

2018 -- H 7805

=====
LC003963
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

—————
A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Introduced By: Representative Patricia A. Serpa

Date Introduced: February 28, 2018

Referred To: House 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.**

5 (a) Charter public schools, as defined in chapter 77 of this title, the William M. Davies,
6 Jr. Career and Technical High School (Davies), and the Metropolitan Regional Career and
7 Technical Center (the Met Center) shall be funded pursuant to § 16-7.2-3. If the October 1 actual
8 enrollment data for any charter public school shows a ten percent (10%) or greater change from
9 the prior year enrollment which is used as the reference year average daily membership, the last
10 six (6) monthly payments to the charter public school will be adjusted to reflect actual enrollment.
11 The state share of the permanent foundation education aid shall be paid by the state directly to the
12 charter public schools, Davies, and the Met Center pursuant to § 16-7.2-9 and shall be calculated
13 using the state-share ratio of the district of residence of the student as set forth in § 16-7.2-4. The
14 department of elementary and secondary education shall provide the general assembly with the
15 calculation of the state share of permanent foundation education aid for charter public schools
16 delineated by school district.

17 (b) The local share of education funding shall be paid to the charter public school,
18 Davies, and the Met Center by the district of residence of the student and shall be the local, per-
19 pupil cost calculated by dividing the local appropriation to education from property taxes, net of

1 debt service, and capital projects, as defined in the uniform chart of accounts by the average daily
2 membership for each city and town, pursuant to § 16-7-22, for the reference year.

3 (c) Beginning in FY 2017, there shall be a reduction to the local per pupil funding paid by
4 the district of residence to charter public schools, Davies, and the Met Center. This reduction
5 shall be equal to the greater (i) Of seven percent (7%) of the local, per-pupil funding of the
6 district of residence pursuant to subsection (b) or (ii) The per-pupil value of the district's costs for
7 non-public textbooks, transportation for non-public students, retiree health benefits, out-of-district
8 special-education tuition and transportation, services for students age eighteen (18) to twenty-one
9 (21) years old, pre-school screening and intervention, and career and technical education, tuition
10 and transportation costs, debt service and rental costs minus the average expenses incurred by
11 charter schools for those same categories of expenses as reported in the uniform chart of accounts
12 for the prior preceding fiscal year pursuant to § 16-7-16(11) and verified by the department of
13 elementary and secondary education. In the case where audited financials result in a change in the
14 calculation after the first tuition payment is made, the remaining payments shall be based on the
15 most recent audited data. For those districts whose greater reduction occurs under the calculation
16 of (ii), there shall be an additional reduction to payments to mayoral academies with teachers who
17 do not participate in the state teacher's retirement system under chapter 8 of title 36 equal to the
18 per-pupil value of teacher retirement costs attributable to unfunded liability as calculated by the
19 state's actuary for the prior preceding fiscal year.

20 (d) Local district payments to charter public schools, Davies, and the Met Center for each
21 district's students enrolled in ~~these schools~~ the charter public school shall be ~~made on a quarterly~~
22 ~~basis in July, October, January, and April; however, the first local district payment shall be made~~
23 ~~by August 15, instead of July. Failure of the community to make the local district payment for its~~
24 ~~student(s) enrolled in a charter public school, Davies, and/or the Met Center may result in the~~
25 ~~withholding of state education aid pursuant to § 16-7-31~~ calculated on a per diem basis on
26 November 15, February 1, April 15, and June 30 and payable within thirty (30) days of said date
27 for those resident students who are enrolled at the charter public school during the quarter prior to
28 said date.

29 (e) Beginning in FY 2017, school districts with charter public school, Davies, and the
30 Met Center enrollment, that, combined, comprise five percent (5%) or more of the average daily
31 membership as defined in § 16-7-22, shall receive additional aid for a period of three (3) years.
32 Aid in FY 2017 shall be equal to the number of charter public school, open-enrollment schools,
33 Davies, or the Met Center students as of the reference year as defined in § 16-7-16 times a per-
34 pupil amount of one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175). Aid in FY 2018 shall be equal to the

1 number of charter public school, open-enrollment schools, Davies, or the Met Center students as
2 of the reference year as defined in § 16-7-16 times a per-pupil amount of one hundred dollars
3 (\$100). Aid in FY 2019 shall be equal to the number of charter public school, open-enrollment
4 schools, Davies, or the Met Center students as of the reference year as defined in § 16-7-16 times
5 a per-pupil amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00). The additional aid shall be used to offset the adjusted
6 fixed costs retained by the districts of residence.

7 [\(f\) Charter public schools, Davies, and the Met Center shall certify said enrollments by](#)
8 [student name, residence, and student identification number and prohibit students from registering](#)
9 [at the charter and home school district to avoid double billing.](#)

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

=====
LC003963
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

1 This act would provide for quarterly assessments of district payments to charter public
2 school, Davies and the Met Center calculated on a per diem basis and payable within thirty (30)
3 days and would require said charters, Davies and the Met Center to keep enrollment records with
4 student ID numbers to avoid double billing.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC003963
=====