

2015 -- H 6106

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX
RELIEF ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Gallison, and Tanzi

Date Introduced: April 17, 2015

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-7.2-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7.2 entitled "The
2 Education Equity and Property Tax Relief Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-7.2-3. Permanent foundation education aid established.** -- (a) Beginning in the
4 2012 fiscal year, the following foundation education aid formula shall take effect. The foundation
5 education aid for each district shall be the sum of the core instruction amount in (a)(1) and the
6 amount to support high need students in (a)(2), which shall be multiplied by the district state
7 share ratio calculated pursuant to § 16-7.2-4 to determine the foundation aid.

8 (1) The core instruction amount shall be an amount equal to a statewide per pupil core
9 instruction amount as established by the department of elementary and secondary education,
10 derived from the average of northeast regional expenditure data for the states of Rhode Island,
11 Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire from the National Center for Education
12 Statistics (NCES) that will adequately fund the student instructional needs as described in the
13 basic education program and multiplied by the district average daily membership as defined in §
14 16-7-22. Expenditure data in the following categories: instruction and support services for
15 students, instruction, general administration, school administration and other support services
16 from the National Public Education Financial Survey as published by NCES and enrollment data
17 from the Common Core of Data also published by NCES will be used when determining the core
18 instruction amount. The core instruction amount will be updated annually. For the purpose of

1 calculating this formula, school districts' resident average daily membership shall exclude charter
2 school and state-operated school students.

3 (2) The amount to support high need students beyond the core instruction amount shall
4 be determined by multiplying a student success factor of forty percent (40%) by the core
5 instruction per pupil amount described in § 16-7.2-3(1) and applying that amount to all resident
6 children eligible for USDA reimbursable school meals.

7 (b) LEAs may set aside a portion of funds received under subsection (a) to expand
8 learning opportunities such as after school and summer programs, full day kindergarten and/or
9 multiple pathway programs provided that the basic education program and all other approved
10 programs required in law are funded.

11 (c) Foundation education aid distributed pursuant to this section shall be distributed to the
12 school districts as one entity, and not as appropriations to individual municipalities, unless
13 specifically indicated otherwise by the Rhode Island general laws.

14 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 -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX
RELIEF ACT

- 1 This act would require that foundation education aid be distributed to the school district
- 2 and not to individual municipalities.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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