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**ARTICLE 11**

RELATING TO RHODE ISLAND PROMISE

SECTION 1. The title of Chapter 16-107 of the General Laws entitled "Rhode Island Promise Scholarship" is hereby amended to read as follows:

~~CHAPTER 16-107~~

~~RHODE ISLAND PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP~~

CHAPTER 16-107

RHODE ISLAND PROMISE

SECTION 2. Sections 16-107-1, 16-107-2, 16-107-3, 16-107-4, 16-107-5, 16-107-6, 16-107-7 and 16-107-8 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-107 entitled "Rhode Island Promise Scholarship" are hereby amended to read as follows:

**16-107-1. Short title.**

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Rhode Island Promise" ~~Scholarship Act."~~

**16-107-2. Legislative findings and purpose.**

(a) The general assembly finds and declares that:

(1) Education is critical for the state's young people to achieve their dreams and develop their talents;

(2) The state's economic success depends on a highly educated and skilled workforce, which is made all the more urgent by the impending need for the state to increase its state postsecondary attainment rate to at least seventy percent (70%) by 2025 to keep pace with projections of the percentage of state jobs that will require a postsecondary degree or certificate;  
and

(3) The state's future prosperity depends upon its ability to make educational opportunities beyond high school available for all students, including adults, as part of a free public education.

(b) In order to address the findings set forth in subsection (a), ~~the purpose of this chapter is to~~ Rhode Island Promise is a promise and commitment on behalf of:

(1) The state to promise to support its students' higher education ambitions by making a higher education affordable and part of a free public education for all students;

(2) The students to promise to complete a degree in a timely manner and to give back to

1 Rhode Island after graduation; and

2 (3) the state’s public postsecondary institutions to promise to accomplish the following:

3 (i) ~~increase~~ Increase the number of students enrolling in and completing degrees and  
4 certificates on time from eligible postsecondary institutions; ~~from the community college of Rhode~~  
5 Island.

6 (ii) Align their postsecondary degrees and certificates with emerging workforce demands;

7 (iii) Adopt policies and practices that support positive outcomes for all student learners;

8 (iv) Reduce and eliminate achievement gaps for students from groups that are  
9 underrepresented at the state’s public postsecondary institutions, including, but not limited to,  
10 students from low-income families; students of underrepresented races and ethnicities; and students  
11 who are adults, current or former foster youths, with disabilities, formerly incarcerated,  
12 undocumented immigrants, and veterans; and

13 (v) Increase the number of graduates who live, work, or continue their education in Rhode  
14 Island after graduation.

15 **16-107-3. Establishment of scholarship program.**

16 Beginning with the high school graduating class of 2017, it is hereby established the Rhode  
17 Island promise scholarship program ~~that will end with the high school graduating class of 2020.~~  
18 The general assembly shall annually appropriate the funds necessary to implement the purposes of  
19 this chapter. Additional funds beyond the scholarships may be appropriated to support and advance  
20 the Rhode Island promise scholarship program. In addition to appropriation by the general  
21 assembly, charitable donations may be accepted into the scholarship program.

22 **16-107-4. Definitions.**

23 When used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

24 (1) “Adult Student” means any student who is twenty-five (25) years of age or older by the  
25 start of the semester in which he or she is seeking to enroll.

26 (2) “Certificate” means any certificate program with labor market value as defined by the  
27 Postsecondary Commissioner.

28 (3) “College-level credit” means credit awarded by a college or university for completion  
29 of its own courses or other academic work.

30 (4) “Eligible postsecondary institution” means Rhode Island College or the Community  
31 College of Rhode Island;

32 ~~(5)~~ (5) “FAFSA” means the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form;

33 (6) “General Education Coursework” means the educational foundation of knowledge,  
34 skills, and attitudes that prepare students for success in their majors and their personal and

1 professional lives after graduation. It includes but is not limited to the required coursework of all  
2 degrees developed by each eligible postsecondary institution that is approved by the council on  
3 postsecondary education that is intended to ensure that all graduates of a state institution have a  
4 balanced core of competencies and knowledge. This does not necessarily include coursework  
5 specifically required for one's major.

