

2010 -- S 2832

LC02419

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Introduced By: Senators DeVall, and Crowley

Date Introduced: April 29, 2010

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-1-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-1 entitled "State  
2 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-1-5. Duties of commissioner of elementary and secondary education.** -- It shall be  
4 the duty of the commissioner of elementary and secondary education:

5 (1) To carry out the policies and program formulated by the board of regents for  
6 elementary and secondary education.

7 (2) To evaluate credentials of applicants for certificates, to verify that the certification of  
8 teachers is in accordance with law and established standards, and to issue certificates at the  
9 direction of the board.

10 (3) To certify the approval of accredited schools.

11 (4) To recommend to the board an outline of the subjects and courses of study and the  
12 instructional standards for elementary and secondary schools.

13 (5) To approve the distribution of state school funds in accordance with law and the  
14 regulations of the board.

15 (6) To verify that school sites and school building plans are in accordance with law and  
16 regulations.

17 (7) To exercise supervision over school libraries and library services.

18 (8) To certify that school bus routes and schedules and all contracts for pupil  
19 transportation conform with provisions of law and the rules and regulations of the board.

1 (9) To require the observance of all laws relating to schools and education.

2 (10) To interpret school law and to decide such controversies as may be appealed to the  
3 commissioner from decisions of local school committees.

4 (11) To prepare and recommend standard forms for the use of local schools.

5 (12) (i) To prepare, with the assistance of the department of administration, manuals of  
6 uniform budgetary and standard financial records and procedures for local school officers. The  
7 board of regents shall adopt uniform local school budgeting procedures no later than July 1, 1989,  
8 and those procedures should include, at a minimum, the following:

9 (A) Provision for uniform classification of revenues and expenditures;

10 (B) Requirements of detailed expenditure estimates and a table of organization including  
11 the proposed staffing of each school;

12 (C) Estimates of receipts and expenditures for the last two (2) completed fiscal years, the  
13 current and ensuing fiscal years; and

14 (ii) To carry out the purpose of this subsection a sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)  
15 not otherwise appropriated shall be included in the appropriation made to support the department  
16 of elementary and secondary education.

17 (13) To receive general supervision from the board of regents for elementary and  
18 secondary education and to appoint the several officers and employees of the department subject  
19 to the provisions of the State Merit System Act, chapters 3 and 4 of title 36.

20 (14) To establish health education, alcohol and substance abuse programs for students in  
21 grades kindergarten (K) through twelve (12), in accordance with section 35-4-18. The program  
22 will consist of the following: A mandated state health education, alcohol and substance abuse,  
23 curriculum for grades kindergarten (K) through twelve (12), a mandated assessment program in  
24 the areas of health, fitness, alcohol and substance abuse, and an in-service training program which  
25 will be developed specifically for the implementation of the mandated curriculum.

26 (15) (i) To appoint a three (3) member committee for the purpose of choosing a "teacher  
27 of the year" among teachers in public school grades kindergarten (K) through twelve (12). The  
28 "teacher of the year" shall receive an award of one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

29 (ii) It is the intent of the general assembly that the funds necessary to carry out the  
30 provisions of this subdivision shall be provided within the annual appropriations act.

31 (16) To create a high-quality summer learning demonstration project whose guidelines  
32 are consistent with the findings of the joint legislative taskforce on summer learning, oversee a  
33 competitive award process that relies on a request of Request For Proposals (RFP) from local  
34 education agencies and at least one community based organization, and develop a mechanism for

1 [evaluating each successfully funded program in the overall demonstration project as a whole.](#)

2 SECTION 2. Section 16-8-9 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-8 entitled "Federal Aid"  
3 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **16-8-9. Administration of program.** -- The department of elementary and secondary  
5 education may enter into any agreements, with any agency of the federal government, with any  
6 school board, or with any other agency or person, prescribe any regulations, employ any  
7 personnel, and take any action, that it may deem necessary to provide for the establishment,  
8 maintenance, operation, and expansion of any school lunch program, and to direct the  
9 disbursement of federal and state funds in accordance with existing provisions of the federal and  
10 state laws. The department of elementary and secondary education may give technical advice and  
11 assistance to any school board in connection with the establishment and operation of any school  
12 lunch program and may assist in training personnel engaged in the operation of these programs.  
13 The department of elementary and secondary education may accept any gift for use in connection  
14 with any school lunch program. [The department of education may encourage school districts to](#)  
15 [provide lunch to students who attend high-quality summer programs.](#)

16 **16-8-10.1. Mandatory school breakfast programs.** -- (a) All public schools shall make  
17 a breakfast program available to students attending the school. The breakfast meal shall meet any  
18 rules and regulations that are adopted by the commissioner.

