

2023 -- H 5544

LC001614

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND SUPERINTENDENTS

Introduced By: Representatives Donovan, Cortvriend, and Spears

Date Introduced: February 15, 2023

Referred To: House Education

(Dept. of Education (RIDE))

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-2-27 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-2 entitled "School  
2 Committees and Superintendents [See Title 16 Chapter 97 — The Rhode Island Board of Education  
3 Act]" is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **16-2-27. Eligibility for attendance — Kindergarten.**

5 Every child who has attained, or will have attained, five (5) years of age on or before  
6 September 1 of any school year shall be eligible to attend kindergarten during all the days that the  
7 kindergartens are in session during the school year. Every child who has attained, or will have  
8 attained, six (6) years of age on or before September 1 of any school year shall attend kindergarten  
9 during all the days that the kindergartens are in session during the school year if said child has not  
10 previously attended and successfully completed kindergarten. ~~If~~ When a child is enrolled in  
11 kindergarten, the attendance requirements of § 16-19-1 shall apply. All school districts shall  
12 provide full-day kindergarten to every eligible student pursuant to chapter 99 of title 16.

13 SECTION 2. Section 16-2-28 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-2 entitled "School  
14 Committees and Superintendents [See Title 16 Chapter 97 — The Rhode Island Board of Education  
15 Act]" is hereby repealed.

16 ~~**16-2-28. Eligibility for attendance — First grade.**~~

17 ~~Every child who has completed or will have completed six (6) years of life on or before~~  
18 ~~September 1 of any school year shall be eligible to attend first grade during all the days that the~~  
19 ~~public schools are in session during the school year. Every child shall be eligible to attend first~~

1 ~~grade only upon completion of a state recognized or accredited kindergarten program.~~

2 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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RELATING TO EDUCATION -- SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND SUPERINTENDENTS

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1           This act would amend the provisions of law relative to eligibility for attendance for  
2 kindergarten students.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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