6 ~~(2)~~ (7) "Mandatory fees and tuition" are the costs that every student is required to pay in  
7 order to enroll in classes, and does not include room and board, textbooks, program fees that may  
8 exist in some majors, course fees that may exist for some specific courses, meal plans, or travel;

9 ~~(3)~~ (8) "On track to graduate on time" means the standards determined by the ~~community~~  
10 ~~college of Rhode Island~~ eligible postsecondary institutions in establishing the expectation of a  
11 student to graduate with (i) an associate's degree within two (2) years of enrollment in case of a  
12 student attending the Community College of Rhode Island full-time or within four (4) years in the  
13 case of adult students attending part-time; or (ii) a bachelor's degree within four (4) years of  
14 enrollment in the case of a student attending Rhode Island College, or the prescribed completion  
15 time for a student completing a certificate at the eligible postsecondary institution (recognizing that  
16 some students, including students who require developmental education, are double majors, or are  
17 enrolled in certain professional programs may require an extended time period for degree  
18 completion);

19 (9) "Receiving Institution" means the eligible postsecondary institution attended by a  
20 transfer student after transfer;

21 ~~(4)~~ (10) "Recipient student" means a student ~~attending the community college of Rhode~~  
22 ~~Island~~ who qualifies to receive the Rhode Island promise scholarship pursuant to § 16-107-6 or §  
23 16-107-9;

24 ~~(5)~~ (11) "Scholarship program" means the Rhode Island promise scholarship program that  
25 is established pursuant to § 16-107-3; and

26 (12) "Sending Institution" means the eligible postsecondary institution attended by a  
27 transfer student before transfer;

28 ~~(6)~~ (13) "State" means the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

29 (14) "Transfer student" means any student who attends an eligible postsecondary  
30 institution and holds any college-level credit hours for courses or other academic work at a  
31 previously attended eligible postsecondary institution.

32 **16-107-5. Administration of scholarship program.**

33 (a) The financial aid office, in conjunction with the office of enrollment management or  
34 their respective equivalent offices, at an eligible postsecondary institution the ~~community college~~

1 ~~of Rhode Island~~, shall administer the scholarship program for state residents seeking associate  
2 degrees, bachelor's degrees, or certificates who meet the eligibility requirements in this chapter.

3 (b) An award of the scholarship program shall cover up to the cost of two (2) years of  
4 tuition and mandatory fees, or in the case of an adult student sixty (60) credit hours of tuition and  
5 mandatory fees over a duration of no more than four (4) years, less federal and all other financial  
6 aid monies available to the recipient student. None of any grants received by students from the  
7 Department of Children, Youth and Families' Higher Education Opportunity Incentive Grant as  
8 established by § 42-72.8 or the College Crusade Scholarship Act as established in § 16-70 shall be  
9 considered federal or financial aid for the purposes of this Chapter.

10 (c) The scholarship program is limited to one award per student as required by § 16-107-  
11 6(a)(7).

12 A student may continue to receive an award towards a degree following completion of a  
13 certificate program, provided that the student remains on track to graduate on time.

14 (d) If a recipient student is eligible to receive employer-sponsored tuition assistance, the  
15 eligible postsecondary institution shall enter into an agreement with the recipient student and/or the  
16 student's employer stipulating that student's home institution would provide an upfront scholarship  
17 award and the student's employer would submit corresponding tuition assistance reimbursements  
18 to the student's home institution upon the student's completion of applicable courses, consistent  
19 with the agreement and any applicable policy of the student's employer.

20 **16-107-6. Eligibility for scholarship at the Community College of Rhode Island.**

21 (a) Beginning with the students who enroll at the community college of Rhode Island  
22 directly after high school in fall of 2017 and adult students who enroll at the community college of  
23 Rhode Island in fall of 2019 ~~ending with students who enroll at the community college of Rhode~~  
24 ~~Island in the fall of 2020~~, to be considered for the scholarship, a student:

25 (1) Must qualify for in-state tuition and fees pursuant to the residency policy adopted by  
26 the council on postsecondary education, as amended, supplemented, restated, or otherwise modified  
27 from time to time ("residency policy"); provided, that, the student must ~~have~~ either:

28 (i) have satisfied the high school graduation/equivalency diploma condition prior to  
29 reaching nineteen (19) years of age; provided, further, that in addition to the option of meeting the  
30 requirement by receiving a high school equivalency diploma as described in the residency policy,  
31 the student can satisfy the condition by receiving other certificates or documents of equivalent  
32 nature from the state or its municipalities as recognized by applicable regulations promulgated by  
33 the council on elementary and secondary education; or

