

2019 -- H 5071

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Introduced By: Representatives Lombardi, and Hull

Date Introduced: January 10, 2019

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-96 of the General Laws entitled "The College and Career
2 Success for All Students Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-96-4.1. Professional development related to reading disabilities.**

4 (a) The department of education shall provide professional development opportunities
5 related to reading disabilities, including dyslexia, to school district personnel. The professional
6 development shall be made available to general education, special education, basic skills and
7 English as a second language teachers, instruction support staff, administrators, supervisors, child
8 study team members, and speech-language specialists. The professional development
9 opportunities shall be designed to account for the various manners in which different school
10 district personnel interact with, or develop instructional programs for, students with reading
11 disabilities.

12 (b) The Rhode Island board of education shall require certain teaching staff members to
13 annually complete at least two (2) hours of professional development instruction on the screening,
14 intervention, accommodation, and use of technology for students with reading disabilities,
15 including dyslexia. The professional development requirement shall apply to general education
16 teachers employed in grades kindergarten through grade three (3), special education, basic skills,
17 and English as a second language teachers, reading specialists, learning disabilities teacher
18 consultants, and speech-language specialists. The board of education may make the professional
19 development opportunities available to other instruction or support staff as the board deems

1 [appropriate.](#)

2 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1 This act would provide for professional development opportunities relating to reading
2 disabilities and would require two (2) hours of professional development instruction pertaining to
3 reading disabilities for certain general education teachers.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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