

**2026 -- S 2016**

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**S T A T E   O F   R H O D E   I S L A N D**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026**

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**A N   A C T**

**RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM**

Introduced By: Senators Euer, Valverde, Quezada, Lauria, Gallo, Kallman, Vargas, Acosta, Mack, and Pearson

Date Introduced: January 09, 2026

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1        SECTION 1. Section 16-22-2 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        **16-22-2. Civics education.**

5        (a) The general assembly recognizes the importance of a citizenry well educated in the  
6        principles of democracy as enunciated in the constitutions of the state of Rhode Island and the  
7        United States. The general assembly directs the board of regents for elementary and secondary  
8        education to develop and adopt a set of grade level standards K-12 in civics education no later than  
9        August 31, 2007. These standards shall include, but not be limited to, the history of the state of  
10      Rhode Island, representative government, the rights and duties of actively engaged citizenship, ~~and~~  
11      ~~the principals principles~~ of democracy, and media literacy. These civic education standards shall  
12      be used in the public schools of this state beginning in kindergarten and continuing through to and  
13      including grade 12. No private school or private instruction shall be approved for the purposes of  
14      chapter 19 of this title unless the course of study shall make provision for instruction substantially  
15      equivalent to that required by this chapter for public schools.

16       (b) All middle and high school students attending public schools, or any other schools  
17      managed and controlled by the state, shall demonstrate proficiency, as defined by the local school  
18      district, in civics education that shall also satisfy half credit or course requirement in history and  
19      social studies.

6 (1) Reason, make logical arguments, and support claims using valid evidence; and  
7 (2) Demonstrate an understanding of the connections between federal, state, and local  
8 policies, including issues that may impact the student's community.

9 (d) The department of education shall begin implementing subsections (b) and (c) of this  
10 section for the 2022-2023 academic year.

11 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

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- 1        This act would add "media literacy" to the standards currently taught in civic education for
- 2        kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12), which are the history of Rhode Island, representative
- 3        government, the rights and duties of actively engaged citizenship and the principles of democracy.
- 4        This act would take effect upon passage.

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