

2020 -- H 7968

LC005167

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - ARIANNA'S SPEECH FLUENCY ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Quattrocchi, and Lyle

Date Introduced: March 05, 2020

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 16 of the General Laws entitled "EDUCATION" is hereby amended by  
2 adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 67.3

4 ARIANNA'S SPEECH FLUENCY ACT

5 **16-67.3-1. Legislative findings and declarations.**

6 The general assembly finds and declares:

7 (1) This chapter shall be known as the "Arianna's Speech Fluency Act" in recognition of  
8 Arianna Maggiacomo, a child from the state of Rhode Island with speech fluency issues.

9 (2) The Rhode Island economy will benefit from a workforce which can read at grade level.

10 (3) All students will benefit from teachers who are trained in a language-based,  
11 multisensory, structured, sequential, cumulative, cognitive and flexible reading program, such as  
12 the Orton-Gillingham classroom education program.

13 (4) There are many teachers throughout the state who have expressed interest in learning a  
14 language-based, multisensory, structured, sequential, cumulative, cognitive and flexible reading  
15 program, such as Orton-Gillingham, but they, and the school districts, lack the funds to take the  
16 course.

17 **16-67.3-2. Department of elementary and secondary education responsibilities.**

18 (a) The department of elementary and secondary education (the "department") shall  
19 disseminate, using web-based technology, research-based best-practice methods by which the state

1 and district school boards and committees shall evaluate and improve the professional development  
2 system of teachers in regard to student speech fluency.

3 (b) The department shall also disseminate, using web-based technology, professional  
4 development in the use of integrated digital instruction at schools that include middle grades.

5 **16-67.3-3. Teacher professional development and training.**

6 No later than September 1, 2021, the department of elementary and secondary education  
7 shall develop and make available on its website resources to assist school districts in developing a  
8 program to ensure all teachers and school administrators have access to materials to support  
9 professional awareness of best practices on:

10 (1) Recognition of the characteristics of student speech fluency pathology; and

11 (2) Evidence-based interventions and accommodations for student speech fluency  
12 pathology.

13 **16-67.3-4. Appropriation for teacher training.**

14 The general assembly for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 and for each year thereafter shall  
15 appropriate a minimum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for teacher training in the Orton-  
16 Gillingham classroom educator program or similar program as designated by the department of  
17 education.

18 **16-67.3-5. Rules and regulations.**

19 The department of education shall promulgate rules, regulations, and procedures for  
20 teachers and/or school districts to seek funding and/or reimbursement for funds expended for  
21 training in the Orton-Gillingham classroom educator program. Funding and/or reimbursement shall  
22 be provided in compliance with the rules, regulations and procedures promulgated by the  
23 department of education for courses consisting of at least five (5) days of training up to a maximum  
24 of ten (10) days of training in the Orton-Gillingham classroom educator program.

25 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO EDUCATION - ARIANNA'S SPEECH FLUENCY ACT

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1           This act would provide that the general assembly would appropriate \$50,000 annually for  
2 teacher training in Orton-Gillingham classroom educator program.

3           This act would take effect on July 1, 2020.

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