

2026 -- H 7894 SUBSTITUTE A

LC005058/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- ACCESS FOR CONGRESSIONALLY CHARTERED  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Introduced By: Representatives Casey, McNamara, Speakman, Shallcross Smith,  
Corvese, O'Brien, Read, Biah, and Azzinaro

Date Introduced: February 27, 2026

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 16 of the General Laws entitled "EDUCATION" is hereby amended by  
2 adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 117

4 ACCESS FOR CONGRESSIONALLY CHARTERED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

5 ORGANIZATION

6 **16-117-1. Definitions.**

7 For purposes of this section:

8 (1) "Youth organization" means a national youth development organization chartered by  
9 Congress and listed in the following sections of Title 36 of the United States Code: §§30901("Boy  
10 Scouts of America"), 31101("Boys and Girls Clubs of America"), and 80301 ("Girl Scouts of the  
11 United States of America"); and which:

12 (i) Serves young people under twenty-one (21) years of age; and

13 (ii) Has an educational mission that develops life skills, leadership, workforce readiness,  
14 physical fitness and promotes community service, civic engagement, and patriotism.

15 **16-117-2. Access to schools.**

16 Upon request of a youth organization, each public school district and each public charter  
17 school shall provide:

18 (1) Annual recruitment opportunity. At least one opportunity per school year for

1 representatives of the youth organization to provide displays, brochures, flyers, on school property  
2 and the use of other existing digital communication channels for the purpose of student recruitment.

3 (2) Classroom presentation. A scheduled date and time allowing representatives of the  
4 youth organization to speak with students for up to ten (10) consecutive minutes during classroom  
5 time and provide informational materials; provided that:

6 (i) The presentation does not occur during instruction in a core curriculum subject; and

7 (ii) School operations and instructional time are not materially disrupted.

8 (3) Parent/guardian notification. Advance notice to parents or guardians describing:

9 (i) The scheduled presentation; and

10 (ii) The right of any parent or guardian to withhold consent for their child's participation.

11 **16-117-3. Equal access not required for non-qualifying groups.**

12 A school district or charter school shall not be required to provide the access described in  
13 § 16-117-2 to any entity not meeting the definition of a youth organization under § 16-117-1.

14 **16-117-4. Construction.**

15 Nothing in this section shall be construed to:

16 (1) Interfere with school safety policies;

17 (2) Authorize youth organizations to conduct activities inconsistent with school rules; or

18 (3) Limit the authority of school administrators to maintain order or discipline.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This act would require public schools to give certain congressionally chartered youth  
2 organizations limited access for recruitment and brief student presentations with parent notice,  
3 while preserving school safety and discretion.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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