

2022 -- S 2838 SUBSTITUTE A

LC005629/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE PAUL W. CROWLEY RHODE ISLAND STUDENT INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

Introduced By: Senators Zurier, Goodwin, DiPalma, Cano, Mack, Bell, Ciccone, Quezada, and Ruggerio

Date Introduced: April 05, 2022

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-7.1 of the General Laws entitled "The Paul W. Crowley Rhode  
2 Island Student Investment Initiative [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of  
3 Education Act]" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following sections:

4 **16-7.1-5.1. Intervention and support for the Providence public school district.**

5 (a) No later than September 1, 2022, and in order to assess the district across multiple  
6 measures of district performance and student success, the commissioner shall update the turnaround  
7 plan released June 23, 2020, to include measurable annual goals including, but not limited to, the  
8 following:

- 9 (1) Student attendance and suspension rates;  
10 (2) Student safety and discipline;  
11 (3) Student promotion, graduation and dropout rates;  
12 (4) Student achievement on the Rhode Island comprehensive assessment system;  
13 (5) Progress in areas of academic underperformance;  
14 (6) Progress among subgroups of students, including low-income students, English learners  
15 and students receiving special education;  
16 (7) Reduction of achievement gaps among different groups of students;  
17 (8) Student acquisition and mastery of twenty-first century skills;  
18 (9) Development of college readiness, including at the elementary and middle school

1 levels:

2 (10) Parent and family engagement;

3 (11) Building a culture of academic success among students;

4 (12) Building a culture of student support and success among faculty and staff;

5 (13) Recruitment and retention of a qualified, diverse workforce;

6 (14) Staffing ratios and teacher vacancies;

7 (15) Health and safety of facilities; and

8 (16) Developmentally appropriate child assessments, if applicable.

9 (b) Effective March 1, 2023, and for the duration of the turnaround, the Providence school  
10 board shall meet at least monthly, and more frequently if necessary, to provide public oversight of  
11 district performance and implementation of turnaround strategies. The Providence school board  
12 shall have, at a minimum, the following powers and duties:

13 (1) To review and approve the appointment of senior school district administrators;

14 (2) To set district-wide policy;

15 (3) To review progress toward annual performance measures;

16 (4) To receive feedback from stakeholders on the implementation of the turnaround plan;

17 (5) To establish appropriate advisory committees as needed to provide guidance on the  
18 implementation of the turnaround plan; and

19 (6) Any other duties delegated by the commissioner or council on elementary and  
20 secondary education.

21 (c)(1) The order of reconstitution and control, issued October 15, 2019, shall be authorized  
22 for a period of not more than five (5) years from issuance. The commissioner and turnaround  
23 superintendent may jointly develop additional components of the turnaround plan and shall jointly  
24 develop annual goals for each component of the plan in a manner consistent with this section. The  
25 superintendent shall be responsible for meeting the goals of the turnaround plan.

26 (2) The commissioner and superintendent shall provide a written report to the Providence  
27 school board at a minimum, on a quarterly basis to provide specific information about the progress  
28 being made on the implementation of the district's turnaround plan. One of the quarterly reports  
29 shall include progress toward annual measures, pursuant to this section.

30 (3) The commissioner shall evaluate the performance of the superintendent on not less than  
31 an annual basis. The purpose of such evaluation shall be to assess the implementation of the  
32 turnaround plan and determine whether the district has met the annual goals contained in the  
33 turnaround plan. The evaluation shall be in writing and submitted to the council and the Providence  
34 school board no later than July 1 for the preceding school year.

1           (4) If the commissioner determines that the district has met the annual performance goals  
2 stated in the turnaround plan, the evaluation shall be considered sufficient and the implementation  
3 of the turnaround plan shall continue.

4           (5) If the commissioner determines that the superintendent has not met one or more goals  
5 in the plan and the failure to meet the goals may be corrected through reasonable modification of  
6 the plan, the commissioner may amend the turnaround plan, with approval of the Providence school  
7 board.

8           If the commissioner determines that the superintendent has substantially failed to meet  
9 multiple goals in the turnaround plan, the commissioner may terminate such superintendent.

10          (d)The council on elementary and secondary education shall adopt regulations providing  
11 for:

12           (1) The end of turnaround status; and

13           (2) The transfer of the operation of a school district from the Rhode Island department of  
14 education to the school committee and municipal control.

15          The regulations shall include provisions to allow a district to retain measures adopted in a  
16 turnaround plan for a transitional period if, in the judgment of the commissioner, the measures  
17 would contribute to the continued improvement of the district. Such regulations shall also include  
18 provisions that clearly identify the conditions under which such a transitional period shall end and  
19 the powers granted to the commissioner and council under this section shall cease to apply to the  
20 district.

21          (e) If, on the basis of the regulations adopted by the council pursuant to subsection (d) of  
22 this section, the Providence school district has not improved sufficiently to remove the district from  
23 turnaround status, the commissioner may:

24           (1) Jointly determine subsequent annual goals for each component of the turnaround plan  
25 with the turnaround superintendent and, with approval from the Providence school board, renew  
26 the turnaround plan for an additional period of not more than three (3) years; and

27           (2) Create a new turnaround plan, consistent with the requirements of this section.

28          SECTION 2. 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  
INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

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1           This act would require the commissioner to update the status of Providence school district,  
2 taking various factors into consideration, including, student attendance, student safety, student  
3 promotion and shall otherwise require the commissioner to update the turnaround plan released  
4 June 23, 2020.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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