

2016 -- S 2742

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LC005024  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Introduced By: Senators Pearson, Picard, Nesselbush, Lombardi, and Miller

Date Introduced: March 10, 2016

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 16-7.2-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7.2 entitled "The  
2 Education Equity and Property Tax Relief Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:  
3           **16-7.2-5. Charter public schools, the William M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical**  
4 **High School, and the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center.** -- (a) Charter  
5 public schools as defined in chapter 77 of this title, the William M. Davies, Jr. Career and  
6 Technical High School (Davies) and the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center (the  
7 Met Center) shall be funded pursuant to § 16-7.2-3. If the October 1 actual enrollment data for  
8 any charter public school shows a ten percent (10%) or greater change from the prior year  
9 enrollment which is used as the reference year average daily membership, the last six (6) monthly  
10 ~~third and fourth quarter~~ payments to the charter public school will be adjusted to reflect actual  
11 enrollment. The state share of the permanent foundation education aid shall be paid by the state  
12 directly to the charter public schools, Davies, and the Met Center pursuant to § 16-7.2-9 and shall  
13 be calculated using the state share ratio of the district of residence of the student as set forth in §  
14 16-7.2-4. The department of elementary and secondary education shall provide the general  
15 assembly with the calculation of the state share of permanent foundation education aid for  
16 charter public schools delineated by school district. The department shall also provide the general  
17 assembly a performance dashboard indicating the per-pupil expenditures of each school district  
18 and charter school broken down by revenue sources and expenditure categories. The department  
19 shall provide, within the same dashboard, student performance indicators for each school district

1 or charter school.

2 (b) The local share of education funding, as defined by the department of elementary and  
3 secondary education and approved by the General Assembly, shall be paid to the charter public  
4 school, Davies, and the Met Center by the district of residence of the student and shall be the  
5 local per-pupil cost, which consists of ~~calculated by dividing~~ the local appropriation to education  
6 from property taxes, net of debt service, ~~and~~ capital projects, and the local share of education  
7 funding paid to the charter public schools, Davies, and the Met Center in reference year 2014, as  
8 defined in the uniform chart of accounts, divided by the average daily membership for each city  
9 and town, pursuant to § 16-7-22, for the reference year.

10 ~~(b)~~(c) Local district payments to charter public schools, Davies, and the Met Center for  
11 each district's students enrolled in these schools shall be made on a quarterly basis in July,  
12 October, January and April; however, the first local district payment shall be made by August 15  
13 instead of July. Failure of the community to make the local district payment for its student(s)  
14 enrolled in a charter public school, Davies, and/or the Met Center may result in the withholding  
15 of state education aid pursuant to § 16-7-31.

16 (d) Beginning in FY 2017, the state shall pay the local share or contribution of charter  
17 public school tuition for all school districts with charter public school, Davies, and the Met  
18 Center enrollments that, combined, comprise more than five percent (5%) of the average daily  
19 membership as defined in §16-7-22.

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

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1           This act would provide that beginning in FY 2017, the state would pay the local share or  
2 contribution of charter public school tuition for all school districts with charter public school  
3 enrollments that combined, total more than five percent (5%) of the average daily membership of  
4 all pupils attending public schools within those school districts. This act also incorporates  
5 proposals from the governor's proposed FY 2016-2017 budget regarding charter school funding.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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