

2014 -- S 2947

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LC004595  
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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-STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Introduced By: Senators Metts, Jabour, Picard, Gallo, and Doyle

Date Introduced: May 01, 2014

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-7.1-2 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 **16-7.1-2. Accountability for student performance.** -- (a) The board of regents shall  
4 adopt and publish statewide standards of performance and performance benchmarks in core  
5 subject areas, to include writing and mathematics (grades four (4), eight (8), and ten (10)). These  
6 standards and performance benchmarks shall be ratified by the board and implemented, and  
7 performance standards and performance benchmarks for reading in two (2) grades shall be added.

8 (b) Districts and schools need to be held accountable for student performance results.  
9 Therefore, every school district receiving state education aid under this title shall develop a  
10 district strategic plan. The district strategic plan shall: (1) ~~b~~Be based on high academic standards  
11 for student performance consistent with the statewide standards and benchmarks; (2) ~~b~~Be the  
12 product of a shared communitywide process ~~which~~ that defines a vision of what students should  
13 know and be able to do; (3) ~~a~~Address the needs of each school in the district; (4) ~~e~~Encourage the  
14 development of school-based improvement planning and implementation; (5) ~~i~~Include a process  
15 for mentoring of new teachers; (6) ~~b~~Be designed to improve student achievement with emphasis  
16 on closing the performance gaps among groups of students, such as the performance gaps  
17 correlated with poverty, gender, language background, and disability; (7) ~~i~~Include establishment  
18 of student intervention teams to address the instructional needs of diverse learners, include high  
19 standards of student behavior designed to create an orderly educational environment with due

1 regard for the rights of students, and an asset protection plan; and (8) ~~b~~Be consistent with Rhode  
2 Island's comprehensive education strategy. In order to ~~assure~~ ensure the most efficient use of  
3 resources implementing strategic plans, districts and schools are encouraged to work together as  
4 consortia and as part of the regional collaboratives.

5 (c) (1) The strategic plan shall include strategies to improve the performance of students  
6 in mathematics, reading, and writing. Each plan must describe a scientific, research-based, as  
7 described in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title 1, Part B, ~~Section~~ §1208 [20 U.S.C.  
8 ~~section~~ §6368], reading instruction to improve the reading skills of all students in the early grades  
9 (kindergarten through grade five (5)) that is aligned with the board of regents reading policy. The  
10 district must develop, implement, and evaluate a ~~P~~personal ~~L~~literacy ~~P~~program for each student  
11 in these grades who is performing below grade level. These strategies shall be based on the  
12 adequate yearly progress expected for students and schools. Annual performance targets for  
13 determining whether schools and districts have made adequate yearly progress will be set by the  
14 commissioner of elementary and secondary education. The general assembly expects these  
15 district strategies to increase the number of fourth grade students performing at, or above, the  
16 proficient standard in mathematics, reading, and writing in each district and school. The increase  
17 shall be established annually in accordance with ~~section~~ §16-7.1-4.

18 (2) The general assembly recognizes the contribution of school counselors to positive  
19 educational change; to the implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001; and to the  
20 success of students in three (3) developmental domains: academic, career, and personal/social. It  
21 endorses the National Standards for School Counseling Programs as developed by the American  
22 School Counselor Association (ASCA). Further, the general assembly encourages every district  
23 to implement a K-12 standards-based, comprehensive, developmental school counseling program.  
24 The general assembly further encourages every district to provide professional development  
25 opportunities for school counselors that focus on best practices in collaborating with business,  
26 industry, and other community organizations to create internships and apprenticeships for  
27 secondary students.

28 (d) Each strategic plan must indicate the manner in which self-studies will be completed  
29 at the school level in accordance with guidelines established by the commissioner. Funds shall be  
30 appropriated to the department of elementary and secondary education to assist districts with on-  
31 site reviews. Schools to be visited shall be determined by the commissioner.

32 (e) Each strategic plan must indicate the method in which school administrators and staff  
33 shall achieve and maintain an orderly educational environment in accordance with due process  
34 and with due regard for the rights of students.

1           (f) Each strategic plan shall include the development of inter-agency agreements for the  
2 coordination of services among state and local agencies responsible for service to children and  
3 families. These agreements shall address the identification and provision of services to pre-school  
4 children with disabilities and children and youth with behavioral health care needs.

5           (g) All district strategic plans and annual updates shall be submitted to the commissioner  
6 of elementary and secondary education no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

7           (h) All strategic plans shall include strategies to decrease obesity and improve the health  
8 and wellness of students and employees through nutrition, physical activity, health education, and  
9 physical education. Said strategies shall be submitted by May 1st of each year to the Rhode Island  
10 department of elementary and secondary education and the Rhode Island department of health.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO EDUCATION-STUDENT PERFORMANCE

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1           This act would encourage school districts to provide professional development  
2 opportunities for school counselors that focus on best practices in collaborating with business,  
3 industry, and other community organizations to create internships and apprenticeships for  
4 secondary students.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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