19 (b) The state of Rhode Island shall provide school districts a per breakfast subsidy for  
20 each breakfast served to students. The general assembly shall annually appropriate some sum and  
21 distribute it based on each district's proportion of the number of breakfasts served in the prior  
22 school year relative to the statewide total in the same year. This subsidy shall augment the  
23 nonprofit school food service account and be used for expenses incurred in providing nutritious  
24 breakfast meals to students.

25 [\(c\) The department of education may encourage school districts to provide breakfast to](#)  
26 [students who attend high-quality summer programs.](#)

27 SECTION 3. Sections 16-60-4 and 16-60-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-60  
28 entitled "Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education" are hereby amended to read  
29 as follows:

30 **16-60-4. Board of regents for elementary and secondary education -- Powers and**  
31 **duties.** -- The board of regents for elementary and secondary education shall have in addition to  
32 those enumerated in section 16-60-1, the following powers and duties:

33 (1) To approve a systematic program of information gathering, processing, and analysis  
34 addressed to every aspect of elementary and secondary education in this state especially as that

1 information relates to current and future educational needs so that current needs may be met with  
2 reasonable promptness and plans formulated to meet future needs as they arise in the most  
3 efficient and economical manner possible.

4 (2) To approve a master plan defining broad goals and objectives for elementary and  
5 secondary education in the state. These goals and objectives shall be expressed in terms of what  
6 men and women should know and be able to do as a result of their educational experience. The  
7 regents shall continually evaluate the efforts and results of education in the light of these  
8 objectives.

9 (3) To formulate broad policy to implement the goals and objectives established and  
10 adopted by the board of regents; to adopt standards and require enforcement and to exercise  
11 general supervision over all elementary and secondary public and nonpublic education in the state  
12 as provided in subdivision (8) of this section. The board of regents shall not engage in the  
13 operation or administration of any subordinate committee, local school district, school, school  
14 service, or school program, except its own department of elementary and secondary education,  
15 and except as specifically authorized by an act of the general assembly. The adoption and  
16 submittal of the budget and the allocation of appropriations, the acquisition, holding, disposition,  
17 and general management of property shall not be construed to come within the purview of the  
18 preceding prohibition. The regents shall communicate with and seek the advice of the  
19 commissioner of elementary and secondary education and all those concerned with and affected  
20 by its determinations as a regular procedure in arriving at its conclusions and in setting its policy.

21 (4) To allocate and coordinate the various educational functions among the educational  
22 agencies of the state and local school districts and to promote cooperation among them so that  
23 maximum efficiency and economy shall be achieved.

24 (5) (i) To prepare with the assistance of the commissioner of elementary and secondary  
25 education and to present annually to the state budget officer, in accordance with section 35-3-4, a  
26 total educational budget for the elementary and secondary sector which shall include, but not be  
27 limited to, the budgets of the department of elementary and secondary education, subordinate  
28 boards and agencies, and state aid to local school districts.

29 (ii) In the preparation of the budget, the regents shall determine priorities of expenditures  
30 for elementary and secondary education purposes of state revenues and other public resources  
31 made available for the support of public elementary and secondary education among the various  
32 education agencies of the state. Nothing contained in this section shall authorize any individual or  
33 group of individuals to reallocate resources in a manner other than that prescribed in the budget as  
34 appropriations by the general assembly.

1 (6) To maintain a department of elementary and secondary education, to provide for its  
2 staffing and organization and to appoint a commissioner of elementary and secondary education  
3 pursuant to section 16-60-6 who shall serve at its pleasure. The commissioner of elementary and  
4 secondary education and the department of elementary and secondary education shall have any  
5 duties and responsibilities as defined in sections 16-60-6 and 16-60-7.

6 (7) To establish other educational agencies or subcommittees necessary or desirable for  
7 the conduct of any or all aspects of elementary and secondary education and to determine all  
8 powers, functions, and composition of any agencies or subcommittees and to dissolve them when  
9 their purpose shall have been fulfilled; provided that nothing contained in this subdivision shall  
10 be construed to grant the regents the power to establish subcommittees or agencies performing the  
11 duties and functions of local school committees except as provided in section 16-1-10.

12 (8) To exercise the authority previously vested in the board of regents for education with  
13 relation to secondary nonpublic educational institutions within the state under the terms of  
14 chapter 40 of this title and other laws affecting nonpublic education in the state, and to cause the  
15 department of elementary and secondary education to administer the provisions of that section.

