

2018 -- H 7497

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LC004270  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Representatives Vella-Wilkinson, Serpa, Fellela, Edwards, and Lancia

Date Introduced: February 08, 2018

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Sections 16-21-20 and 16-21-27 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-21  
2 entitled "Health and Safety of Pupils" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **16-21-20. Alternative placement and prevention activities.**

4           ~~The department of elementary and secondary education~~ (a) The council on elementary  
5 and secondary education in conjunction with a representative from the attorney general's ~~task~~  
6 ~~force to prevent violence in schools~~ office and the Rhode Island teachers' advisory council shall  
7 develop ~~requirements~~ regulations for ~~the~~ alternative ~~placement-of~~ programs for students  
8 suspended under the provision of § 16-21-18, students serving in-school suspensions, and  
9 disruptive students as defined in § 16-2-17(a). The ~~placements~~ programs shall be cooperative  
10 efforts between the local school district, which shall be responsible for instruction of students,  
11 and other appropriate state and local agencies. Further, the department of elementary and  
12 secondary education in conjunction with a representative from the attorney general's ~~task force~~  
13 office and the Rhode Island teachers' advisory council shall establish policies in support of locally  
14 developed prevention and education activities that include broad parent, teacher, and community  
15 involvement.

16           (b) The programs offered to students who have been suspended, placed in an in-school  
17 suspension program, or students otherwise removed from a regular classroom setting shall  
18 include academic instruction and shall address the social and emotional well-being of the student.

19           (c) All public school districts and charter schools shall employ sufficient school guidance

1 [counselors, social workers, and other education specialists who can provide support to students](#)  
2 [assigned to alternative programs.](#)

3 **16-21-27. Alternative education programs.**

4 Each school district shall adopt a plan to ensure continued education of students who are  
5 removed from the classroom because of a suspension of more than ten (10) days ~~or~~, [students in](#)  
6 [alternative placement programs pursuant to § 16-21-20, and students](#) who are chronically truant.  
7 The plan shall be adopted by the school committee and shall be submitted to Rhode Island  
8 department of elementary and secondary education as part of its annual strategic plan submission.

9 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 - HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

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1           The act would amend the law on the student suspension, by requiring the council on  
2 elementary and secondary education along with the Rhode Island teachers' advisory council and a  
3 representative from the attorney general's office to work cooperatively to create regulations and  
4 programs for students who have been suspended, or otherwise removed from a regular classroom  
5 setting. It would require the programs to include academic instruction and address the social and  
6 emotional well-being of the student. The act would also require public school districts and charter  
7 schools to employ sufficient social workers and other educational specialists to provide support to  
8 students assigned to the alternative programs.

9           This act would take effect upon passage.

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