

2021 -- S 0286

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM

Introduced By: Senators Pearson, Gallo, Cano, and Seveney

Date Introduced: February 18, 2021

Referred To: Senate 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 **16-22-34. Instruction support.**

5 (a) For the purpose of this section, "local education agencies" ("LEAs") shall include all of
6 the following within the state of Rhode Island:

7 (1) Public school districts;

8 (2) Regional school districts;

9 (3) State-operated schools;

10 (4) Regional collaborative schools; and

11 (5) Charter schools.

12 (b) The commissioner of elementary and secondary education (the "commissioner") shall
13 direct the department of elementary and secondary education (the "department") to provide
14 professional support and assistance in partnership with LEAs regarding effective ways to evaluate,
15 on an ongoing basis, student improvement and proficiency. The goal of such support shall be to
16 increase student achievement consistent with state standards. In general, such support shall include,
17 but need not be limited to:

18 (1) The department understanding the LEA's size, budget, and demographics to support
19 and tailor the development of effective systems;

1 (2) The department assisting the LEA in a budget review to identify, maximize, restructure,
2 and/or add a curriculum leadership infrastructure. At the district level, personnel to involve may
3 include: assistant superintendents, district curriculum directors or coordinators; at the school level,
4 personnel may include: teaching and learning coaches, mentor/induction coaches, content leaders,
5 and teacher leaders; and

6 (3) The department providing the LEA with ongoing opportunities to understand the
7 design, use, and impact of assessments, as well as how they may guide shifts in curriculum
8 instruction.

9 (b) Specifically, such support shall include, but is not limited to:

10 (1) Engaging in a root-cause analysis;

11 (2) Designing student assessments to provide data that captures student improvement and
12 proficiency accurately;

13 (3) Using and analyzing the data collected to inform LEA actions including, but not limited
14 to, modification of instructional techniques;

15 (4) Identifying assets and challenges;

16 (5) Discussing the role that leadership, culture, and social climate play in the individual
17 schools within the LEA;

18 (6) Collaborating with teachers, students, administrators, parents, and any other
19 stakeholders regarding barriers to learning and improving school culture.

20 (c) The commissioner shall provide quarterly reports to the board of education regarding
21 the reallocation and use of department resources to support LEAs pursuant to this section.

22 (d) On or before June 30, 2021, and every year thereafter on or before June 30, the
23 commissioner shall report to the committees having jurisdiction over education issues in the senate
24 and the house of representatives, the results of the support efforts provided in this section.

25 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 -- CURRICULUM

1 This act would direct the department of elementary and secondary education to provide
2 professional support and assistance to local education agencies ("LEAs") regarding effective ways
3 to use data such as the LEA's budget and demographics, school culture, and assessments to improve
4 student performance.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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