

2021 -- S 0085

LC000369

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Introduced By: Senators Seveney, Quezada, Pearson, Cano, and DiPalma

Date Introduced: January 26, 2021

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-7.2-8 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7.2 entitled "The
2 Education Equity and Property Tax Relief Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-7.2-8. Accountability.**

4 (a) Pursuant to §§ 16-7.1-3 and 16-7.1-5, the department of elementary and secondary
5 education (the "department") shall use the uniform chart of accounts to maintain fiscal
6 accountability for education expenditures that comply with applicable laws and regulations,
7 including but not limited to the basic education program. This data shall be used to develop criteria,
8 ~~and~~ priorities, and benchmarks specific to each local education agency ("LEA") to improve for cost
9 controls, efficiencies, and program effectiveness. The department ~~of elementary and secondary~~
10 ~~education~~ shall present ~~this~~ the LEA-specific information ~~in the form of an annual report~~ to the
11 LEA to which it applies, and provide a summary of all LEA reports to the governor and the general
12 assembly annually, beginning on August 1, 2022.

13 (b) The department ~~of elementary and secondary education~~ shall establish and/or
14 implement ~~program programs standards~~ to be used in the oversight of the use of foundation aid
15 calculated pursuant to § 16-7.2-3. The department shall propose an incentive fund structure to the
16 general assembly by December 1, 2022 that provides for the state to share in an LEA's non-core
17 costs provided that the LEA meets benchmarks developed by the department pursuant to subsection
18 (a) of this section. Such oversight will be carried out for all LEAs including those receiving in
19 ~~accordance with~~ the progressive support and intervention protocols established in chapter 7.1 of

1 this title.

2 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 require that benchmarks specific to each local education authority (LEA)
2 be developed by the department of education to improve cost controls, efficiencies and program
3 effectiveness. Further, this act would require that the department propose an incentive fund
4 structure to provide for the state to share in an LEA's non-core costs.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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