34 (ii) be qualified as an adult student;

1           (2) ~~Must~~ Other than an adult student, must be admitted to, and must enroll and attend the  
2 community college of Rhode Island on a full-time basis by the semester immediately following  
3 high school graduation or the semester immediately following receipt of a high school equivalency  
4 diploma;

5           (3) Must complete the FAFSA and any required FAFSA verification by the deadline  
6 prescribed by the community college of Rhode Island for each year in which the student seeks to  
7 receive funding under the scholarship program;

8           (4) Must ~~either:~~  
9           (i) continue to be enrolled on a full-time basis; or  
10           (ii) if qualified as an adult student, continue to be enrolled in courses corresponding to at  
11 least eighteen (18) credit hours or more on an annual basis.

12           (5) Must maintain an average annual cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or  
13 greater, as determined by the community college of Rhode Island;

14           (6) Must remain on track to graduate on time as determined by the community college of  
15 Rhode Island;

16           (7) Must not have already received an award under this scholarship program; and

17           (8) Must commit to live, work, or continue their education in Rhode Island after graduation.

18           The community college of Rhode Island shall develop a policy that will secure this  
19 commitment from recipient students.

20           (b) Notwithstanding the eligibility requirements under subsection (a) of this section  
21 ("specified conditions"):

22           (i) In the case of a recipient student who has an approved medical or personal leave of  
23 absence or is unable to satisfy one or more specified conditions because of the student's medical or  
24 personal circumstances, the student may continue to receive an award under the scholarship  
25 program upon resuming the student's education so long as the student continues to meet all other  
26 applicable eligibility requirements; and

27           (ii) In the case of a recipient student who is a member of the national guard or a member  
28 of a reserve unit of a branch of the United States military and is unable to satisfy one or more  
29 specified conditions because the student is or will be in basic or special military training, or is or  
30 will be participating in a deployment of the student's guard or reserve unit, the student may continue  
31 to receive an award under the scholarship program upon completion of the student's basic or special  
32 military training or deployment.

33           **16-107-7. Reporting and disbursement.**

34           (a) On or before November 10 and May 10 of each fiscal year following fiscal year 2017,

1 the ~~community college of Rhode Island~~ eligible postsecondary institutions shall each shall submit  
2 a report to the director of the office of management and budget, the state budget officer, the house  
3 fiscal advisor, the senate fiscal advisor, the commissioner of postsecondary education, and the chair  
4 of the council on postsecondary education detailing the number of students eligible to participate  
5 in the scholarship program, the amount of federal and institutional financial aid anticipated to be  
6 received by recipient students, the aggregate tuition and mandatory fee costs attributable to  
7 recipient students, and the resulting total cost of the scholarship program to the state. The report  
8 shall contain such data for both the current fiscal year and the most up-to-date forecast for the  
9 following fiscal year. Data reported shall be subdivided by student-year cohort and shall be  
10 accompanied by a written explanation detailing the estimating methodology utilized and any  
11 impact(s) the forecasted data may present to institutional capacity, operational costs, and the  
12 tuition/fee revenue base of the institution.

13 (b) On or before July 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, all eligible postsecondary  
14 institutions ~~the community college of Rhode Island~~ and the commissioner of postsecondary  
15 education shall submit a report evaluating the program ~~based on the first two cohorts~~ to the  
16 governor, speaker of the house, and the president of the senate. This evaluation shall include the  
17 following:

18 (1) The number of students who started in each cohort;

19 (2) The number of students in each cohort who have attained a degree or certification in an  
20 on-time manner;

21 (3) The number of students in each cohort who have not attained a degree or certification  
22 in an on-time manner and an analysis of why that has happened;

23 (4) The number of students in each cohort who began the program but have been unable to  
24 continue or complete the program and an analysis of why that has happened;

25 (5) The costs of the program and the costs of continuing the program;

26 (6) Suggestions for ways to increase the success of the program;

27 (7) Recommendations as to modifying, continuing, expanding, curtailing, or discontinuing  
28 the program; ~~and~~

29 (8) Any such other recommendations or information as the ~~community college of Rhode~~  
30 ~~Island~~ eligible postsecondary institutions and the commissioner of postsecondary education deem  
31 appropriate to include in the evaluation; ~~and~~.