16 (9) To exercise all the functions, powers and duties which previously were vested in the  
17 board of regents for education, under the provisions of former section 16-49-4(9), including but  
18 not limited to the following specific functions:

19 (i) To approve the basic subjects and courses of study to be taught and instructional  
20 standards required to be maintained in the public elementary and secondary schools of the state.

21 (ii) To adopt standards and qualifications for the certification of teachers and to provide  
22 for the issuance of certificates, and to establish fees for the certification of teachers. The fees  
23 collected for the certification of teachers along with various education licensing and testing fees  
24 shall be deposited by the board of regents as general revenues. The funds appropriated by the  
25 general assembly shall be utilized by the department of elementary and secondary education to  
26 establish and support programs which enhance the quality and diversity of the teaching  
27 profession. The commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall regularly make  
28 recommendations to the board about specific programs and projects to be supported by those  
29 funds. The commissioner shall oversee the funds, assess the effectiveness of its programs and  
30 projects, and make recommendations about the general use and operation of the funds to the  
31 board.

32 (iii) To be responsible for the distribution of state school funds.

33 (iv) To determine the necessity of school construction and to approve standards for  
34 design and construction of school buildings throughout the state.

- 1 (v) To set standards for school libraries and school library services.
- 2 (vi) To make recommendations relative to transportation of pupils to school, school bus  
3 routes, time schedules, and other matters relating to pupil transportation.
- 4 (vii) To enforce the provisions of all laws relating to elementary and secondary  
5 education.
- 6 (viii) To decide and determine appeals from decisions of the commissioner.
- 7 (ix) To prescribe forms for the use of local school committees and local officers when  
8 reporting to the department of elementary and secondary education.
- 9 (x) To adopt and require standard accounting procedures for local school districts, except  
10 as provided for in subdivision (3) of section 16-24-2.
- 11 (xi) To adopt and require standard uniform operating and capital budgeting procedures  
12 for local school districts.
- 13 (xii) To make recommendations that strengthen the linkages between schools and  
14 summer learning programs.
- 15 (10) To establish rules for the approval and accrediting of elementary and secondary  
16 schools.
- 17 (11) To recommend to the general assembly changes in the size and number of the  
18 school districts within the state; and to make any further and other recommendations to the  
19 general assembly as the board of regents may determine to be necessary or desirable, including,  
20 but not limited to, proposals for incentives for the coordination of services and facilities of certain  
21 school districts and the feasibility of granting taxing authority to local school committees upon  
22 their request, and the impact upon the quality of education within that particular community by  
23 granting the request. In carrying out this duty, the board of regents shall periodically issue reports  
24 in school district organizations for selected regions and school districts.
- 25 (12) To exercise all other powers with relation to the field of elementary and secondary  
26 education within this state not specifically granted to any other department, board, or agency, and  
27 not incompatible with law, which the board of regents for elementary and secondary education  
28 may deem advisable.
- 29 (13) To exercise the authority previously vested in the board of regents for education  
30 with relation to adult education as defined in section 16-58-2 and to establish definitive goals for  
31 and operate a comprehensive delivery system for adult education programs and services,  
32 including the counseling and testing of persons interested in obtaining high school equivalency  
33 diplomas, the issuance of diplomas, and the maintenance of a permanent record of applications,  
34 tests, and equivalency diplomas.

1 (14) To promote maximum efficiency and economy in the delivery of elementary and  
2 secondary educational services in the state.

3 (15) To approve a training program for school committee members to enhance their  
4 individual skills and their effectiveness as a corporate body. The training program should include,  
5 but not be limited to, the following roles and responsibilities of school committees: strategic  
6 planning, human and community relations, and school finance and budgeting.

7 (16) Within ninety (90) days after the end of each fiscal year, the board shall submit an  
8 annual report to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the president of the  
9 senate of its activities during that fiscal year. The report shall provide: an operating statement  
10 summarizing meetings or hearings held, subjects addressed, decisions rendered, rules or  
11 regulations promulgated, studies conducted, policies and plans developed, approved, or modified,  
12 and programs administered or initiated; a consolidated financial statement of all funds received  
13 and expended including the source of the funds, a listing of any staff supported by these funds,  
14 and a summary of any clerical, administrative or technical support received; a summary of  
15 performance during the previous fiscal year including accomplishments, shortcomings and  
16 remedies; a synopsis of hearings, complaints, suspensions, or other legal matters related to the  
17 authority of the board; a briefing on anticipated activities in the upcoming fiscal year; and  
18 findings and recommendations for improvements. The director of the department of  
19 administration shall be responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of this subsection.

