

2026 -- H 8362

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM -- FOSTER CARE YOUTH ACADEMIC
REPORTS

Introduced By: Representatives Casimiro, Kazarian, Potter, McEntee, Speakman,
Donovan, Cruz, Hopkins, Craven, and Caldwell

Date Introduced: March 27, 2026

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-22 of the General Laws entitled "Curriculum [See Title 16
2 Chapter 97 — the Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended by adding thereto the
3 following section:

4 **16-22-1.1. Definitions.**

5 For the purposes of this chapter:

6 (1) "504 accommodations" refers to supports and adjustments provided to a kindergarten
7 through grade twelve (K–12) student with a disability under Section 504 of the federal
8 Rehabilitation Act 29 U.S.C. § 701 et seq., so the student can access school on an equal basis with
9 peers.

10 (2) "Alternative" means tailored instruction and support for students who cannot have their
11 needs met in a traditional setting.

12 (3) "Disproportionally failing" means students in foster care are experiencing academic
13 failure, restrictive placements, or exclusionary discipline at significantly higher rates than their
14 representation in the overall student population.

15 (4) "Expelled" means long-term or permanent removal from their school for serious
16 misconduct.

17 (5) "Foster care" means twenty-four (24) hour substitute care for children placed away
18 from their parents or guardians including, but not limited to, placements in licensed foster family

1 [homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care](#)
2 [institutions, and pre-adoptive homes.](#)

3 [\(6\) “Special education services” means services provided pursuant to § 16-24-1. Special](#)
4 [education services means specially designed instruction, at no cost to parents, to meet the unique](#)
5 [needs of children with disabilities ages three through twenty-two \(3–22\), including classroom](#)
6 [instruction, physical education, and related services.](#)

7 [\(7\) “Suspension from school” means a disciplinary action where a student is temporarily](#)
8 [removed from their regular classes and/or school environment because of a violation of school rules](#)
9 [or policies. Many systems distinguish between in-school suspension \(student stays at school in a](#)
10 [supervised, separate setting\) and out-of-school suspension \(student is sent home and excluded from](#)
11 [school grounds\).](#)

12 SECTION 2. Section 16-22-9.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-22 entitled "Curriculum
13 [See Title 16 Chapter 97 — the Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended to read
14 as follows:

15 **16-22-9.1. Foster care youth academic reports.**

16 (a) Every superintendent of schools employed in accordance with the provisions of chapter
17 2 of this title shall on or before September 15, 2022, and annually thereafter on or before September
18 15, complete a report on the progress and status of educational achievement and development of
19 all foster care youth attending every public school under the superintendent’s care and supervision.

20 The report shall include, but not be limited to:

21 (1) The total number of foster care youth identified by school and grade of instruction;

22 (2) The number of foster care youth receiving supplementary literacy instruction pursuant
23 to the provisions of § 16-67-2;

24 (3) The foster care youth uniform testing scores for testing pursuant to the provisions of §
25 16-22-9, and the percentage of foster care youth who meet or exceed the mean average score for
26 uniform testing;

27 (4) The percentage of foster care youth meeting academic standards;

28 (5) The number and percentage of foster care youth receiving alternative or special
29 education services;

30 (6) The number of foster care youth suspended or expelled from school during the
31 academic year [and a breakdown by infraction type](#);

32 (7) The number of foster care youth identified as involved in chronic absenteeism, truancy,
33 or as drop-outs; ~~and~~

34 (8) The number of foster care youth assigned to advanced placement~~;~~

1 (9) The number and percentage of foster care youth receiving 504 accommodations;

2 (10) The number of foster care youth who were evaluated and/or determined special
3 education or 504 eligible;

4 (11) The number of foster care youth in each school who have an appointed surrogate
5 parent pursuant to the provisions of § 33-15.1-2; and

6 (12) The percentage of foster care youth who are on track to graduate in four (4) years,
7 based on credit attainment.

8 (b) If the superintendent determines based on the information provided in the report
9 prepared pursuant to subsection (a) of this section that foster care youth are disproportionately
10 failing to meet academic standards or are disproportionately subject to school discipline compared
11 to the overall student population, then the superintendent shall develop a remediation plan and
12 include the remediation plan to address identified gaps and improve outcomes for students in foster
13 care as part of the report promulgated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

14 (c) The school department shall develop a remediation plan and submit to RIDE within
15 twenty-one (21) calendar days of the superintendent's determination made pursuant to subsection
16 (a) of this section. Remediation plans for each district shall be reviewed and approved by RIDE
17 within twenty-one (21) calendar days from the date the plan is received.

18 (d) Any district required to submit a remediation plan shall submit a progress report in
19 March and in June to report on corrective action taken and a resubmission of all data outlined in
20 subsection (a) of this section. These progress reports shall be submitted to all parties outlined in
21 subsection (f) of this section.

22 (e) Should the progress reports illustrate a lack of improvement in outcomes, the report
23 shall identify what alternatives should be considered to improve performance.

24 ~~(e)~~(f) Every superintendent shall provide a copy of the reports promulgated pursuant to
25 subsection (a) of this section to the commissioner of elementary and secondary education and the
26 applicable school committee, the office of the governor, the senate president, the speaker of the
27 house, the director of department of children, youth & families, the Rhode Island family court, and
28 the office of the child advocate.

29 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 -- CURRICULUM -- FOSTER CARE YOUTH ACADEMIC
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1 This act would expand foster care academic youth reports to include information regarding
2 504 eligibility, graduation progress and surrogate parents. The act would require implementation
3 of additional strategies to improve performance and additional progress reports.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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