

2025 -- H 5399

LC000728

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX  
RELIEF ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Hopkins, Paplauskas, Chippendale, Fascia, Cotter,  
Messier, Tanzi, J. Brien, Perez, and Hull

Date Introduced: February 07, 2025

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-7.2 of the General Laws entitled "The Education Equity and  
2 Property Tax Relief Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-7.2-11. School districts may elect and choose not to spend money on mandates not**  
4 **fully funded.**

5 (a)(1) On and after July 1, 2026, a school district may elect and choose not to spend money  
6 on any mandate that is not fully funded through the provisions of this chapter or of any other state  
7 funding received through the department of elementary and secondary education (the  
8 "department").

9 (2) As used herein, the term "mandate" means any rule, regulation, or other policy  
10 implemented by the department that requires an action to be taken or not taken, and which requires  
11 a school district to expend funds as a result of that rule, regulation, or other policy, and no funds  
12 are provided from or through the state including, but not limited to, the foundation education-aid  
13 formula, to support that action.

14 (b) A school district electing and choosing not to spend money pursuant to this section shall  
15 certify to the department in a written notice the specific mandate that is not being funded, and the  
16 total dollar amount being saved by the school district as a result of not spending money on this  
17 mandate. This written notice shall be filed on or before August 31 of the fiscal year for which the  
18 school district shall not be spending the money. This written notice shall be required to be provided

1 in any year in which the school district proposes to act pursuant to this section.

2 (c) A school district electing and choosing not to spend money pursuant to this section shall  
3 not be penalized or have their state aid reduced as a result of this action.

4 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 on and after July 1, 2026, a school district could elect and choose  
2 to not spend money on any mandate that is not fully funded through the state education aid formula  
3 or of any other state funding received through the department of elementary and secondary  
4 education.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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