20 (17) To prepare with the assistance of the commissioner a multi-year plan of priority  
21 educational goals and objectives. This plan should recommend policy objectives, implementation  
22 strategies, and a timetable for major policy initiatives.

23 (18) Each year the governor shall by writing notify the board of regents for elementary  
24 and secondary education concerning broad economic, cultural, and social needs that the education  
25 system needs to consider which the board shall address in developing educational plans and  
26 programs.

27 (19) Appoint a standing committee that will develop a schedule to systematically review  
28 all board policies over a three (3) year period.

29 (20) To prepare with the assistance of the commissioner a statement of regulatory policy.  
30 This policy should set forth the goals and objectives of state regulations which are expressed in  
31 terms of what educational inputs and outputs the board expects regulations to address.

32 (21) (i) To prepare with the assistance of the commissioner of elementary and secondary  
33 education and to present annually to the general assembly by January 1 a report on school  
34 discipline in Rhode Island schools. This report shall include:

- 1 (A) Expulsions by district, including duration and the reason for each action.
- 2 (B) Suspensions by district, including duration and the reason for each action.
- 3 (C) Placements to alternative programs for disciplinary reasons.
- 4 (D) Assaults of teachers, students, and school staff by students.
- 5 (E) Incidents involving possession of weapons on school property. For the purpose of
- 6 this section, a weapon shall be considered any of those weapons described in sections 11-47-2
- 7 and 11-47-42.
- 8 (F) Incidents of the sale of controlled substances by students.
- 9 (G) Incidents of the possession with the intent to sell controlled substances by students.
- 10 (H) Additional demographic information including, but not limited to, the ethnic and
- 11 racial classifications, age, and gender, as prescribed by the commissioner, of each of the students
- 12 involved in the incidents, events or actions described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of this
- 13 subdivision.
- 14 (I) A description of the education program provided to each student suspended for over
- 15 ten (10) consecutive school days in a school year.
- 16 (ii) All school superintendents shall supply the necessary information on forms
- 17 established by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education to the board of regents to
- 18 assist in the preparation of the board of regents' report on school discipline.
- 19 (22) To prepare and promulgate a uniform statewide school reporting system which
- 20 would provide information including, but not limited to, the following:
- 21 (i) Student and teacher attendance rates;
- 22 (ii) Standardized test scores;
- 23 (iii) Demographic profiles;
- 24 (iv) Results of polls of students, parents, and teachers;
- 25 (v) Descriptions of goals, initiatives, and achievements;
- 26 (vi) Best teaching practices;
- 27 (vii) Alternative student assessments;
- 28 (viii) Special programs;
- 29 (ix) Number of student suspensions and teacher grievances and the amount of parental
- 30 involvement.
- 31 (23) The board shall conduct a training course for newly appointed and qualified
- 32 members within six (6) months of their qualification. The course shall be developed by the
- 33 chairperson of the board, approved by the board, and conducted by the chairperson of the board.
- 34 The board may approve the use of any board or staff members or other individuals to assist with



1 training. The training course shall include instruction in the following areas: the provisions of  
2 chapters 42-46, 36-14, and 38-2; and the board's own rules. The director of the department of  
3 administration shall, within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this act, prepare and  
4 disseminate training materials relating to the provisions of chapters 42-46, 36-14, and 38-2.

5 **16-60-6. Commissioner of elementary and secondary education.** -- The regents shall  
6 appoint a commissioner of elementary and secondary education who shall serve at the pleasure of  
7 the regents, provided that the commissioner's initial engagement by the regents shall be for a  
8 period of not more than three (3) years. For the purpose of appointing, retaining, or dismissing a  
9 commissioner, the governor shall serve as an additional voting member of the board of regents,  
10 and provided that in the case of a tie, the president of the senate shall cast the deciding vote. The  
11 position of commissioner shall be in the unclassified service of the state and he or she shall serve  
12 as the chief executive officer of the board of regents and as the chief administrative officer of the  
13 department of elementary and secondary education. The commissioner of elementary and  
14 secondary education shall have the duties that are defined in this section and in this title and any  
15 other additional duties that may be determined by the regents, and shall perform any other duties  
16 that may be vested in the commissioner by law. In addition to the general supervision of the  
17 department of elementary and secondary education and the appointment of the several officers  
18 and employees of the department, it shall be the duty of the commissioner of elementary and  
19 secondary education:

20 (1) To develop and implement a systematic program of information gathering,  
21 processing, and analysis addressed to every aspect of elementary and secondary education in the  
22 state, especially as that information relates to current and future educational needs.

