

2024 -- S 2365

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LC004496
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- PAUL W. CROWLEY STUDENT INVESTMENT
INITIATIVE

Introduced By: Senators Murray, DiPalma, Cano, Sosnowski, Acosta, and Gallo

Date Introduced: February 12, 2024

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-7.1-10 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 **16-7.1-10. Professional development investment fund.**

5 (a) In order to continue developing the skills of Rhode Island's teachers, administrators
6 and staff, to facilitate the dissemination of curriculum materials aligned with curriculum
7 frameworks and state assessments, and to implement district professional development plans
8 required by certification regulations, the general assembly establishes a Professional Development
9 Investment Fund. The general assembly shall annually appropriate some sum and distribute it based
10 on a ~~pupil-teacher ratio~~ per pupil basis that shall be adjusted annually by the commissioner of
11 elementary and secondary education. ~~School districts, including collaboratives established pursuant~~
12 ~~to chapter 3.1 of this title, may use funds received under this category of education aid to replace~~
13 ~~up to, but no more than, fifty percent (50%) of the amount the school district spent for professional~~
14 ~~development programs in the previous fiscal year. The expenditure of these funds shall be~~
15 ~~determined by a committee at each school consisting of the school principal, two (2) teachers~~
16 ~~selected by the teaching staff of the school, and two (2) parents of students attending the school.~~
17 ~~Schools that enroll students in the early grades (kindergarten through grade three (3)) must expend~~
18 ~~these funds on the development of scientific research based, as described in the No Child Left~~

1 ~~Behind Act of 2001, Title 1, Part B, Section 1208 [20 U.S.C. § 6368], reading instruction to~~
2 ~~improve students reading performance.~~

3 ~~Schools that have met their performance targets in reading for the current academic year~~
4 ~~and are not designated as a school in need of improvement, may expend their Professional~~
5 ~~Development Investment Funds on professional development in the core academic subjects of~~
6 ~~mathematics, writing, or reading to improve student performance.~~

7 ~~Collaborative programs between schools are encouraged. These resources shall be used to~~
8 ~~close student performance gaps in accordance with the school's and district's strategic plan~~
9 ~~pursuant to § 16-7.1-2. Additional funds shall be allocated to the department of elementary and~~
10 ~~secondary education to support teacher and administrator professional development in all districts,~~
11 ~~including, but not limited to:~~

12 (1) ~~Supporting mentoring systems;~~

13 (2) ~~Providing school districts with program support to assist teachers in local school~~
14 ~~districts to improve reading instruction and enhance the integration of reading throughout the~~
15 ~~curriculum with the goal of improving student performance to high standards;~~

16 (3) ~~Support for the design and implementation of leadership development for the teacher~~
17 ~~to assume leadership roles or ultimately prepare for administrator;~~

18 (4) ~~Development of a plan for formal training of school leaders in standards based~~
19 ~~instruction, school improvement planning, effective use of data in the decision making process,~~
20 ~~community involvement and creation of governance structures;~~

21 (5) ~~Support for national board certification of teachers, application fees for a certificate of~~
22 ~~clinical competence issued by the American speech language hearing association, and grants for~~
23 ~~coordination and support of school based teacher professional development; and~~

24 (6) ~~The practice of scientific research based reading instruction to improve reading~~
25 ~~performance.~~

26 (b) ~~In FY 2003, the additional funds allocated to the department of elementary and~~
27 ~~secondary education pursuant to this section shall be used only to support the activities described~~
28 ~~in subdivisions (a)(2) and (a)(5) of this section.~~

29 (c) ~~Out of the funds appropriated by the general assembly for professional development in~~
30 ~~subsection (a) of this section, twenty five percent (25%) shall be set aside for district wide~~
31 ~~professional development activities. The expenditure of this district wide professional development~~
32 ~~set aside [the professional development investment funds in each school district](#) shall be determined~~
33 ~~by a committee in each district consisting of the superintendent or his or her designee, three (3)~~
34 ~~teachers appointed by the collective bargaining agent, and one member ~~of the Rhode Island~~~~

1 ~~department of elementary and secondary education field service team servicing that school district~~
2 ~~designated by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education~~ appointed by the
3 superintendent. The expenditure must be aligned with the district strategic plan as well as ~~ongoing~~
4 ~~professional development programs approved by the department of elementary and secondary~~
5 ~~education~~ the LEA professional learning plan required by the department of education certification
6 regulations. Collaborative programs between school districts are permissible.

7 (d) ~~Beginning in FY 2006, professional development funds shall only be spent with the~~
8 ~~prior approval of the commissioner of elementary and secondary education upon submission of a~~
9 ~~district level plan which incorporates the school level plans and which details the use of the funds.~~
10 ~~These plans shall to the extent possible call for professional development activities that are~~
11 ~~embedded or do not otherwise encroach upon student instruction time. The requirements of this~~
12 ~~paragraph shall apply to both district wide professional development activities and professional~~
13 ~~development activities determined by the school level committees.~~

14 (e) ~~In FY 2009 payments from the professional development investment fund are hereby~~
15 ~~suspended through June 30, 2009. Notwithstanding, school districts may continue to maintain~~
16 ~~professional development programs and may reduce other education programs to achieve savings.~~

17 (f) ~~In FY 2010 payments from the professional development investment fund are hereby~~
18 ~~suspended through June 30, 2010. Notwithstanding, school districts may continue to maintain~~
19 ~~professional development programs and may reduce other education programs to achieve savings.~~

20 (g) Commencing in FY 2025, the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200) per student shall be
21 allocated to each school district to the professional development investment fund.

22 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 -- PAUL W. CROWLEY STUDENT INVESTMENT
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1 This act would restructure the professional development investment fund to assume duties
2 of dissemination of curriculum materials aligned with curriculum frameworks, state assessments,
3 and implement district professional development plans with an allocation of two hundred dollars
4 (\$200) per student for fiscal year 2025.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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