

1 [Rhode Island department of elementary and secondary education shall provide funding to support](#)
2 [transition expenses for all districts that do not offer universal full-day kindergarten programs in](#)
3 [the 2015-2016 school year. This funding shall not exceed the amount of state aid that would](#)
4 [otherwise have been provided to the district for operating a universal full-day kindergarten](#)
5 [program and shall be based upon 2015 enrollment data and funding formula transition rates. For](#)
6 [purposes of the calculation under this section, a district's half-day kindergarten enrollment as of](#)
7 [March 2015 shall be multiplied by two.](#)

8 **16-99-4. Eligible school districts; funding.** -- (a) A school district shall be eligible to
9 request funding pursuant to § 16-99-4(b), if:

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

11 (2) The school district operates a half-day kindergarten program as of September 1,
12 2012, but not a full-day kindergarten, as defined herein, serving more than one-half of the
13 kindergarten students in the district as determined on a headcount basis.

14 (b) Subject to appropriation, beginning with school year 2013-2014, [and through school](#)
15 [year 2014-2015](#), the commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall rank and approve
16 eligible public school districts that voluntarily implement a full-day kindergarten program as
17 defined herein. The aforementioned school district shall receive funding to offset a portion of the
18 reasonable, one-time start-up costs including, but not limited to, desks, books, facility upgrades,
19 ancillary costs associated with relocation of students, costs associated with the development and
20 implementation of new curriculum, and any other necessary expenses associated with each
21 school's implementation of a full-day kindergarten program. Ranking shall be based upon criteria
22 established by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education to ensure the quality and
23 sustainability of the full-day kindergarten programs implemented.

24 In ranking the school districts' proposals, the commissioner shall consider the quality and
25 sustainability of the program and the average number of children eligible for USDA reimbursable
26 school meals served by the respective district's elementary schools with priority given to school
27 districts with enrollment greater than eight thousand (8,000).

28 If no school district has enrollment greater than eight thousand (8,000), then priority
29 shall be given to school districts with enrollment greater than four thousand (4,000).

30 (c) The commissioner shall fully fund all eligible expenditures of each district in rank
31 order. If a district's proposal cannot be fully funded, the district may either accept the available
32 funding for the project or refuse funding. If funding is refused, the commissioner shall fund the
33 next eligible school district's request based on the aforementioned ranking.

34 (d) School districts receiving funds pursuant to this chapter must operate only a full-day

1 program, no half-day programs. The full-day kindergarten program must continue to operate for
2 five (5) years.

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

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

8 SECTION 2. This article shall take effect upon passage.

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