

2019 -- H 6240

LC002878

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - CURRICULUM [SEE TITLE 16 CHAPTER 97 - THE
RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT]

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, and Edwards

Date Introduced: June 21, 2019

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-22-4 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 **16-22-4. Instruction in health and physical education.**

5 (a) All children in grades one through twelve (12) attending public schools, or any other
6 schools managed and controlled by the state, [except as provided in § 16-100-3\(d\)](#), shall receive in
7 those schools instruction in health and physical education under rules and regulations the
8 department of elementary and secondary education may prescribe or approve during periods that
9 shall average at least twenty (20) minutes in each school day. No private school or private
10 instruction shall be approved by any school committee for the purposes of chapter 19 of this title
11 as substantially equivalent to that required by law of a child attending a public school in the same
12 city or town unless instruction in health and physical education similar to that required in public
13 schools shall be given. Commencing September 1, 2012, the required health education curriculum
14 shall be based on the health education standards of the Rhode Island health education framework:
15 health literacy for all students as promulgated by the Rhode Island department of education and
16 consistent with the mandated health instructional outcomes therein. Commencing September 1,
17 2012, the required physical education curriculum shall be based on the physical education
18 standards of the Rhode Island physical education framework: supporting physically active

1 lifestyles through quality physical education as promulgated by the Rhode Island department of
2 education and consistent with the instructional outcomes therein.

3 (b) The department of elementary and secondary education shall incorporate, in
4 consultation with the state department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and
5 hospitals, substance-abuse prevention and suicide prevention into the health education
6 curriculum. For the purpose of this section, "substance-abuse prevention" means the
7 implementation of evidence-based, age-appropriate programs, practices, or curricula related to the
8 use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; "suicide prevention" means the
9 implementation of evidence-based, appropriate programs, practices, or curricula related to mental
10 health awareness and suicide prevention.

11 SECTION 2. Section 16-100-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-100 entitled "Dual
12 Enrollment Equal Opportunity Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 **16-100-3. Policy implemented.**

14 (a) The Board of Education shall prescribe by regulation a statewide dual enrollment
15 policy that shall allow students to enroll in courses at postsecondary institutions to satisfy
16 academic credit requirements in both high school and the aforementioned postsecondary
17 institutions. The regulations shall address the postsecondary institution's graduation requirements,
18 if any; the institution's ability to award degrees/certificates in Rhode Island; the minimum course
19 grade to receive credit at the student's secondary school; and any other criteria that the Board
20 deems appropriate.

21 (b) The board shall convene a workgroup, including, but not limited to, representatives
22 from the department of elementary and secondary education, the office of the postsecondary
23 commissioner, superintendents, school committees, public higher education institutions, guidance
24 counselors, and teachers. The purpose of the workgroup is to consider and advise the board as to
25 a dual enrollment policy and its possible effect on school funding pursuant to chapter 7.2 of title
26 16; academic supports; transportation; possible shared costs of the education; possible fee
27 schedules; manners in which low-income students could access the program; and possible
28 contracted tuition costs with our public higher education institutions.

29 (c) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, payments to public institutions of higher
30 education for dual and concurrent enrollment shall be limited to no greater than the appropriation
31 contained in the appropriations act. On or before September 30, 2017, the council on
32 postsecondary education shall promulgate rules and regulations enforcing this limitation.

33 (d) Students in grade twelve (12) enrolled full-time, as defined by the institution, in a
34 dual enrollment program where the courses are taken on a higher education institution campus

1 [shall be exempt from the requirements set forth in § 16-22-4\(a\).](#)

2 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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RELATING TO EDUCATION - CURRICULUM [SEE TITLE 16 CHAPTER 97 - THE
RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT]

- 1 This act would exempt those students in grade twelve (12) who are enrolled full-time in a
- 2 dual enrollment program where the courses are taken on a higher education institution campus
- 3 from the requirement that they complete health and physical education courses.
- 4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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