32 (9) An update on the implementation of requirements pursuant to § 16-107-10.

33 (c) The office of management and budget, in consultation with the office of the  
34 postsecondary commissioner, shall oversee the apportionment and disbursement of all funds

1 appropriated for the purpose of the scholarship program.

2 **16-107-8. Rules and procedures.**

3 The council on postsecondary education is hereby authorized to promulgate rules to  
4 effectuate the purposes of this chapter and the ~~community college of Rhode Island~~ eligible  
5 postsecondary institutions shall each establish appeal procedures for the award, denial, or  
6 revocation of funding under the scholarship program. The rules shall be promulgated in accordance  
7 with § 16-59-4.

8 SECTION 3. Chapter 16-107 of the General Laws entitled "Rhode Island Promise  
9 Scholarship" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

10 **16-107-9. Eligibility for scholarship at Rhode Island College.**

11 (a) Beginning with the students who enrolled at Rhode Island College in the Fall of 2017  
12 a student:

13 (1) Must qualify for in-state tuition and fees pursuant to the residency policy adopted by  
14 the council on postsecondary education, as amended, supplemented, restated, or otherwise modified  
15 from time to time ("residency policy");

16 (2) Must be a currently enrolled full-time student who has declared a major and earned a  
17 minimum of 60 credit hours towards an eligible program of study, as determined by Rhode Island  
18 College;

19 (3) Must complete the FAFSA and any required FAFSA verification by the deadline  
20 prescribed by Rhode Island College for each year in which the student seeks to receive funding  
21 under the scholarship program;

22 (4) Must enroll full-time as a freshman as a first-time student and continue to be enrolled  
23 on a full-time basis;

24 (5) Must maintain an average annual cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or  
25 greater, as determined by Rhode Island College;

26 (6) Must remain on track to graduate on time as determined by Rhode Island College;

27 (7) Must not have already received an award under this scholarship program; and

28 (8) Must commit to live, work, or continue their education in Rhode Island after graduation.

29 Rhode Island College shall develop a policy that will secure this commitment from  
30 recipient students.

31 (b) Notwithstanding the eligibility requirements under subsection (a) of this section  
32 ("specified conditions"):

33 (i) In the case of a recipient student who has an approved medical or personal leave of  
34 absence or is unable to satisfy one or more specified conditions because of the student's medical or

1 personal circumstances, the student may continue to receive an award under the scholarship  
2 program upon resuming the student's education so long as the student continues to meet all other  
3 applicable eligibility requirements; and

4 (ii) In the case of a recipient student who is a member of the national guard or a member  
5 of a reserve unit of a branch of the United States military and is unable to satisfy one or more  
6 specified conditions because the student is or will be in basic or special military training, or is or  
7 will be participating in a deployment of the student's guard or reserve unit, the student may continue  
8 to receive an award under the scholarship program upon completion of the student's basic or special  
9 military training or deployment.

10 **16-107-10. Requirements of the Eligible Postsecondary Institutions of Higher**  
11 **Education and the Council on Postsecondary Education.**

12 The requirements of the eligible postsecondary institutions and council on postsecondary  
13 education shall advance the goals outlined in Section § 16-107-2 and shall include all of the  
14 following:

15 (a) The council on postsecondary education shall adopt a policy by January 1, 2020 that  
16 reduces an eligible postsecondary institution's performance incentive funding pursuant to § 16-106  
17 for every student who begins their course of study or transfers into an eligible postsecondary  
18 institution and who completes more than 135 credit hours to achieve a bachelor's degree or more  
19 than 75 credit hours to complete an associate degree. Exceptions may be made in the policy for  
20 programs that require more than 135 credit hours to achieve a bachelor's degree or more than 75  
21 credit hours to complete an associate degree. The institution's performance incentive funding must  
22 be reduced by an amount determined by the council per credit hour beyond the thresholds  
23 established in the immediately preceding sentence on an annual basis based on the immediately  
24 prior year's student data.

25 (b) Each eligible postsecondary institution shall offer credit courses during summer and  
26 winter intersessions by January 1, 2020. Summer and winter intersessions shall have the following  
27 characteristics:

- 28 (1) Enrollment shall be open to all current students of the eligible postsecondary institution.  
29 (2) Coursework shall be available in at least the most in-demand courses of study so as to  
30 allow students to matriculate more easily through their eligible postsecondary institution as  
31 determined by the institution.