23 (2) To prepare a master plan for elementary and secondary education in the state; to  
24 coordinate the goals and objectives of the public elementary and secondary education sector with  
25 the activities of the nonpublic elementary and secondary education sector where feasible.

26 (3) To communicate with and seek the advice of those concerned with and affected by  
27 the board of regents' determinations.

28 (4) To implement broad policy as it pertains to the goals and objectives established by  
29 the regents; to enforce standards and to exercise general supervision over public elementary and  
30 secondary education in the state and over all elementary and secondary nonpublic education in  
31 the state as provided in subdivision (8) of this section; to assist in the preparation of the budget  
32 for elementary and secondary education and to be responsible upon direction of the regents for  
33 the allocation of appropriations, the acquisition, holding, disposition, and general management of  
34 property.

1 (5) To be responsible for the coordination of the various elementary and secondary  
2 educational functions among the educational agencies of the state including local school districts  
3 and to encourage and to assist in the cooperation among them so that maximum efficiency and  
4 economy may be achieved.

5 (6) To assist the regents in the preparation and presentation annually to the state budget  
6 officer, in accordance with section 35-3-4, of a total state elementary and secondary educational  
7 budget which shall include, but not be limited to, the budget of the department of elementary and  
8 secondary education, subcommittees and agencies, and state aid to local school districts.

9 (7) To supervise the operation of the department of elementary and secondary education,  
10 to have the duties as defined in section 16-1-5 and in this title or in law wherever outlined, and  
11 other additional duties and responsibilities that may be assigned by the regents.

12 (8) To perform the duties vested in the board of regents with relation to nonpublic  
13 elementary and secondary educational institutions within the state under the terms of chapter 40  
14 of this title, and other laws that affect nonpublic elementary and secondary education in the state.

15 (9) To supervise the following specific functions:

16 (i) To recommend the basic subjects and courses of study to be taught and instructional  
17 standards to be maintained in the public elementary and secondary schools in the state.

18 (ii) To recommend standards and qualifications of teachers and to issue certificates upon  
19 approval of standards and qualifications by the regents.

20 (iii) To distribute state school funds in accordance with law and regulations of the board  
21 of regents.

22 (iv) To certify as to the necessity of school construction and that standards and design  
23 are in accordance with law and regulations of the regents and to approve a design for school  
24 construction throughout the state.

25 (v) To certify that school library standards and services are in accordance with law and  
26 regulations of the board of regents.

27 (vi) To recommend to the board of regents matters relating to the transportation of pupils  
28 to school.

29 (vii) To require the observance of all laws relating to elementary and secondary schools  
30 and education.

31 (viii) To interpret school law and to decide any controversies that may be appealed to  
32 him or her from decisions of local school committees.

33 (ix) To prepare and recommend standard forms for the use of local schools when  
34 reporting to the department of elementary and secondary education.

1 (x) To prepare standard accounting and auditing procedures for local school districts,  
2 except for the purposes of subdivision (3) of section 16-24-2 which shall be done in conjunction  
3 with the auditor general.

4 (xi) To prepare uniform budgeting procedures for local school districts.

5 (xii) To determine when special purpose grants made to local school districts shall be  
6 eligible for reimbursement through the school operations aid formula in accordance with chapter  
7 7 of this title, and to designate the purpose(s) for which the local school district may use the  
8 school operations aid reimbursement, including reimbursement on local matching funds used to  
9 support the special purpose grant. The commissioner shall promulgate and adopt rules and  
10 regulations to carry out the intent of this subsection.

11 (xiii) To create a high-quality summer learning demonstration project whose guidelines  
12 are consistent with the findings of the joint legislative taskforce on summer learning, oversee a  
13 competitive award process that relies on a Request For Proposals (RFP) from local education  
14 agencies and at least one community based organization, and develop a mechanism for evaluating  
15 each successfully funded program and the overall demonstration project as a whole.

16 (10) To approve and accredit elementary and secondary schools in accordance with the  
17 policy and regulations of the board of regents.

18 (11) To be responsible for the administration of policies, rules, and regulations of the  
19 board of regents with relation to the entire field of elementary and secondary education within the  
20 state not specifically granted to any other department, board, or agency and not incompatible with  
21 law.

