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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION-STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Introduced By: Representative Joseph M.McNamara

Date Introduced: June 12, 2014

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-7.1-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7.1 entitled "The Paul
2 W. Crowley Rhode Island Student Investment Initiative" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-7.1-2. Accountability for student performance.** -- (a) The board of regents shall
4 adopt and publish statewide standards of performance and performance benchmarks in core
5 subject areas to include writing and mathematics (grades four (4), eight (8), and ten (10)). These
6 standards and performance benchmarks shall be ratified by the board and implemented, and
7 performance standards and performance benchmarks for reading in two (2) grades shall be added.

8 (b) Districts and schools need to be held accountable for student performance results.
9 Therefore, every school district receiving state education aid under this title shall develop a
10 district strategic plan. The district strategic plan shall: (1) be based on high academic standards
11 for student performance consistent with the statewide standards and benchmarks; (2) be the
12 product of a shared community wide process which defines a vision of what students should
13 know and be able to do; (3) address the needs of each school in the district; (4) encourage the
14 development of school-based improvement planning and implementation; (5) include a process
15 for mentoring of new teachers; (6) be designed to improve student achievement with emphasis on
16 closing the performance gaps among groups of students such as the performance gaps correlated
17 with poverty, gender, language background, and disability; (7) include establishment of student
18 intervention teams to address the instructional needs of diverse learners, include high standards of
19 student behavior designed to create an orderly educational environment with due regard for the

1 rights of students, and an asset protection plan; and (8) be consistent with Rhode Island's
2 comprehensive education strategy. In order to assure the most efficient use of resources
3 implementing strategic plans, districts and schools are encouraged to work together as consortia
4 and as part of the regional collaboratives.

5 (c) (1) The strategic plan shall include strategies to improve the performance of students
6 in mathematics, reading, and writing. Each plan must describe a scientific research based, as
7 described in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title 1, Part B, Section 1208 [20 U.S.C.
8 section 6368] reading instruction to improve the reading skills of all students in the early grades
9 (kindergarten through grade five (5)) that is aligned with the board of regents reading policy. The
10 district must develop, implement and evaluate a Personal Literacy Program for each student in
11 these grades who is performing below grade level. These strategies shall be based on the adequate
12 yearly progress expected for students and schools. Annual performance targets for determining
13 whether schools and districts have made adequate yearly progress will be set by the commissioner
14 of elementary and secondary education. The general assembly expects these district strategies to
15 increase the number of fourth grade students performing at or above the proficient standard in
16 mathematics, reading, and writing in each district and school. The increase shall be established
17 annually in accordance with section 16-7.1-4.

18 (2) The general assembly recognizes the contribution of school counselors to positive
19 educational change, to the implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and to the
20 success of students in three (3) developmental domains: academic, career, and personal/social. It
21 endorses the National Standards for School Counseling Programs as developed by the American
22 School Counselor Association (ASCA). Further, the general assembly encourages every district
23 to implement a K-12 standards-based comprehensive, developmental school counseling program.
24 [The general assembly further encourages every district to provide professional development](#)
25 [opportunities for school counselors that focus on best practices in collaborating with business,](#)
26 [industry, and other community organizations to create internships and apprenticeships for](#)
27 [secondary students.](#)

28 (d) Each strategic plan must indicate the manner in which self-studies will be completed
29 at the school level in accordance with guidelines established by the commissioner. Funds shall be
30 appropriated to the department of elementary and secondary education to assist districts with on-
31 site reviews. Schools to be visited shall be determined by the commissioner.

32 (e) Each strategic plan must indicate the method in which school administrators and staff
33 shall achieve and maintain an orderly educational environment in accordance with due process
34 and with due regard for the rights of students.

1 (f) Each strategic plan shall include the development of inter-agency agreements for the
2 coordination of services among state and local agencies responsible for service to children and
3 families. These agreements shall address the identification and provision of services to pre-school
4 children with disabilities and children and youth with behavioral health care needs.

5 (g) All district strategic plans and annual updates shall be submitted to the commissioner
6 of elementary and secondary education no later than May 1, of each year.

7 (h) All strategic plans shall include strategies to decrease obesity and improve the health
8 and wellness of students and employees through nutrition, physical activity, health education, and
9 physical education. Said strategies shall be submitted by May 1st of each year to the Rhode Island
10 department of elementary and secondary education and the Rhode Island department of health.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would encourage school districts to provide professional development
2 opportunities for school counselors that focus on best practices in collaborating with business,
3 industry, and other community organizations to create internships and apprenticeships for
4 secondary students.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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