32 (c) The council on postsecondary education shall revise its Transfer and Articulation  
33 policies by July 1, 2021 to include the following requirements:

- 34 (1) All eligible postsecondary institutions shall accept all college-level credit hours earned



1 with a passing grade taken at any eligible postsecondary institution by any student to be applied in  
2 the same way by each eligible postsecondary institution as they would be if they were taken at that  
3 institution. All eligible postsecondary institutions shall uniformly determine which courses are  
4 college-level on the basis of whether the courses are not remedial or developmental, whether the  
5 courses carry one or more credit hours, and whether the credit hours are eligible to be counted  
6 toward graduation at the sending institution. If any non-remedial course is not determined to be  
7 college-level, that institution must improve the course to meet the agreed-upon standard and ensure  
8 transferability.

9 (2) Transfer students shall not be required to take additional assessments or evaluations if  
10 this is not required for home institution students. If assessments or evaluations are required for  
11 specific programs, then they shall be used at every eligible postsecondary institution in applicable  
12 courses.

13 (3) The direction of student transfer from any eligible postsecondary institution to another  
14 eligible postsecondary institution, from a two-year to a four-year college or university, four-year to  
15 a two-year, or four-year to four-year, shall not affect the transferability of credit hours.

16 (4) The numerical value of credit hours shall be maintained in a transfer from any eligible  
17 postsecondary institution to another eligible postsecondary institution. The receiving institution  
18 shall grant the same total number of credits as originally assigned by the sending institution. In  
19 some cases there may be a difference in the number of credits assigned to the course by each  
20 institution. In those cases, the course will receive the number of credits assigned by the sending  
21 institution with any remaining number of credits assigned as elective credits.

22 (5) Whenever possible, college-level credit earned in a transferable course will be granted  
23 without regard to the date when the course was completed. Exceptions may be granted under a  
24 process detailed in the council's policy.

25 (6) All eligible postsecondary institutions shall establish a common curriculum of general  
26 education coursework that contains a minimum of [30-32] college-level credits. Students at eligible  
27 postsecondary institutions who complete the common curriculum of general education coursework  
28 shall be able to transfer each college-level credit contained within the curriculum from an eligible  
29 postsecondary institution to another eligible postsecondary institution and have each college-level  
30 credit from the common curriculum be counted towards the student's degree requirements at any  
31 eligible postsecondary institution. Students completing the common curriculum of general  
32 education coursework shall not be required to take any additional lower-division general education  
33 courses upon transfer. The council on postsecondary education is hereby directed to adopt at least  
34 one common curriculum of general education coursework described in this section that is available

1 for use by students by the beginning of the 2020-2021 academic year. Any lower division courses  
2 available at the Community College of Rhode Island must articulate to Rhode Island College and  
3 the University of Rhode Island as meeting general education, major prerequisite, or major  
4 requirements. Courses developed to meet major requirements for career and technical programs  
5 may be exempt from this requirement if an articulated bachelor's degree is not available.

6 (7) All undergraduate courses at each eligible postsecondary institution shall utilize the  
7 same course numbering system with equivalent courses offered throughout the institutions. To be  
8 assigned a new and unique course number, the proposed course content must be unique and not  
9 found in a current or pending course. The council on postsecondary education shall adopt this  
10 common course numbering system for use by all eligible postsecondary institutions by July 1, 2021,  
11 with the system being implemented by the beginning of the 2021/2022 school year.

12 (8) Each eligible postsecondary institution shall collaborate to develop a unified statewide  
13 transfer agreement, aligned with the common curriculum of general education coursework  
14 established under paragraph (c)(7) of this section for each course of study. The council on  
15 postsecondary education shall be responsible for adopting the agreements. The council shall adopt  
16 a unified statewide transfer agreement for at least three major courses of study per year until all  
17 courses of study have a unified statewide transfer agreement. The first three unified statewide  
18 transfer agreements must be adopted by the council by January 1, 2020. Each unified statewide  
19 transfer agreement developed under this section must:

