

2013 -- S 0968

=====  
LC02670  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

—————  
A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - THE RHODE ISLAND STUDENT INVESTMENT  
INITIATIVE

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, McCaffrey, Goodwin, Ruggerio, and Jabour

Date Introduced: May 30, 2013

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-7.1-13 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7.1 entitled "The Paul  
2 W. Crowley Rhode Island Student Investment Initiative" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 ~~16-7.1-13. State leadership in conducting annual assessments of student~~  
4 ~~performance.~~ State leadership in conducting annual assessments of student performance -  
5 notice – supports and accommodating – alternative tests. – (a) Setting high standards for  
6 student performance must be paired with related assessments that will determine what progress  
7 the state is making toward bringing all children to high levels of achievement. A state assessment  
8 program shall be continued and expanded in core areas (mathematics, reading, writing and  
9 health). The program shall include performance standards and an annual report that disaggregates  
10 performance by race, poverty, native language and gender. The general assembly shall annually  
11 appropriate funds to support the programs, and the amount shall be recalculated annually. The  
12 commissioner of education shall implement the state assessment program.

13 (b) The department of education shall provide notice to all parents of students who are  
14 juniors and those parents of students who are seniors and have yet to meet the state assessment  
15 requirement for graduation, all teachers and all administrators regarding the high school  
16 graduation standards and the process those students must adhere to if they do not meet the  
17 proficiency standard of the state assessment set forth by the board of education. Said notice shall  
18 be clear, concise and use lay person terminology. Said notice shall also set forth the list of

1 alternative testing approved by the board of education as of the date of the notice, and direct  
2 parents to the local school district for the waiver and appeal process. Said notice shall provide in  
3 bold print that students who are provided with accommodations shall be afforded those  
4 accommodations when taking the state assessment unless prohibited by federal law or regulation.  
5 If a student is not provided with the appropriate accommodations during the administration of the  
6 state assessment, said student will be provided with an additional opportunity to take the state  
7 assessment within that same school year and the aforementioned notice shall contain this  
8 information.

9 (c) The department of education shall provide school districts with guidance as to the  
10 appropriate, effective and efficient supports that students may be given if they fail to meet the  
11 proficiency standard of the state assessment set forth as a graduation requirement by the board of  
12 education. Students shall be provided with more support from the school district than solely  
13 taking practice exams, unless it is in the best interest of the student. Said students shall not be  
14 removed from other core classes to receive additional supports unless it is the best interest of the  
15 student and this determination must be made on an individual student basis.

16 (d) The department of education shall develop the state math assessment in other  
17 languages, as an alternative test to satisfy the graduation requirement no later than September 1,  
18 2015. English language learners may be required to take the math state assessment in English to  
19 comply with federal laws, regulations, guidelines or as a condition of receiving funding.

20 (e) The department of education and/or local school committees are encouraged to  
21 engage local higher education institutions, public and private, to provide students with volunteer  
22 assistance including, but not limited to, tutoring or other supports that students need to increase  
23 their performance in school. Said volunteers must meet the requirements of section 16-2-18.1 if  
24 applicable.

25 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC02670  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T  
RELATING TO EDUCATION - THE RHODE ISLAND STUDENT INVESTMENT  
INITIATIVE

\*\*\*

1           This act would require the department of education to provide notice to parents of junior  
2 and senior students who have yet to meet the state assessment requirement for graduation as well  
3 as teachers and administrators regarding high school graduation standards and the process those  
4 students must follow to achieve same, along with all accommodations available to them. The act  
5 would also require the department to provide school districts with guidance as to support  
6 available to said students, to develop a state math assessment in other languages for English  
7 language learners, and to encourage schools to provide students with volunteer assistance.

8           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC02670  
=====