

2025 -- H 5163

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Cotter, Solomon, Potter, Carson, and
Ackerman

Date Introduced: January 24, 2025

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-22-32 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-22 entitled "Curriculum
2 [See Title 16 Chapter 97 — the Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended to read
3 as follows:

4 **16-22-32. High quality curriculum and materials.**

5 (a)(1) 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 for reviewing and identifying curriculum and materials for mathematics, English language arts, and
8 science and technology that meet the following requirements:

9 (i) Is aligned with the academic standards provided in § 16-22-30;
10 (ii) Is aligned with the curriculum frameworks provided in § 16-22-31;
11 (iii) Is aligned with the RICAS, or any other test that is adopted as a statewide standardized
12 test; and

13 (iv) Is of high quality.

14 (2) The commissioner shall identify at least five (5) examples each of curricula for
15 mathematics and English language arts pursuant to this section by no later than January 1, 2021,
16 for science and technology pursuant to this section by no later than January 1, 2024, and again as
17 required by the council's procedures set forth in subsection (a)(8) of this section. Once identified,
18 the curricula shall be made available to the public, subject to copyright considerations.

19 (3) The commissioner shall direct all local education agencies ("LEAs") to select one of

1 the identified high-quality curricula and materials by the time of their next adoption cycle, but in
2 any case, no later than June 30, 2023, for mathematics and English language arts, and no later than
3 June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026, for science and technology. LEAs shall select curriculum and materials that
4 are responsive to the LEA's cultural and linguistic needs, and support culturally responsive
5 practices. LEAs shall implement the high-quality curricula and materials at the start of the school
6 year that immediately follows the selection. If an LEA is unable to implement the high-quality
7 curricula and materials fully due to financial hardship, the commissioner may grant the LEA an
8 extension of time, provided that the LEA demonstrates continued efforts to complete the
9 implementation.

10 (4) The commissioner shall institute a waiver process for LEAs that would like to use a
11 curriculum other than any identified by the commissioner pursuant to this section. Part of that
12 process may include, but is not limited to, asking the LEA to:

13 (i) Develop local curriculum goals;

14 (ii) Communicate the rationale for selecting the proposed curriculum over any of the
15 curricula identified by the commissioner; and

16 (iii) Engage a third-party reviewer that has a proven track record of curriculum audits to
17 review the proposed curriculum to ensure it aligns with state standards, establishes the scope and
18 sequence of instruction, is of high quality, is culturally relevant, and to discuss any other strengths
19 and weaknesses.

20 (5) Waiver determinations made pursuant to subsection (a)(4) of this section shall be
21 appealable to the board of education.

22 (6) Any LEA that has at least seventy-five percent (75%) of its students meeting
23 expectations on state assessments and also has no student subgroup identified for targeted
24 assistance under Rhode Island's accountability process may select and use curricula and materials
25 other than any identified by the commissioner pursuant to this section for that subject area, only;
26 provided, however, that if the LEA no longer has at least seventy-five percent (75%) of its students
27 meeting expectations on state assessments, or if any student subgroup is identified for targeted
28 assistance under Rhode Island's accountability process, the LEA must select and implement one of
29 the curricula identified by the commissioner pursuant to this section.

30 (7) LEAs shall develop and execute a curriculum implementation plan that includes
31 professional development to ensure that all teachers and administrators are prepared to implement
32 the new curriculum with the necessary skill and knowledge.

33 (8) The council shall develop procedures for updating the identification of curricula and
34 materials pursuant to this section by no later than September 1, 2021. The procedures shall include

1 a requirement that the council review and evaluate the identified curricula and materials regularly
2 to ensure that the high quality of the curricula and materials is maintained. The review cycle shall
3 begin in 2025, with subsequent reviews taking place in 2029, 2033, and every four (4) years
4 thereafter.

5 (b) On or before December 1, 2020, and annually thereafter on or before December 1, the
6 commissioner shall report to the governor, president of the senate, and the speaker of the house,
7 regarding the progress toward fulfilling the requirements of this section, including, but not limited
8 to, the high-quality curricula and materials identified, selected, and implemented by LEAs pursuant
9 to this section.

10 (c) The state shall establish a professional development fund to provide professional
11 learning to LEAs that elect to use prioritized curricula and materials in mathematics and English
12 language arts as identified by the commissioner.

13 (d) For the purposes of this section, “local education agencies” (“LEAs”) shall include all
14 of the following within the state of Rhode Island:

- 15 (1) Public school districts;
- 16 (2) Regional school districts;
- 17 (3) State-operated schools;
- 18 (4) Regional collaborative schools; and
- 19 (5) Charter schools.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM

1 This act would provide that the commissioner of elementary and secondary education
2 would direct all local education agencies to select one of the identified high-quality curricula and
3 materials for science and technology no later than June 30, 2026.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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