



Long Term Care and Treatment (LTCT) Education programs are public education programs in psychiatric treatment centers for children. The programs serve children who require schooling in a protected environment in order to ensure the health and safety of themselves and others and allow mental health treatment to extend into the school day to fully implement the treatment plan.

The current LTCT funding formula is arbitrary, inequitable and wholly inadequate. House Bill 2956 revises the formula for LTCT education so that it mirrors more closely the education funding formulas already in place under the State School Fund and addresses more closely the costs of providing services and issues of inequity.

At the request of the Legislature, in 2008 the Department of Education (ODE) commissioned a study, known as the Parrish Report, to recommend improvements to LTCT education programs.

In 2011, the Legislature directed ODE to assemble a stakeholder workgroup to "*develop recommendations to address equity in funding and appropriate education levels in residential and day treatment programs.*" The workgroup based its discussions on four attributes outlined in the Parrish Report as part of a fair and rational funding formula. These attributes are that the formula be:

1. Data driven
2. Rationally related to costs of the providing the services
3. Linked to the overall K-12 funding model
4. Foster efficiency

HB 2956 is a product of the 2011 workgroup. It replaces the current arbitrary and inequitable LTCT funding formula with one that applies current student enrollment data to calculations in the Parrish Report for a cost-based, data driven formula. It achieves this by better aligning the LTCT education funding formula with that of the State School Fund, placing LTCT students more on par with their peers.