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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

Introduced By: Representative John J. McCauley

Date Introduced: March 15, 2012

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 16-45-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-45 entitled "Regional  
2 Vocational Schools" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **16-45-6. Powers additional to previous authority.** -- (a) The powers delegated and  
4 authorized in this chapter for the board of regents for elementary and secondary education and the  
5 department of elementary and secondary education shall be in addition to those previously  
6 authorized by any other general or public law.

7           (b) The governance, funding, and programming of the William M. Davies, Jr. vocational  
8 technical school and the Metropolitan Career and Technical School shall be in accordance with  
9 the rules and regulations formulated by the board of regents for elementary and secondary  
10 education pursuant to chapter 35 of title 42. Provided, however, the additional appropriation by  
11 the General Assembly in fiscal year 2005 for the William M. Davies, Jr. Vocational Technical  
12 School shall be used to fund sixty (60) additional placements. Forty (40) of those placements  
13 shall be made available to students from the City of Providence.

14           (c) The purpose of this chapter is to restructure the system of career and technical  
15 schools in Rhode Island for the benefit of the students, the economy, and the general welfare. The  
16 paramount aim is to enable the schools to make more significant contributions in providing the  
17 state's students with the career preparation they need to compete and succeed in the world of  
18 today and of the future. To ensure student success, a system of model career and technical schools  
19 will be established and supported. These schools will provide: integrated academic and vocational

1 curricula, up to date technology, programs to meet the varying needs of all students [of Rhode](#)  
2 [Island](#), and strong links to business, industry, postsecondary education, and the community.

3 (d) (1) There shall be a system of state operated career and technical schools serving  
4 ~~geographic areas of the state~~ [the entire state](#). Students attending these ~~regional~~ schools will do so  
5 on a full time basis with the costs for their education at the ~~regional~~ school being shared by the  
6 state and the district of residence as described in section 16-7.2-5. State schools currently  
7 participating in the state retirement system that are not receiving reimbursement pursuant to  
8 section 16-16-22 shall have their state aid adjusted to reflect full reimbursement for expenses  
9 related to employer retirement contributions for those staff employed by the state.

10 (2) These schools shall be operated as local education agencies and each shall be  
11 governed by a board of trustees. With the exception of those powers and duties reserved by the  
12 director, the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, and the board of regents for  
13 elementary and secondary education, the board of trustees shall have the powers and duties of  
14 school committees. The Davies school shall be the first school operated under the provisions of  
15 this chapter and shall be renamed the William M. Davies, Jr. career and technical high school.  
16 The Metropolitan Career and Technical School shall be the second school operated under the  
17 provisions of this chapter. [The Metropolitan Career and Technical School shall serve eligible](#)  
18 [students statewide](#).

19 (e) (1) The board of regents for elementary and secondary education shall appoint the  
20 members of the board of trustees from nominations made by the commissioner of elementary and  
21 secondary education. The chairperson shall also be selected in this manner. The board of regents  
22 shall determine the number, qualifications, and terms of office of members of the board of  
23 trustees. The board of trustees will be broadly representative of the local communities served by  
24 each school and the larger statewide workforce interests.

25 (2) The board of regents shall establish strategic directions for the career and technical  
26 education system that are consistent with the state's economic development plans, workforce  
27 requirements, and educational priorities and learner outcomes established by the board of regents.

28 (3) The board of regents shall provide parameters for the overall budget requests,  
29 approve the budget, and participate in budget development as required in subsection (i).

30 (f) (1) The commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall recommend  
31 parameters for the overall budget requests, recommend a budget and participate in budget  
32 development as required in subsection (i).

33 (2) The commissioner shall approve the process for selection of a director of each  
34 ~~regional~~ school [operated under the provisions of this chapter](#). The commissioner shall develop a

1 plan for statewide implementation of the provisions of this chapter.

