

2017 -- S 0306

LC000745

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - CURRICULUM

Introduced By: Senators Satchell, Miller, Nesselbush, Sheehan, and Gee

Date Introduced: February 16, 2017

Referred To: Senate Education

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, shall receive in those schools instruction in health  
7 and physical education under rules and regulations the department of elementary and secondary  
8 education may prescribe or approve during periods which shall average at least twenty (20)  
9 minutes in each school day. No private school or private instruction shall be approved by any  
10 school committee for the purposes of chapter 19 of this title as substantially equivalent to that  
11 required by law of a child attending a public school in the same city and/or town unless  
12 instruction in health and physical education similar to that required in public schools shall be  
13 given. Commencing September 1, 2012, the required health education curriculum shall be based  
14 on the health education standards of the Rhode Island Health Education Framework: Health  
15 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  
19 Lifestyles through Quality Physical Education as promulgated by the Rhode Island department of

1 education and consistent with the instructional outcomes therein.

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

10 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 require the department of elementary and secondary education to  
2 consider incorporating substance abuse education and suicide prevention into the health education  
3 curriculum.

4                   This act would take effect upon passage.

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