

2014 -- S 2025

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF
ACT

Introduced By: Senators Picard, and Cote

Date Introduced: January 09, 2014

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 16-7.2-3 and 16-7.2-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7.2
2 entitled "The Education Equity and Property Tax Relief Act" are hereby amended to read as
3 follows:

4 **16-7.2-3. Permanent foundation education aid established.** -- (a) Beginning in the
5 2012 fiscal year, the following foundation education aid formula shall take effect. The foundation
6 education aid for each district shall be the sum of the core instruction amount in (a)(1), ~~and~~ the
7 amount to support high need students in (a)(2); and the amount to support school districts in
8 (a)(3), which shall be multiplied by the district state share ratio calculated pursuant to section 16-
9 7.2-4 to determine the foundation aid.

10 (1) The core instruction amount shall be an amount equal to a statewide per pupil core
11 instruction amount as established by the department of elementary and secondary education,
12 derived from the average of northeast regional expenditure data for the states of Rhode Island,
13 Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire from the National Center for Education
14 Statistics (NCES) that will adequately fund the student instructional needs as described in the
15 basic education program and multiplied by the district average daily membership as defined in
16 section 16-7-22. Expenditure data in the following categories: instruction and support services for
17 students, instruction, general administration, school administration and other support services
18 from the National Public Education Financial Survey as published by NCES and enrollment data

1 from the Common Core of Data also published by NCES will be used when determining the core
2 instruction amount. The core instruction amount will be updated annually. For the purpose of
3 calculating this formula, school districts' resident average daily membership shall exclude charter
4 school and state-operated school students.

5 (2) The amount to support high need students beyond the core instruction amount shall
6 be determined by multiplying a student success factor of forty percent (40%) by the core
7 instruction per pupil amount described in section 16-7.2-3(1) and applying that amount to all
8 resident children eligible for USDA reimbursable school meals.

9 (3) The amount to support school districts with students residing in housing taxed in
10 accordance with section 44-5-13.11 shall be determined by multiplying a housing factor of forty
11 percent (40%) by the core instruction per pupil amount described in subsection 16-7.2-3(1) and
12 applying that amount to all resident children residing in housing taxed in accordance with section
13 44-5-13.11.

14 (b) LEAs may set aside a portion of funds received under subsection (a) to expand
15 learning opportunities such as after school and summer programs, full day kindergarten and/or
16 multiple pathway programs provided that the basic education program and all other approved
17 programs required in law are funded.

18 **16-7.2-4. Determination of state's share. --** For each district, the state's share of the
19 foundation education aid calculated pursuant to section 16-7.2-3(a) shall use a calculation that
20 considers a district's revenue generating capacity and concentration of high-need students. The
21 calculation is the square root of the sum of the state share ratio for the community calculation
22 (SSRC), pursuant to section 16-7-20, squared plus the district's percentage of students eligible for
23 USDA reimbursable school meals in grades PK-6 (PK6FRPL) squared, plus the percentage of
24 students residing in housing taxed in accordance with section 44-5-13.11 squared, divided by two.

25 For purposes of determining the state's share, school district student data used in this
26 calculation shall include charter school and state school students. These ratios are used in the
27 permanent foundation education aid formula calculation described in section 16-7.2-5.

28 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage and shall apply to all school years
29 commencing on or after July 1, 2014.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF
ACT

1 This act would amend the calculation of the permanent foundation education aid to
2 school districts. The act would make an adjustment based upon students residing in qualified low
3 income housing.

4 This act would take effect upon passage and would apply to all school years commencing
5 on or after July 1, 2014.

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