2 (g) The board of trustees shall meet monthly and serve without compensation. Nine (9)  
3 members of the board of trustees shall be required to attend teacher appeal hearings conducted  
4 pursuant to section 16-13-4. The board of trustees shall have broad policy making authority for  
5 the operation of the school consistent with subsection (e) and the following powers and duties:

6 (1) To identify the educational needs of the communities in the ~~district~~ state.

7 (2) To develop educational policies to meet the needs of students in the communities  
8 served by the school ~~district~~.

9 (3) To appoint a director of its ~~regional~~ school to serve as its chief executive officer and  
10 to approve assistant and associate directors from nominations made by the director.

11 (4) To provide policy guidance and participate in budget development as required in  
12 subsection (i).

13 (5) To develop staffing policies which ensure that all students are taught by educators of  
14 the highest possible quality.

15 (h) (1) The director will serve at the pleasure of the board of trustees with the initial  
16 appointment to be for a period of not more than three (3) years, provided, that the term and  
17 conditions of employment are subject to the approval of the board of regents for elementary and  
18 secondary education.

19 (2) It is the responsibility of the director to manage and operate the school on a day to  
20 day basis. The director's duties shall include the following:

21 (i) To be responsible for the entire care, supervision, and management of the career and  
22 technical high school.

23 (ii) To recommend to the board of trustees educational policies to meet the needs of the  
24 ~~district~~ state, and to implement policies established by the board of trustees.

25 (iii) To present nominations to the board of trustees for assistant and associate directors  
26 and to appoint all other school personnel.

27 (iv) To provide for the evaluation of all school ~~district~~ personnel.

28 (v) To establish a school based management approach for decision making for the  
29 operation of the school.

30 (vi) To prepare a budget and participate in budget development as required in subsection  
31 (i), and to authorize purchases consistent with the adopted school district budget.

32 (vii) To report to the board of trustees on a regular basis the financial condition and  
33 operation of the school, and to report annually on the educational progress of the school.

34 (viii) To establish appropriate advisory committees as needed to provide guidance on

1 new directions and feedback on the operation of the school.

2 (i) With policy guidance from the board of trustees and extensive involvement of the  
3 administrators and faculty in the school, the director of each regional school shall annually  
4 prepare a budget. The board of trustees will approve the budget and transmit it to the  
5 commissioner. The board of regents for elementary and secondary education, upon  
6 recommendation of the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, shall provide  
7 parameters for the overall budget request. Based on review and recommendation by the  
8 commissioner, the board of regents shall approve the total budget and incorporate it into its  
9 budget request to the governor and to the general assembly. Line item budgeting decisions shall  
10 be the responsibility of the director.

11 (j) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to limit or interfere with the rights of teachers  
12 and other school employees to bargain collectively pursuant to chapters 9.3 and 9.4 of title 28 or  
13 to allow the board of trustees or the director to abrogate any agreement by collective bargaining.  
14 Employees at the William M. Davies school shall continue to be state employees and the  
15 bargaining units which are presently established at the school shall remain intact.

16 (k) Any tuition payments, which are made to the William M. Davies Career and  
17 Technical high school from the district of residence of its students, as authorized in R.I.G.L.  
18 section 16-7.2-5, shall be deposited into a restricted receipt account to be used for the same  
19 educational purposes that its state appropriation is used. Any such funds shall be exempt from the  
20 indirect cost recovery provisions of section 35-4-7.

21 SECTION 2. Section 16-45-8 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-45 entitled "Regional  
22 Vocational Schools" is hereby repealed.

23 ~~16-45-8. Temporary service to other regions. -- Any resident of the state being~~  
24 ~~qualified shall, until a vocational school is in operation in the region in which he or she resides,~~  
25 ~~be eligible to register at, receive instruction from, and be issued a certificate by the regional~~  
26 ~~vocational school serving the inhabitants of the greater Providence area.~~

27 SECTION 3. 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 -- REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

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1           This act would expand the geographic areas served by the William J. Davies, Jr. Career  
2 and Technical High School and the Metropolitan Career and Technical School to cover the entire  
3 state.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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