

2022 -- H 7480

LC004466

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - ARIANNA'S SPEECH FLUENCY ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Amore, Fenton-Fung, and Quattrocchi

Date Introduced: February 16, 2022

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 67.3

4 ARIANNA'S SPEECH FLUENCY ACT

5 **16-67.3-1. Legislative findings and declarations.**

6 The general assembly finds and declares:

7 (1) This chapter shall be known as the "Arianna's Speech Fluency Act" in recognition of  
8 Arianna Maggiacomo, a child from the state of Rhode Island with speech fluency issues.

9 (2) The Rhode Island economy will benefit from a workforce which can read at grade level.

10 (3) All students will benefit from teachers who are trained in a language-based,  
11 multisensory, structured, sequential, cumulative, cognitive and flexible reading program, such as  
12 the Orton-Gillingham classroom education program.

13 (4) There are many teachers throughout the state who have expressed interest in learning a  
14 language-based, multisensory, structured, sequential, cumulative, cognitive and flexible reading  
15 program, such as Orton-Gillingham, but they, and the school districts, lack the funds to take the  
16 course.

17 **16-67.3-2. Pilot program created - Orton-Gillingham classroom educator program.**

18 There is hereby created a three (3) year pilot program that will provide teachers with an  
19 opportunity to learn a language-based, multisensory, structured, sequential, cumulative, cognitive

1 [and flexible reading program, such as Orton-Gillingham up to and until June 30, 2025.](#)

2 **16-67.3-3. Department of elementary and secondary education responsibilities.**

3 [\(a\) The department of elementary and secondary education \(the "department"\) shall](#)  
4 [disseminate, using web-based technology, research-based best-practice methods by which the state](#)  
5 [and district school boards and committees shall evaluate and improve the professional development](#)  
6 [system of teachers in regard to student speech fluency.](#)

7 [\(b\) The department shall also disseminate, using web-based technology, professional](#)  
8 [development in the use of integrated digital instruction at schools that include middle grades.](#)

9 **16-67.3-4. Teacher professional development and training.**

10 [No later than September 1, 2022, the department shall develop and make available on its](#)  
11 [website resources to assist school districts in developing a program to ensure all teachers and school](#)  
12 [administrators have access to materials to support professional awareness of best practices on:](#)

13 [\(1\) Recognition of the characteristics of student speech fluency pathology; and](#)

14 [\(2\) Evidence-based interventions and accommodations for student speech fluency](#)  
15 [pathology.](#)

16 **16-67.3-5. Appropriation for teacher training.**

17 [The general assembly for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and for each year thereafter](#)  
18 [until July 1, 2025, shall appropriate a minimum of fifty thousand dollars \(\\$50,000\) for teacher](#)  
19 [training in the Orton-Gillingham classroom educator program or similar program as designated by](#)  
20 [the department of education.](#)

21 **16-67.3-6. Rules and regulations.**

22 [The department shall promulgate rules, regulations, and procedures for teachers and/or](#)  
23 [school districts to seek funding and/or reimbursement for funds expended for training in the Orton-](#)  
24 [Gillingham classroom educator program. Funding and/or reimbursement shall be provided in](#)  
25 [compliance with the rules, regulations and procedures promulgated by the department for courses](#)  
26 [consisting of at least five \(5\) days of training up to a maximum of ten \(10\) days of training in the](#)  
27 [Orton-Gillingham classroom educator program.](#)

28 **16-67.3-7. Reporting required - Sunset provision.**

29 [\(a\) On or before January 31, 2025, the department shall submit to the general assembly, a](#)  
30 [report on the program that shall include the number of teachers who participated in the training](#)  
31 [program and the districts in which they taught.](#)

32 [\(b\) Unless extended by the general assembly, the Orton-Gillingham classroom educator](#)  
33 [pilot program and the provisions of this chapter shall sunset on July 1, 2025.](#)

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022 and shall sunset on July 1, 2025.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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RELATING TO EDUCATION - ARIANNA'S SPEECH FLUENCY ACT

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1           This act would provide that the general assembly would appropriate \$50,000 annually for  
2 a three (3) year pilot program on teacher training in the Orton-Gillingham classroom educator  
3 program.

4           This act would take effect on July 1, 2022 and would sunset on July 1, 2025.

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