20 (i) Enable a student to transfer from each eligible postsecondary institution to any other  
21 eligible postsecondary institution without the loss of college-level credit or the requirement to  
22 retake a course at a public institution that the student has successfully completed at any other  
23 eligible postsecondary institution, provided that the grade in each course that is transferred meets  
24 the degree requirements established by the unified statewide transfer agreement;

25 (ii) Contain provisions that identify the optimal number of college-level credit hours,  
26 including credit hours in the major course of study, that the student should have when the student  
27 transfers from any eligible postsecondary institution to another eligible postsecondary institution  
28 in order for the student to efficiently receive a bachelor's degree; and

29 (iii) Define the classes and completion standards for the optimal number of college-level  
30 credit hours identified in paragraph (ii) of this subsection that may be taken at each eligible  
31 postsecondary institution;

32 (iv) Ensure that if a student at any eligible postsecondary institution has completed 60  
33 college-level credit hours of coursework in conformity with the completion standards identified in  
34 paragraph (iii) of this subsection and transfers to any eligible postsecondary institution, the student

1 will receive junior status in the major course of study at the eligible postsecondary institution and  
2 be able to receive a bachelor's degree in the major course of study by completing the additional  
3 college-level credits identified in the unified statewide transfer agreement after the transfer, based  
4 on the total number of college-level credit hours and standards approved by the accrediting body  
5 for the eligible postsecondary institution; and

6 (v) For unified statewide transfer agreements that specify an optimal number of college-  
7 level credit hours for transfer students other than 60, ensure that if a student at any eligible  
8 postsecondary institution has completed the specified number of college-level credit hours of  
9 coursework in conformity with the completion standards identified in this subsection and transfers  
10 to another eligible postsecondary institution, the student will receive status at the eligible  
11 postsecondary institution based on the number of academic credit hours referenced in the applicable  
12 transfer agreement that is comparable to the status of students with the same number of college-  
13 level credit hours in the major course of study who began their postsecondary studies at the  
14 receiving institution, and be able to receive a bachelor's degree in the major course of study by  
15 completing the additional college-level credit hours specified in the unified statewide transfer  
16 agreement after the transfer based on the total number of college-level credits and standards  
17 approved by the accrediting body for the eligible postsecondary institution.

18 (d) Each eligible postsecondary institution shall submit policies and procedures for students  
19 to earn college-level credit hours for prior learning to the council on postsecondary education by  
20 July 1, 2021. At a minimum, these procedures shall include:

21 (1) A listing of the types of documentation acceptable to the institution and the dates of  
22 inclusion for which prior learning is acceptable;

23 (2) Guidelines for student requests for awards of college-level credit hours for prior  
24 learning. Institutions must establish a written record of their decisions and the basis for that decision  
25 in accepting or declining a Prior Learning Assessment ("PLA") for academic credit hours.  
26 Institutional policies should ensure the transparency of the award or denial of PLA credit hours;

27 (3) A process for appealing PLA decisions; and

28 (4) A process for assessing every enrolling student for college-level credit hours for prior  
29 learning;

30 Credit hours earned through PLA will be transferable in accordance with this chapter.

31 (e) Each eligible postsecondary institution shall complete an Academic Program  
32 Prioritization Process approved by the council on postsecondary education by September 1, 2021.  
33 This process shall include the following and shall not take more than one year to complete after the  
34 process is approved by the Council:

