

2021 -- S 0355

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM

Introduced By: Senators Quezada, and Pearson

Date Introduced: February 25, 2021

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-22 of the General Laws entitled "Curriculum [See Title 16
2 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended by adding thereto the
3 following section:

4 **16-22-34. Dual language immersion model policy and timeline.**

5 (a) The Rhode Island department of education ("department"), in consultation with local
6 education agencies ("LEAs") that have a dual language immersion program, shall create a model
7 policy and timeline to assist LEAs in developing and implementing a dual language immersion
8 program.

9 (b) The LEAs approached by the department to consult on the model policy and timeline
10 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall cooperate with the department's requests or inquires
11 related to any dual language immersion program in a timely manner.

12 (c) The model policy and timeline shall:

13 (1) Be accessed easily by LEAs through electronic publication or other public distribution;

14 (2) Include, but need not be limited to:

15 (i) A detailed description of best practices;

16 (ii) A step-by-step timeline; and

17 (iii) A list of sources consulted and additional resources to which LEAs may refer if any
18 questions arise concerning the development and implementation of a dual language immersion
19 program.

1 (d) The model policy and timeline shall be sent to the president of the senate and the
2 speaker of the house of representatives by January 1, 2022. The department shall also report to the
3 general assembly, beginning on July 31, 2022 and annually thereafter, the number of LEAs with
4 dual language immersion programs, the number of students served in a dual language immersion
5 program by grade level, and the number of teachers for each grade with a dual language immersion
6 program for the most recent school year.

7 (e) The Rhode Island department of education shall:

8 (1) Research the educational impact of dual language immersion programs across New
9 England and report the findings to the general assembly no later than July 31, 2022; and

10 (2) Encourage LEAs to expand or develop courses in world languages so that students in
11 elementary and middle schools have access to such courses.

12 (f) For the purposes of this section, "local education agencies" shall include all of the
13 following within the state of Rhode Island:

14 (1) Public school districts;

15 (2) Regional school districts;

16 (3) State-operated schools;

17 (4) Regional collaborative schools; and

18 (5) Charter schools.

19 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 -- CURRICULUM

- 1 This act would require the department of education to create a model policy and timeline
- 2 to assist local education agencies in implementing a dual language immersion program. This model
- 3 policy and timeline would be sent to the president of the senate and the speaker of the house.
- 4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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