

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: Senators Acosta, Dimitri, and Tikoian

Date Introduced: May 15, 2026

Referred To: Senate 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 any national youth development organization chartered by
9 Congress and listed in the following sections of Title 36 of the United States Code: §§30101, 30901,
10 31101, 40301, 70901, 80301, 130501, 140101, and 154101; and which:

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

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

14 **16-117-2. Access to schools.**

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

17 (1) Annual recruitment opportunity. At least one opportunity per school year for
18 representatives of the youth organization to provide displays, brochures, flyers, on school property

1 and the use of other existing digital communication channels for the purpose of student recruitment.

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

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

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

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

8 (i) The scheduled presentation; and

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

10 **16-117-3. Equal access not required for non-qualifying groups.**

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

13 **16-117-4. Construction.**

14 Nothing in this section shall be construed to:

15 (1) Interfere with school safety policies;

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

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

18 SECTION 2. 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 -- ACCESS FOR CONGRESSIONALLY CHARTERED
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

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

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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