



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5451**

February Session, 2026



**AN ACT CONCERNING POSSESSION OF A FIREARM ON SCHOOL GROUNDS BY A CERTIFIED POLICE OFFICER.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 53a-217b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 (a) A person is guilty of possession of a weapon on school grounds  
4 when, knowing that such person is not licensed or privileged to do so,  
5 such person possesses a firearm or deadly weapon, as defined in section  
6 53a-3, (1) in or on the real property comprising a public or private  
7 elementary or secondary school, or (2) at a school-sponsored activity as  
8 defined in subsection (h) of section 10-233a.

9 (b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to  
10 the otherwise lawful possession of a firearm (1) by a person for use in a  
11 program approved by school officials in or on such school property or  
12 at such school-sponsored activity, (2) by a person in accordance with an  
13 agreement entered into between school officials and such person or such  
14 person's employer, (3) by a peace officer, as defined in subdivision (9) of  
15 section 53a-3, while engaged in the performance of such peace officer's  
16 official duties, [or] (4) by a person while traversing such school property  
17 for the purpose of gaining access to public or private lands open to  
18 hunting or for other lawful purposes, provided such firearm is not

19 loaded and the entry on such school property is permitted by the local  
20 or regional board of education, or (5) by a police officer certified  
21 pursuant to section 7-294d.

22 (c) Possession of a weapon on school grounds is a class D felony.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	53a-217b

**PS**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*