

2023 -- S 0761

LC002333

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE PAUL W. CROWLEY RHODE ISLAND
INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

Introduced By: Senators Goodwin, Cano, and Zurier

Date Introduced: March 23, 2023

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-7.1-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7.1 entitled "The Paul
2 W. Crowley Rhode Island Student Investment Initiative [See Title 16 Chapter 97 — The Rhode
3 Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **16-7.1-5. Intervention and support for failing schools.**

5 (a) The ~~board of regents~~ council on elementary and secondary education shall adopt a series
6 of progressive support and intervention strategies consistent with the Comprehensive Education
7 Strategy and the principles of the "School Accountability for Learning and Teaching" (SALT) of
8 the ~~board of regents~~ council on elementary and secondary education for those schools and school
9 districts that continue to fall short of performance goals outlined in the district strategic plans. These
10 strategies shall ~~initially focus on~~ include, but not be limited to: (1) technical assistance in
11 improvement planning, curriculum alignment, student assessment, instruction, and family and
12 community involvement; (2) policy support; (3) resource oversight to assess and recommend that
13 each school has adequate resources necessary to meet performance goal; and (4) creating supportive
14 partnerships with education institutions, business, governmental, or other appropriate nonprofit
15 agencies. If after a three (3) year period of support there has not been improvement in the education
16 of students as determined by objective criteria to be developed by the ~~board of regents~~ council on
17 elementary and secondary education, then there shall be progressive levels of control by the
18 department of elementary and secondary education over the school and/or district budget, program,

1 and/or personnel. This control by the department of elementary and secondary education may be
2 exercised in collaboration with the school district and the municipality. If further needed, the school
3 shall be reconstituted. Reconstitution responsibility is delegated to the ~~board of regents~~ council on
4 elementary and secondary education and may range from restructuring the school's governance,
5 budget, program, personnel, and/or may include decisions regarding the continued operation of the
6 school. The ~~board of regents~~ council on elementary and secondary education shall assess the
7 district's capacity and may recommend the provision of additional district, municipal and/or state
8 resources. If a school or school district is under the ~~board of regents'~~ council on elementary and
9 secondary education's control as a result of actions taken by the ~~board~~ council pursuant to this
10 section, the local school committee shall be responsible for funding that school or school district at
11 the same level as in the prior academic year increased by the same percentage as the state total of
12 school aid is increased. Commencing July 1, 2023, an order of control and reconstitution of a school
13 or school district by the department of elementary and secondary education and the council on
14 elementary and secondary education shall expire at the conclusion of two (2) academic school
15 years. Any order of control and reconstitution by the department of elementary and secondary
16 education and council on elementary and secondary education in effect at the time this section takes
17 effect shall conclude not later than June 30, 2025. If at any time within six (6) months prior to the
18 expiration of an order of control and reconstitution, there is agreement by the department of
19 elementary and secondary education, the council on elementary and secondary education and the
20 appropriate body within the city or town for the school or school district, that substantial progress,
21 consistent with the objectives of the order of control and reconstitution has been achieved, the
22 duration of the order of control and reconstitution may be extended by six (6) months to complete
23 those objectives.

24 (b) For FY 2007, the department shall dedicate one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)
25 from funds appropriated to support progressive support and intervention and SALT visits to support
26 the Rhode Island Consortium for Instructional Leadership and Training. This consortium is
27 engaged in training school leaders to be more effective instructional leaders in the standards based
28 instruction environment.

29 SECTION 2. Section 16-60-12 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-60 entitled "Council on
30 Elementary and Secondary Education [See Title 16 Chapter 97 — The Rhode Island Board of
31 Education Act]" is hereby amended to read as follows:

32 **16-60-12. Meaning of terms in existing law.**

33 When in any law, resolution, document, record, instrument, proceeding, or other place the
34 words "board of education," "state board of education," "board of regents," or "board of regents

1 for education” as they shall apply to elementary and secondary education shall appear they shall be
2 construed to mean ~~"board of regents for elementary and secondary education"~~ ["council on](#)
3 [elementary and secondary education"](#).

4 SECTION 3. 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 -- THE PAUL W. CROWLEY RHODE ISLAND
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1 This act would provide commencing in fiscal year 2023, that reconstitution and control of
2 a school or district by the department of elementary and secondary education would not exceed two
3 (2) years except for a possible six (6) month extension when substantial progress is achieved. Any
4 reconstitution in effect at the time of passage would conclude no later than June 30, 2024.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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