

2013 -- S 1035

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN ACCESSIBILITY ACT

Introduced By: Senator Hanna M. Gallo

Date Introduced: June 27, 2013

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 16-99-4 and 16-99-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-99
2 entitled "Full-Day Kindergarten Accessibility Act" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-99-4. Eligible school districts; funding. --**

4 (a) A school district shall be eligible to ~~receive~~ request funding pursuant to subsection
5 ~~16-96-4(b)~~ 16-99-4(b), if:

6 (1) The school district is a public school district; and

7 (2) The school district operates a half-day kindergarten program as of September 1, ~~2011~~
8 2012, but not a full-day kindergarten, as defined herein, serving more than one-half of the
9 kindergarten students in the district as determined on a headcount basis.

10 (b) Subject to appropriation, beginning with school year 2013-2014, the commissioner of
11 elementary and secondary education shall approve up to four (4) eligible public school districts
12 per year to voluntarily implement a full-day kindergarten program as defined herein. The
13 aforementioned ~~schools~~ school district shall receive funding to offset a portion of the reasonable
14 one-time, start-up costs including, but not limited to, desks, books, facility upgrades, ancillary
15 costs associated with relocation of students, costs associated with the development and
16 implementation of new curriculum, and any other necessary expenses associated with each
17 school's implementation of a full-day kindergarten program. Funds will be appropriated based
18 upon criteria established by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education to ensure
19 the quality and sustainability of the full-day kindergarten programs implemented.

1 (c) If more than four (4) eligible school districts apply in one year, or if the appropriation
2 does not support four (4) eligible districts, the commissioner of elementary and secondary
3 education shall determine which districts shall access the available funds for start-up costs. The
4 commissioner's decision shall consider the sustainability of the program and the average number
5 of children eligible for USDA reimbursable school meals served by the respective district's
6 elementary schools. The commissioner may consider the school district's plan ~~ability of the~~
7 ~~district~~ to house the kindergarten enrollment, implement a quality full-day program, ~~and sustain~~
8 ~~the program once implemented, and the decision should maximize the number of students that~~
9 ~~can enter full-day kindergarten program for that year.~~

10 (d) School districts receiving funds pursuant to this chapter must operate only a full-day
11 program, no half-day programs. The full-day kindergarten program must continue to operate for
12 five (5) years.

13 (e) All funding provided under this section is subject to appropriation.

14 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d), school districts who request funding
15 pursuant to this chapter may be allowed to phase-in the implementation of a full-day kindergarten
16 program, provided that the district provides the department of elementary and secondary
17 education with a schedule and plan as to the implementation of such program.

18 **16-99-5. Reporting.--**

19 The Rhode Island department of elementary and secondary education shall report to the
20 senate president, speaker of the house, and the governor on the progress of this initiative on or
21 before May 1st, ~~2013~~ 2014, and on an annual basis by May 1st of each year thereafter.

22 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 -- FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN ACCESSIBILITY ACT

1 This act would expand the criteria to be considered by the commissioner of elementary
2 and secondary education when selecting and approving school districts that will receive stat
3 funding to assist in commencing a full-day kindergarten program. This act would also expand
4 upon areas where districts could expend such funds if selected by the commissioner.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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