22 (12) To receive from law enforcement agencies a list periodically of the names of Rhode  
23 Island missing children and to disseminate these lists to local school districts.

24 SECTION 4. Section 16-73-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-73 entitled "Education -  
25 Social Services" is hereby amended to read as follows:

26 **16-73-2. Creation of plan.** -- The commissioner of elementary and secondary education,  
27 under the direction of the board of regents for elementary and secondary education, and in  
28 cooperation with directors of the departments of health, administration, children, youth, and  
29 families, mental health, retardation, and hospitals, and the office of higher education (after this  
30 referred to as the children's cabinet) shall develop a strategic plan for creating "child opportunity  
31 zones" as a means to deliver comprehensive and coordinated social services at or near public  
32 school sites, and pursuant to this, undertake activities including but not limited to the award of  
33 demonstration, planning, and training grants. Where feasible and appropriate, such plans may  
34 include programs that are designed to strengthen school links with high-quality summer learning

1 [programs.](#)

2 SECTION 5. Section 16-22-23 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-22 entitled  
3 "Curriculum" is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **16-22-23. Mathematics, English/Language Arts, and Science.** -- (a) The board of  
5 regents for elementary and secondary education shall select and/or develop a statewide  
6 curriculum (i) in Mathematics and English/Language Arts for students in grades kindergarten (k)  
7 through twelve (12) by August 31, 2006 and (ii) in Science for students in grades kindergarten (k)  
8 through twelve (12) by August 31, 2008.

9 (b) The curriculum selected and/or developed by the board of regents shall:

10 (1) Be aligned with state standards and assessments utilized by the state department of  
11 elementary and secondary education;

12 (2) Contain sufficient detail to guide teachers in planning lessons aligned with state  
13 standards and assessments.

14 [\(3\) Include materials, resources, and suggestions that would link students' studies during](#)  
15 [the academic year with activities that take place in high-quality summer learning programs.](#)

16 (c) By November 1, 2006, the commissioner of elementary and secondary education  
17 shall prepare an outline for development and implementation of the science curriculum utilizing  
18 appropriate groups and then shall convene a science curriculum advisory committee for the  
19 purpose of developing recommended curriculum to the board of regents for elementary and  
20 secondary education. The science advisory committee shall include teachers, representatives of  
21 teacher unions, administrators, curriculum directors, school committee members, and experts  
22 designated by the commissioner.

23 SECTION 6. Section 16-88-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-88 entitled "Rhode  
24 Island After School and Summer Learning Program Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

25 **16-88-3. Planning phase for a demonstration afterschool and summer learning**  
26 **program.** -- (a) The Rhode Island department of elementary and secondary education shall begin  
27 planning an initial, demonstration after school and summer learning program that meets high  
28 quality standards, is age/grade appropriate, runs programming during the hours of 3:00 p.m.  
29 through 6:00 p.m. during the week, promotes the healthy development of youth, connects to the  
30 school day, builds on the existing after school and summer learning infrastructure in the state  
31 (including child care, 21st century community learning centers program, child opportunity zones,  
32 community-based organizations and public schools), incorporates experiential learning,  
33 social/emotional development and project-based activities and serves all children and youth from  
34 kindergarten to 12th grade with an emphasis on children and youth who attend high poverty, low

1 performing schools. This planning phase will develop specific goals to expand the demonstration  
2 after school and summer learning program over time and will also identify opportunities to  
3 strengthen learning opportunities for children and youth.

4 (b) During this planning phase, the Rhode Island department of elementary and  
5 secondary education will: (1) Quantify the resources needed to achieve and maintain high quality  
6 standards based on existing quality standards in after school and summer learning programs; (2)  
7 Identify incentives and supports to develop a qualified workforce, including opportunities for  
8 professional development, planning time and staff development.

9 (c) The Rhode Island department of elementary and secondary education will begin to  
10 develop plans to collect and analyze data regarding the impact of the demonstration after school  
11 and summer learning program on participating children's school achievement, behavior during  
12 school hours and social/emotional development.

13 (d) Out of any money in the general fund not otherwise appropriated, the sum of five  
14 hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) is hereby appropriated for the purpose of implementing the  
15 recommendations contained in the final draft report to the legislature of the Rhode Island  
16 department of education regarding after school and summer learning programs to be expended in  
17 the operation of a demonstration project or projects.

18 SECTION 7. 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

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1           This act would enable the department of education to implement its final report on the  
2 creation of a demonstration program for after school and summer learning for Rhode Island  
3 school children. This act would provide funding for the operation of that demonstration program.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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