

2022 -- H 7913

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE PAUL W. CROWLEY RHODE ISLAND STUDENT
INVESTMENT INITIATIVE SEE TITLE 16 CHAPTER 97 -- THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD
OF EDUCATION ACT

Introduced By: Representative Jose F. Batista

Date Introduced: March 07, 2022

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-7.1-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7.1 entitled "The Paul
2 W. Crowley Rhode Island Student Investment Initiative [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode
3 Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **16-7.1-5. Intervention and support for failing schools.**

5 (a)(1) The ~~board of regents~~ council on elementary and secondary education shall adopt a
6 series of progressive support and intervention strategies consistent with the Comprehensive
7 Education Strategy and the principles of the "School Accountability for Learning and Teaching"
8 (SALT) of the ~~board of regents~~ council on elementary and secondary education for those schools
9 and school districts that continue to fall short of performance goals outlined in the district strategic
10 plans. These strategies shall initially focus on: (1) technical assistance in improvement planning,
11 curriculum alignment, student assessment, instruction, and family and community involvement; (2)
12 policy support; (3) resource oversight to assess and recommend that each school has adequate
13 resources necessary to meet performance goal; and (4) creating supportive partnerships with
14 education institutions, business, governmental, or other appropriate nonprofit agencies. If after a
15 three (3) year period of support there has not been improvement in the education of students as
16 determined by objective criteria to be developed by the ~~board of regents~~ council on elementary and
17 secondary education, then there shall be progressive levels of control by the department of
18 elementary and secondary education over the school and/or district budget, program, and/or

1 personnel. This control by the department of elementary and secondary education may be exercised
2 in collaboration with the school district and the municipality. If further needed, the school shall be
3 reconstituted. Reconstitution responsibility is delegated to the ~~board of regents~~ council on
4 elementary and secondary education and may range from restructuring the school's governance,
5 budget, program, personnel, and/or may include decisions regarding the continued operation of the
6 school. The ~~board of regents~~ council on elementary and secondary education shall assess the
7 district's capacity and may recommend the provision of additional district, municipal and/or state
8 resources. If a school or school district is under the ~~board of regents'~~ control of the council on
9 elementary and secondary education ~~control~~ as a result of actions taken by the ~~board~~ council
10 pursuant to this section, the local school committee shall be responsible for funding that school or
11 school district at the same level as in the prior academic year increased by the same percentage as
12 the state total of school aid is increased.

13 (2) If a school or school district is under the control of the council on elementary and
14 secondary education as a result of action taken by the council pursuant to this section, the council
15 shall establish and require that every middle school under the council's control shall employ and
16 utilize a cultural coordinator. The council shall adopt rules and regulations establishing the
17 qualifications for cultural coordinators employed pursuant to the provisions of this section.

18 (3) The general assembly shall appropriate funds for all salaries, costs and expenses
19 associated with the hiring, employment and utilization of cultural coordinators pursuant to the
20 provisions of this section.

21 (b) For FY 2007, the department shall dedicate one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)
22 from funds appropriated to support progressive support and intervention and SALT visits to support
23 the Rhode Island Consortium for Instructional Leadership and Training. This consortium is
24 engaged in training school leaders to be more effective instructional leaders in the standards based
25 instruction environment.

26 SECTION 2. Chapter 16-7.1 of the General Laws entitled "The Paul W. Crowley Rhode
27 Island Student Investment Initiative [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of
28 Education Act]" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

29 **16-7.1-20. Change of name.**
30 Whenever in this chapter, reference is made to the "board of regents," the reference shall
31 be deemed to refer to and mean the "council on elementary and secondary education".

32 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE PAUL W. CROWLEY RHODE ISLAND STUDENT
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OF EDUCATION ACT

1 This act would require that every middle school under the control of the council on
2 elementary and secondary education for failure to meet improvement or performance goals, to
3 employ a cultural coordinator to be paid for by the state.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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