes of this section, the term "teacher" shall include each professional employee of a committee below the rank of superintendent who holds a regular certificate issued by the State Board of Education and who is in a position requiring such certification.

(b) Members of the cooperative arrangement may determine that the cooperative arrangement constitutes the local educational agency pursuant to 34 CFR sec. 303.23, subject to guidelines that may be adopted by the state Department of Education.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of the general statutes or any special act, charter, special act charter, home-rule ordinance or local law, the board size may be comparable to the boards set forth in section 10-63h of the general statutes. The cooperative arrangement may expand to include additional boards of education.

(d) The provisions of section 10-51 of the general statutes may apply to cooperative arrangements in accordance with the cooperative arrangement.