

2020 -- S 2399

LC003809

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - ENSURING PROPER REPORTING

Introduced By: Senators Satchell, Euer, Gallo, Sheehan, and Pearson

Date Introduced: February 13, 2020

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-1 of the General Laws entitled "State Department of Elementary
2 and Secondary Education [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]"
3 is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

4 **16-1-15. Ensuring proper data reporting - Teacher absences.**

5 (a) Each local education agency (LEA) shall develop and maintain a system to collect and
6 report data to the Rhode Island department of elementary and secondary education (the
7 "department") pertaining to educator absences. The system shall include, but not be limited to:

8 (1) A mechanism to ensure that educator absences due to attendance at professional
9 development activities, field trips, and pre-approved absences longer than six (6) days are not
10 reported to the department; and

11 (2) A process for appeal, should an educator dispute the number or type of absences
12 attributed to him or her in an academic year.

13 (b) By August 1, 2021, the department shall complete a review of the system(s) used by
14 each LEA to collect and report data pertaining to educator absences to ensure that the systems are
15 operating in accordance with this section.

16 (c) If the department finds that a data reporting system is not operating in accordance
17 with this section:

18 (1) The department shall notify the LEA in writing that the system is out of compliance;

19 (2) The LEA shall have sixty (60) days from the date of the written notification to

1 institute a compliant system; and

2 (3) The department shall conduct a follow-up review of the LEA's system no later than
3 ninety (90) days after the date of the written notification to determine compliance.

4 (d) By December 1, 2021, the department shall provide written confirmation to the
5 governor, the president of the senate, and the speaker of the house that the review has been
6 completed, and that each LEA is using a data reporting system that is in compliance with this
7 section.

8 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 - ENSURING PROPER REPORTING

- 1 This act would require local education entities to develop and maintain a system to report
- 2 teacher absences to the department of elementary and secondary education.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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