

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 Quattrocchi, Nardone, Price, and Filippi

Date Introduced: March 02, 2022

Referred To: House Finance

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 "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 shall benefit from a workforce which can read at grade
10 level.

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

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

18 **16-67.3-2. Department of elementary and secondary education responsibilities.**

19 (a) The department of elementary and secondary education (the "department") shall

1 disseminate, using web-based technology, research-based best-practice methods by which the state
2 and district school boards and committees shall evaluate and improve the professional development
3 system of teachers in regard to student speech fluency.

4 (b) The department shall also disseminate, using web-based technology, professional
5 development in the use of integrated digital instruction at schools that include middle grades.

6 **16-67.3-3. Teacher professional development and training.**

7 No later than September 1, 2023, the department shall develop and make available on its
8 website resources to assist school districts in developing a program to ensure all teachers and school
9 administrators have access to materials to support professional awareness of best practices on:

10 (1) Recognition of the characteristics of student speech fluency pathology; and

11 (2) Evidence-based interventions and accommodations for student speech fluency
12 pathology.

13 **16-67.3-4. Appropriation for teacher training.**

14 For fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 and for each year thereafter, the general assembly
15 shall appropriate a minimum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to establish a revolving fund for
16 teacher training in the Orton-Gillingham classroom educator program or similar program as
17 designated by the department of education.

18 **16-67.3-5. Rules and regulations.**

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

25 **16-67.3-6. Training for administrators.**

26 Commencing in the 2023-2024 school year, all elementary school and middle school
27 principals and vice principals shall have to complete professional development through the
28 completion of the twelve (12) hour phonological awareness Orton-Gillingham training. The costs
29 for these trainings shall be paid from the revolving fund authorized by this chapter

30 **16-67.3-7. Tracking program.**

31 The department shall create a system to track applications, approvals, and disbursements
32 from the revolving fund established by this chapter, and shall provide a report on this tracking by
33 July 30 of every year, commencing on July 30, 2023, to the governor, the speaker of the house of
34 representatives, the president of the senate, and the chairs of the house education committee and

1 [the senate education committee.](#)

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION - ARIANNA'S SPEECH FLUENCY ACT

1 This act would establish "Arianna's Speech Fluency Act" to promote teacher training in
2 language-based programs such as the Orton-Gillingham method. This act would also provide that
3 the general assembly would appropriate \$50,000 annually to support a revolving fund for teacher
4 training in an Orton-Gillingham classroom educator program. This act would also provide that the
5 department of elementary and secondary education would disseminate various practices and
6 materials regarding the best practices to be used to recognize characteristics of speech fluency
7 pathology and on evidence-based interventions and accommodations for student speech fluency
8 pathology.

9 This act would take effect on July 1, 2022.

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