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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- EDUCATION MENTORSHIP PROGRAM ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Casimiro, McNamara, Potter, Read, Hopkins, Shallcross
Smith, Kazarian, Alzate, Diaz, and Stewart
Date Introduced: February 06, 2026

Date Introduced: February 08, 2028

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Findings.

2 The general assembly finds and declares that student mentorship programs are most
3 effective when the mentor has an established relationship with the student, an understanding of the
4 student's educational, social, and personal background, and professional training in student support
5 and development. The purpose of this chapter is to ensure that education mentorship services
6 provided in public schools are delivered by qualified professionals who possess the training,
7 certification, and access necessary to support the academic, social, and emotional success of
8 students.

9 SECTION 2. Title 16 of the General Laws entitled "EDUCATION" is hereby amended by
10 adding thereto the following chapter:

11 [CHAPTER 117](#)

12 EDUCATION MENTORSHIP PROGRAM ACT

16-117-1. Short title.

14 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Education Mentorship Program Act".

16-117-2. Definitions.

16 For purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

17 (1) "Certified support educator" means an individual who holds a valid Rhode Island

18 educator certification or license in a student support discipline including, but not limited to:

19 (i) School guidance counselor;

1 (ii) School social worker;
2 (iii) School psychologist; or
3 (iv) Any other certified or licensed student support professional as determined by the
4 department of education.

5 (2) "Education mentor" means an adult assigned or designated by a school district or public
6 school to provide ongoing guidance, support, advocacy, and mentorship to a student or group of
7 students.

8 (3) "Public school" means any local education agency, school district, public charter
9 school, or state-operated school.

10 **16-117-3. Qualifications of education mentors.**

11 (a) Any education mentor providing mentorship services to students pursuant to this
12 chapter shall be a certified support educator.

13 (b) The education mentor shall, to the extent practicable:

14 (1) Have an existing professional relationship with the student; or
15 (2) Be assigned in a manner that allows sufficient time and access to develop a meaningful
16 and sustained relationship with the student.

17 (c) Education mentors shall have access to relevant student records, support plans, and
18 school-based resources, consistent with state and federal law, in order to effectively understand and
19 respond to the student's academic, social, emotional, and environmental needs.

20 **16-117-4. Role and responsibilities of education mentors.**

21 An education mentor under this chapter may:

22 (1) Provide individualized guidance and support aligned with the student's academic and
23 personal needs;

24 (2) Assist in identifying barriers to student success including, social, emotional, behavioral,
25 or environmental factors;

26 (3) Coordinate with educators, families, and community-based service providers, as
27 appropriate;

28 (4) Utilize evidence-based support strategies consistent with the mentor's professional
29 training and certification; and

30 (5) Advocate for appropriate interventions, accommodations, or services to support student
31 well-being and achievement.

32 **16-117-5. Rules and regulations.**

33 The department of education shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to
34 implement the provisions of this chapter including, standards for mentor assignment, caseloads,

1 and program oversight.

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 -- EDUCATION MENTORSHIP PROGRAM ACT

- 1 This act would require that student mentors in public schools be certified support educators,
- 2 ensuring mentors have professional training, established student relationships, and access to skills
- 3 and information needed to support student success.
- 4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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