- 1           (1) An analysis of the postsecondary and workforce needs of the state;
- 2           (2) Identification of a plan for program expansion, consolidation, and closure based on that  
3 analysis;
- 4           (3) Participation of, but not limited to, faculty, the business community, and the community  
5 at large.
- 6           (f) The council on postsecondary education shall approve a policy by January 1, 2020 that  
7 sets standards for making course offerings at the eligible postsecondary institutions predictable,  
8 structured, and more flexible to meet student scheduling needs. The policy shall facilitate  
9 opportunities for students to take required courses in a timely manner. The policy shall also  
10 encourage the institutions to enable students to begin courses outside of the traditional academic  
11 schedules in order to improve time to completion. The policy shall further make courses accessible  
12 to working students and consistently available outside of regular work hours.
- 13           (g) Each eligible postsecondary institution shall establish and submit to the council on  
14 postsecondary education for approval a work plan to implement with an effective date no later than  
15 September 1, 2020 a clearly structured, coherent and guided pathway program available to all  
16 entering students for purposes of improving students' outcomes and reducing time to attain degrees.  
17 Work plans submitted by all eligible postsecondary institutions shall do the following:
- 18           (1) Simplify students' choices with default program maps developed by faculty and  
19 advisors for all academic and vocational programs that show students a clear pathway to completion  
20 within two (2) academic years for an associate degree program and four (4) years for a bachelor's  
21 degree program;
- 22           (2) Ensure student advising and support services are available to help students transitioning  
23 from high school, exploring academic fields, choosing a major, and developing a comprehensive  
24 academic plan so as to remain on track to graduate on time;
- 25           (3) Redesign traditional remediation to become an "on-ramp" to a program of study, which  
26 helps students explore academic and career options from the beginning of their college experience,  
27 to align math and other foundational coursework with a student's program of study, and to integrate  
28 and contextualize instructions to build academic and nonacademic foundation skills throughout the  
29 college-level curriculum, particularly in program "gateway" courses;
- 30           (4) Implement procedures and systems, supported by appropriate technology, to monitor  
31 students' progress toward completing their academic plans, to identify students who are at risk of  
32 not progressing in a program, and to intervene promptly with advising and other academic supports  
33 to help students resume their progress or revise their plans; and
- 34           (5) Embed academic and nonacademic supports throughout student programs to promote

1 student learning and persistence.

2 (h) Each eligible postsecondary institution shall utilize evidence-based assessment and  
3 placement practices that incorporate multiple student performance measures to improve outcomes  
4 for underprepared students, which measures shall include, but not be limited to, overall grade point  
5 averages and grades in high school courses.

6 (i) The Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner shall maintain and publish data on the  
7 state's postsecondary system. The eligible postsecondary institutions shall, on a quarterly basis,  
8 transmit the following data elements, disaggregated by institution, race/ethnicity, program/major  
9 enrollment, enrollment status, and income level, including Pell status, to the Office:

10 (1) Average net cost of attendance;

11 (2) Retention by term or year;

12 (3) Short- and long-term wage effects;

13 (4) Cumulative college-level credit hours attempted and earned;

14 (5) Remedial and gateway course enrollment and completion;

15 (6) Transfer credit(s) earned by students transferring into the institution;

16 (7) Graduation rates;

17 (8) Time and Credits to earning a credential; and

18 (9) Any other data as determined necessary for regular review and analysis by the council  
19 on postsecondary education to accomplish the goals articulated in § 16-107-2. This data should be  
20 regularly available on the Postsecondary Commissioner's website for public use.

21 **16-107-11. Eligibility for child care assistance.**

22 (a) Recipient students may qualify for child care assistance administered by the department  
23 of human services for appropriate child care pursuant to §40-5.2-20 (b).

24 (b) The department of human services shall promulgate rules, regulations and procedures  
25 to facilitate access to child care assistance for recipient students who are eligible pursuant to §40-  
26 5.2-20(b).

27 SECTION 4. Section 16-56-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-56 entitled  
28 "Postsecondary Student Financial Assistance" is hereby amended to read as follows:

29 **16-56-6. Need-based grants.**

30 (a) Amount of funds allocated. The commissioner of postsecondary education shall allocate  
31 annually the appropriation for need-based scholarships and grants. ~~Of the total amount appropriated~~  
32 ~~for need-based scholarship and grants, the lesser of twenty percent (20%) or two million dollars~~  
33 ~~(\$2,000,000) shall be distributed to qualified students attending participating, independent, non-~~  
34 ~~profit, higher education institutions in Rhode Island. The remainder of funds shall be limited to~~

1 ~~public higher education institutions in Rhode Island. As part of the annual budget submission, the~~  
2 ~~office of postsecondary commissioner shall include a plan of how the need-based scholarship and~~  
3 ~~grant funds will be allocated to each public institution receiving funds pursuant to this chapter and~~  
4 ~~how the funds will be distributed to students attending independent, non-profit institutions.~~

5 (b) Eligibility of individuals. Eligibility for need-based grants and scholarships shall be  
6 determined by the office of the postsecondary commissioner.

7 (c) Number and terms of awards. The number of awards to be granted in any one fiscal  
8 year shall be contingent upon the funds allocated to this section.

9 SECTION 5. This article shall take effect upon passage.