

2020 -- H 7190

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LC003545  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- PAUL W. CROWLEY STUDENT INVESTMENT  
INITIATIVE

Introduced By: Representatives Serpa, Fellela, Lyle, Solomon, and Caldwell

Date Introduced: January 22, 2020

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 16-7.1-10 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7.1 entitled "The Paul  
2 W. Crowley Rhode Island Student Investment Initiative [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode  
3 Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended to read as follows:

4           **16-7.1-10. Professional development investment fund.**

5           (a) In order to continue developing the skills of Rhode Island's teachers, administrators  
6 and staff, to facilitate the dissemination of curriculum materials aligned with curriculum  
7 frameworks and state assessments, and to implement district professional development plans  
8 required by certification regulations, the general assembly establishes a Professional  
9 Development Investment Fund. The general assembly shall annually appropriate some sum and  
10 distribute it based on a ~~pupil-teacher ratio~~ per pupil basis that shall be adjusted annually by the  
11 commissioner of elementary and secondary education. ~~School districts, including collaboratives~~  
12 ~~established pursuant to chapter 3.1 of this title, may use funds received under this category of~~  
13 ~~education aid to replace up to, but no more than, fifty percent (50%) of the amount the school~~  
14 ~~district spent for professional development programs in the previous fiscal year. The expenditure~~  
15 ~~of these funds shall be determined by a committee at each school consisting of the school~~  
16 ~~principal, two (2) teachers selected by the teaching staff of the school, and two (2) parents of~~  
17 ~~students attending the school. Schools that enroll students in the early grades (kindergarten~~  
18 ~~through grade three (3)) must expend these funds on the development of scientific research based,~~

1 as described in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title I, Part B, Section 1208 [20 U.S.C. §  
2 6368], reading instruction to improve students reading performance.

3 Schools that have met their performance targets in reading for the current academic year  
4 and are not designated as a school in need of improvement, may expend their Professional  
5 Development Investment Funds on professional development in the core academic subjects of  
6 mathematics, writing, or reading to improve student performance.

7 Collaborative programs between schools are encouraged. These resources shall be used to  
8 close student performance gaps in accordance with the school's and district's strategic plan  
9 pursuant to § 16-7.1-2. Additional funds shall be allocated to the department of elementary and  
10 secondary education to support teacher and administrator professional development in all  
11 districts, including, but not limited to:

12 (1) Supporting mentoring systems;

13 (2) Providing school districts with program support to assist teachers in local school  
14 districts to improve reading instruction and enhance the integration of reading throughout the  
15 curriculum with the goal of improving student performance to high standards;

16 (3) Support for the design and implementation of leadership development for the teacher  
17 to assume leadership roles or ultimately prepare for administrator;

18 (4) Development of a plan for formal training of school leaders in standards based  
19 instruction, school improvement planning, effective use of data in the decision making process,  
20 community involvement and creation of governance structures;

21 (5) Support for national board certification of teachers, application fees for a certificate of  
22 clinical competence issued by the American speech language hearing association, and grants for  
23 coordination and support of school based teacher professional development; and

24 (6) The practice of scientific research based reading instruction to improve reading  
25 performance.

26 (b) In FY 2003, the additional funds allocated to the department of elementary and  
27 secondary education pursuant to this section shall be used only to support the activities described  
28 in subdivisions (a)(2) and (a)(5) of this section.

29 (c) Out of the funds appropriated by the general assembly for professional development  
30 in subsection (a) of this section, twenty five percent (25%) shall be set aside for district wide  
31 professional development activities. The expenditure of this district wide professional  
32 development set aside [the professional development investment funds in each school district](#) shall  
33 be determined by a committee in each district consisting of the superintendent or his or her  
34 designee, three (3) teachers appointed by the collective bargaining agent, and one member of the

1 ~~Rhode Island department of elementary and secondary education field service team servicing that~~  
2 ~~school district designated by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education~~ appointed  
3 by the superintendent. The expenditure must be aligned with the district strategic plan as well as  
4 ~~ongoing professional development programs approved by the department of elementary and~~  
5 ~~secondary education~~ the LEA professional learning plan required by the department of education  
6 certification regulations. Collaborative programs between school districts are permissible.

7 (d) ~~Beginning in FY 2006, professional development funds shall only be spent with the~~  
8 ~~prior approval of the commissioner of elementary and secondary education upon submission of a~~  
9 ~~district level plan which incorporates the school level plans and which details the use of the~~  
10 ~~funds. These plans shall to the extent possible call for professional development activities that~~  
11 ~~are embedded or do not otherwise encroach upon student instruction time. The requirements of~~  
12 ~~this paragraph shall apply to both district wide professional development activities and~~  
13 ~~professional development activities determined by the school level committees.~~

14 (e) ~~In FY 2009 payments from the professional development investment fund are hereby~~  
15 ~~suspended through June 30, 2009. Notwithstanding, school districts may continue to maintain~~  
16 ~~professional development programs and may reduce other education programs to achieve savings.~~

17 (f) ~~In FY 2010 payments from the professional development investment fund are hereby~~  
18 ~~suspended through June 30, 2010. Notwithstanding, school districts may continue to maintain~~  
19 ~~professional development programs and may reduce other education programs to achieve savings.~~

20 (g) Commencing in FY 2021, the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200) per student shall be  
21 allocated to each school district to the professional development investment fund.

22 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 -- PAUL W. CROWLEY STUDENT INVESTMENT  
INITIATIVE

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1           This act would restructure the professional development investment fund to assume  
2 duties of dissemination of curriculum materials aligned with curriculum frameworks, state  
3 assessments, and implement district professional development plans with an allocation of two  
4 hundred dollars (\$200) per student.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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