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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

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, DaPonte, Lanzi, DiPalma, and DeVall

Date Introduced: February 14, 2012

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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

3 CHAPTER 98

4 ACCESS TO ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT

5 **16-98-1. Short title.** – This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Access To  
6 Advanced Placement Courses For All Students Act."

7 **16-98-2. Definitions.** – The following words and phrases when used in this chapter shall  
8 have the following meanings given to them unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

9 (1) "Advanced placement" means a high school level preparatory course for a college  
10 advanced placement exam that:

11 (i) Incorporates all topics specified by the college board on its standards syllabus for a  
12 given subject area; and

13 (ii) Is authorized by the college board.

14 (2) "Board of regents" means the board of regents for elementary and secondary  
15 education.

16 (3) "College board" means the non-profit examination board in the United States  
17 comprised of over four thousand five hundred (4,500) institutions of higher learning and known  
18 for managing standardized tests such as the advanced placement or "AP" tests.

19 (4) "Department" means the Rhode Island department of elementary and secondary

1 education.

2 (5) “Eligible teacher” means a professional employee that is certified in the subject area  
3 of the advanced placement course that he or she will be teaching.

4 (6) “Four core academic areas” means advanced placement courses in English,  
5 mathematics, science and social science.

6 (7) “Poverty level” means the percentage of students in a school district eligible for free  
7 and reduced lunch.

8 (8) “Program” means the advanced placement teacher training program.

9 (9) “School district” means any public school district, school unit, area-vocational-  
10 technical school, or charter school that composes a school district; the term also encompasses a  
11 single high school or multiple high schools within a school district where applicable.

12 (10) “Teacher training entities” means institutions of higher education, intermediate units  
13 or organizations approved/certified by the college board to train teachers to teach advanced  
14 placement courses.

15 (11) “Virtual learning instruction” means providing academic courses to students via the  
16 Internet and/or the use of technology in providing instruction to students.

17 **16-98-3. Advanced placement teacher training program. – (a) Purpose – The purpose**  
18 **of the advanced placement teacher training program is to provide access to advanced placement**  
19 **courses in the four (4) core academic subjects of English, mathematics, science and social science**  
20 **for all students by training teachers in advanced placement course instruction at all high schools**  
21 **that do not presently provide advanced placement courses.**

22 **(b) Establishment – Subject to appropriation, the advanced placement teacher-training**  
23 **program shall be established in the department of education by the board of regents to train**  
24 **teachers in eligible school entities to teach advanced placement courses in the four (4) core**  
25 **academic areas of English, mathematics, science and social science in one or more of these**  
26 **disciplines.**

27 **(c) Eligible school entities – Eligible school entities are those that do not have in each of**  
28 **their high schools at least one advanced placement course in the four (4) core academic areas.**

29 **(1) A school district that has an advanced placement course in one or more of the four (4)**  
30 **core academic areas but not in all four (4) core academic areas is only eligible to have a teacher**  
31 **trained in those core academic areas that it does not have an advanced placement course.**

32 **(2) No more than one teacher per core academic area in each high school of an eligible**  
33 **school district shall be trained under this program.**

34 **(3) More than one eligible school district may apply jointly to the program to train a**

1 teacher in advanced placement course instruction if that teacher is to provide such instruction in  
2 more than one school district either through classroom instruction or through virtual learning  
3 instruction.

4 (d) Application requirements for eligible school entities – The application by an eligible  
5 school district seeking funding for the program shall include the following:

6 (1) The subject areas that currently have an advanced placement courses in each of its  
7 high schools;

8 (2) The subject areas among the four (4) core academic areas that it does not have an  
9 advanced placement course in each of its high schools;

10 (3) The names of the eligible teachers including the high school where they are teaching  
11 and the advanced placement academic subject area that each of the teachers will be providing  
12 instruction and whether the instruction will be in a classroom or through virtual learning  
13 instruction;

14 (4) The names of the eligible teacher training entities that shall be providing the training  
15 for teachers in providing advanced placement instruction;

16 (5) Agreement to provide the advanced placement course for high school students for at  
17 least three (3) years;

18 (6) Guidelines the school district will use in determining which students may be eligible  
19 to enroll in an advanced placement course. The school district shall not discriminate on any basis  
20 in enrollment of students that is illegal under applicable federal or state law;

21 (7) Agreement to annually report to the department for each of the four (4) core academic  
22 areas that were taught by teachers whose training was funded by this program the following  
23 information:

24 (i) The number of students taking advanced placement courses;

25 (ii) The number of students who took the advanced placement examinations; and

26 (iii) The number of students scoring a three (3) or higher on the advanced placement  
27 examinations.

28 **16-98-4. Powers and duties of department. – (a) Guidelines. – The department shall**  
29 **promulgate rules, regulations and procedures necessary for the implementation of this chapter**  
30 **including, but not limited to, the following:**

31 (1) In consultation with the college board, certify those teacher-training entities that are  
32 qualified to provide training of teachers to teach advanced placement courses in the four (4) core  
33 academic areas;

34 (2) In certifying teacher-training entities for this program, the department shall ensure

1 that the training times and locations will be geographically accessible for teachers from eligible  
2 school entities to attend;

3 (3) The department, in consultation with the college board, shall ensure that training  
4 provided by those teacher-training entities must provide teachers of advanced placement courses  
5 with the necessary content knowledge and instructional skills to prepare students for success in  
6 advanced placement courses and examinations; and

7 (4) Starting at the end of the first year of the program, and every year thereafter, the  
8 department shall issue a report to the general assembly on the advanced placement teacher-  
9 training program that shall include, but not be limited to:

10 (i) The number of teachers receiving training in advanced placement instructions in  
11 school entities, school districts and high schools in each of the four (4) core academic areas.

12 (ii) The number of students taking advanced placement courses at school entities in each  
13 of the four (4) core academic areas.

14 (iii) The number of students scoring a three (3) or more on an advanced placement  
15 examination at school entities in each of the four (4) core academic areas.

16 (iv) The remaining unmet need for trained teachers in school entities that do not offer  
17 advanced placement courses.

18 **16-98-5. Funding to teacher training entities.** – To the extent funds are appropriated for  
19 this program, the department shall provide grants per eligible teacher to the endorsed teacher  
20 training entities that provide training to teachers to teach advanced placement upon completion of  
21 the training program.

22 **16-98-6. Program funding.** – (a) Funding for this program is subject to appropriation by  
23 the general assembly to the department for that purpose.

24 (b) In the event that insufficient moneys are appropriated in any fiscal year to provide  
25 funding for all eligible school entities applying to the program, the department shall prioritize  
26 funding of eligible school entities based on the poverty level of the school districts that high  
27 school students who will be taking the advanced placement courses reside in.

28 **16-98-7. Availability of advanced placement courses.** – (a) Any school district offering  
29 advanced placement courses to students shall notify parents of their availability and the  
30 guidelines the school district uses in determining which students may be eligible to enroll in an  
31 advanced placement course.

32 (b) Any school district offering advanced placement courses to students shall publish on  
33 the school district's website the names of the advanced placement courses being offered to  
34 students and the guidelines the school district uses in determining which students may be eligible

1 [to enroll in an advanced placement course.](#)

2 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

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- 1           This act would amend Title 16 (“Education”) by adding a new chapter 93 designed to
- 2 promote access to advanced placement courses for all students in Rhode Island public high
- 3 schools.
- 4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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