

2019 -- H 5008

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT AND STANDARDS FOR
ALL STUDENTS

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Casimiro, Ackerman, Amore, and Lyle

Date Introduced: January 03, 2019

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-22 of the General Laws entitled "Curriculum [See Title 16
2 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended by adding thereto
3 the following sections:

4 **16-22-30. Statewide academic standards.**

5 (a) The council on elementary and secondary education (the "council") shall direct the
6 commissioner of elementary and secondary education (the "commissioner") to institute a process
7 to review, develop, and revise statewide academic standards for the core subjects of mathematics,
8 science and technology, history and social science, English, foreign languages and the arts. The
9 commissioner shall ensure that the standards cover grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12)
10 and shall clearly set forth the skills, competencies and knowledge expected to be possessed by all
11 students at the conclusion of individual grades or clusters of grades. The standards shall be
12 formulated so as to set high expectations of student performance and to provide clear and specific
13 examples that embody and reflect these high expectations, and shall be constructed with due
14 regard to the work and recommendations of national organizations, to the best of similar efforts in
15 other states, and to the level of skills, competencies and knowledge possessed by typical students
16 in the most educationally advanced nations. The skills, competencies and knowledge set forth in
17 the standards shall be expressed in terms which lend themselves to objective measurement, define
18 the performance outcomes expected of both students directly entering the workforce and of

1 students pursuing higher education, and facilitate comparisons with students of other states and
2 other nations.

3 (b) This section does not require the abandonment of any standards already in place, so
4 long as the commissioner determines that the standards meet the statewide goals set forth herein.

5 **16-22-31. Curriculum alignment.**

6 (a)(1) The council on elementary and secondary education (the "council") shall direct the
7 commissioner of elementary and secondary education (the "commissioner") to institute a process
8 for reviewing, developing, and revising all curriculum frameworks for the core subjects covered
9 by the academic standards provided in §16-22-30. The curriculum frameworks shall present
10 broad pedagogical approaches and strategies for assisting students in the development of the
11 skills, competencies and knowledge called for by these standards. The process for drawing up and
12 revising the frameworks shall be open and consultative, and may include, but need not be limited
13 to, classroom teachers, parents, faculty of schools of education, and leading college and
14 university figures in both subject matter disciplines and pedagogy. In drawing up curriculum
15 frameworks, those involved shall look to curriculum frameworks, model curricula, content
16 standards, attainment targets, courses of study and instruction materials in existence or in the
17 process of being developed in the United States and throughout the world, and shall actively
18 explore collaborative development efforts with other projects. The curriculum frameworks shall
19 provide sufficient detail to guide and inform processes for the education, professional
20 development, certification and evaluation of both active and aspiring teachers. They shall provide
21 sufficient detail to guide the promulgation of student assessment instruments. They shall be
22 constructed to guide and assist teachers, administrators, publishers, software developers and other
23 interested parties in the development and selection of curricula, textbooks, technology and other
24 instructional materials, and in the design of pedagogical approaches and techniques for
25 elementary, secondary and vocational-technical schools. The council may review and recommend
26 instructional materials which it judges to be compatible with the curriculum frameworks.

27 (2) The commissioner shall ensure that the curriculum frameworks are aligned to the
28 statewide standardized tests being implemented in Rhode Island, which as of 2019 includes the
29 Rhode Island comprehensive assessment system (RICAS).

30 (3) This section does not require the abandonment of any curriculum frameworks already
31 in place, so long as the commissioner determines that the frameworks meet the statewide goals set
32 forth herein.

33 (b) The department of elementary and secondary education (the "department") is
34 authorized to develop and write model curricula for use by public schools.

1 (c) By January 1, 2020, the department shall identify several examples of curricula which
2 utilize best practices and are closely aligned with the state's curriculum frameworks, the state
3 standards, and the RICAS or any other test which is adopted as a statewide-standardized test. The
4 department shall publish these models and make them available to school districts.

5 (d) On or before February 1, 2020, and annually thereafter on or before February 1, the
6 commissioner shall submit a report to the governor, the speaker of the house, and the president of
7 the senate, on its progress in developing state standards and curriculum, frameworks pursuant to
8 this section and § 16-22-30.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

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1 This act would provide for the review of existing and the development of new statewide
2 academic standards by the commissioner of education. The act would also require that all
3 curriculum frameworks be aligned with these standards as well as with the standardized state tests
4 being implemented in the state, including the current Rhode Island comprehensive assessment
5 system. The act would also direct the commissioner of education to annually submit a report to
6 the governor and the general assembly on the progress in developing standards and curriculum
7 frameworks.

8 This act would take effect upon passage.

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