

2019 -- H 5069

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM

Introduced By: Representatives Lombardi, and Hull

Date Introduced: January 10, 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, 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 that shall average at least twenty (20) minutes  
9 in each school day. No private school or private instruction shall be approved by any school  
10 committee for the purposes of chapter 19 of this title as substantially equivalent to that required  
11 by law of a child attending a public school in the same city or town unless instruction in health  
12 and physical education similar to that required in public schools shall be given. Commencing  
13 September 1, 2012, the required health education curriculum shall be based on the health  
14 education standards of the Rhode Island health education framework: health literacy for all  
15 students as promulgated by the Rhode Island department of education and consistent with the  
16 mandated health instructional outcomes therein. Commencing September 1, 2012, the required  
17 physical education curriculum shall be based on the physical education standards of the Rhode  
18 Island physical education framework: supporting physically active lifestyles through quality  
19 physical education as promulgated by the Rhode Island department of education and consistent

1 with the instructional outcomes therein.

2 (b) The department of elementary and secondary education shall incorporate, in  
3 consultation with the state department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and  
4 hospitals, substance-abuse prevention and suicide prevention into the health education  
5 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 (c) The department of education shall promulgate guidelines, rules and regulations for  
11 every school district, private school, mayoral academy, and charter school and make available on  
12 its website, curriculum materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional school  
13 committees, and governing bodies of any private school, mayoral academy, or charter school in  
14 developing instructional material on the multiple dimensions of health by including mental health  
15 and the relation of physical and mental health so as to enhance student understanding, attitudes  
16 and behaviors that promote health, well-being and human dignity. The curriculum material and  
17 the guidelines shall be developed by the department of education in consultation with groups and  
18 individuals having an interest and expertise in the field of mental health and mental illness  
19 treatment.

20 (d) Every school district shall include in its curriculum for all seventh grade students, a  
21 four (4) hour unit of instruction on mental health and the relation of physical and mental health.  
22 School districts may utilize materials provided by the department of education and the curriculum  
23 shall be provided for the 2020-2021 school year.

24 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 education to develop and make available for  
2 school use a mental health curriculum. Schools would be required to provide four (4) hours of  
3 mental health instruction to seventh grade students.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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