

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30

**ARTICLE 18**

RELATING TO EDUCATION AID

SECTION 1. Section 16-7.2-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7.2 entitled “The Education Equity and Property Tax Relief Act” is hereby amended to read as follows:

**16-7.2-6. Categorical programs, state funded expenses.**

In addition to the foundation education aid provided pursuant to § 16-7.2-3, the permanent foundation education-aid program shall provide direct state funding for:

(a) *Excess costs associated with special education students.* Excess costs are defined when an individual special education student's cost shall be deemed to be "extraordinary". Extraordinary costs are those educational costs that exceed the state-approved threshold based on an amount above five times the core foundation amount (total of core-instruction amount plus student success amount). The department of elementary and secondary education shall prorate the funds available for distribution among those eligible school districts if the total approved costs for which school districts are seeking reimbursement exceed the amount of funding appropriated in any fiscal year; and the department of elementary and secondary education shall also collect data on those educational costs that exceed the state-approved threshold based on an amount above four (4) times the core-foundation amount.

(b) Career and technical education costs to help meet initial investment requirements needed to transform existing, or create new, comprehensive, career and technical education programs and career pathways in critical and emerging industries and to help offset the higher-than-average costs associated with facilities, equipment maintenance and repair, and supplies necessary for maintaining the quality of highly specialized programs that are a priority for the state. The department shall develop criteria for the purpose of allocating any and all career and technical education funds as may be determined by the general assembly on an annual basis. The department of elementary and secondary education shall prorate the funds available for distribution among those eligible school districts if the total approved costs for which school districts are seeking reimbursement exceed the amount of funding available in any fiscal year;

(c) Programs to increase access to voluntary, free, high-quality pre-kindergarten programs. The department shall recommend criteria for the purpose of allocating any and all early childhood program funds as may be determined by the general assembly;

1 (d) Central Falls, Davies, and the Met Center Stabilization Fund is established to assure  
2 that appropriate funding is available to support their students. Additional support for Central Falls  
3 is needed due to concerns regarding the city's capacity to meet the local share of education costs.  
4 This fund requires that education aid calculated pursuant to § 16-7.2-3 and funding for costs outside  
5 the permanent foundation education-aid formula, including, but not limited to, transportation,  
6 facility maintenance, and retiree health benefits shall be shared between the state and the city of  
7 Central Falls. The fund shall be annually reviewed to determine the amount of the state and city  
8 appropriation. The state's share of this fund may be supported through a reallocation of current state  
9 appropriations to the Central Falls school district. At the end of the transition period defined in §  
10 16-7.2-7, the municipality will continue its contribution pursuant to § 16-7-24. Additional support  
11 for the Davies and the Met Center is needed due to the costs associated with running a stand-alone  
12 high school offering both academic and career and technical coursework. The department shall  
13 recommend criteria for the purpose of allocating any and all stabilization funds as may be  
14 determined by the general assembly; and

15 (e) Excess costs associated with transporting students to out-of-district non-public schools  
16 and within regional school districts. (1) This fund will provide state funding for the costs associated  
17 with transporting students to out-of-district non-public schools, pursuant to chapter 21.1 of title 16.  
18 The state will assume the costs of non-public out-of-district transportation for those districts  
19 participating in the statewide system; and (2) This fund will provide direct state funding for the  
20 excess costs associated with transporting students within regional school districts, established  
21 pursuant to chapter 3 of title 16. This fund requires that the state and regional school district share  
22 equally the student transportation costs net any federal sources of revenue for these expenditures.  
23 The department of elementary and secondary education shall prorate the funds available for  
24 distribution among those eligible school districts if the total approved costs for which school  
25 districts are seeking reimbursement exceed the amount of funding available in any fiscal year.

26 (f) Public school districts that are regionalized shall be eligible for a regionalization bonus  
27 as set forth below.

28 (1) As used herein, the term "regionalized" shall be deemed to refer to a regional school  
29 district established under the provisions of chapter 3 of title 16 including the Chariho Regional  
30 School district.

31 (2) For those districts that are regionalized as of July 1, 2010, the regionalization bonus  
32 shall commence in FY 2012. For those districts that regionalize after July 1, 2010, the  
33 regionalization bonus shall commence in the first fiscal year following the establishment of a  
34 regionalized school district as set forth in chapter 3 of title 16, including the Chariho Regional

1 School District.

2 (3) The regionalization bonus in the first fiscal year shall be two percent (2.0%) of the  
3 state's share of the foundation education aid for the regionalized district as calculated pursuant to  
4 §§ 16-7.2-3 and 16-7.2-4 in that fiscal year.

5 (4) The regionalization bonus in the second fiscal year shall be one percent (1.0%) of the  
6 state's share of the foundation education aid for the regionalized district as calculated pursuant to  
7 §§ 16-7.2-3 and 16-7.2-4 in that fiscal year.

8 (5) The regionalization bonus shall cease in the third fiscal year.

9 (6) The regionalization bonus for the Chariho regional school district shall be applied to  
10 the state share of the permanent foundation education aid for the member towns.

11 (7) The department of elementary and secondary education shall prorate the funds available  
12 for distribution among those eligible regionalized school districts if the total, approved costs for  
13 which regionalized school districts are seeking a regionalization bonus exceed the amount of  
14 funding appropriated in any fiscal year.

15 (g) *Additional state support for English learners (EL).* ~~For FY 2017 only, the~~ The amount  
16 to support EL students shall be determined by multiplying an EL factor of ten percent (10%) by the  
17 core-instruction per-pupil amount defined in § 16-7.2-3(a)(1) and applying that amount of  
18 additional state support to EL students identified using widely adopted, independent standards and  
19 assessments identified by the Commissioner. All categorical funds distributed pursuant to this  
20 subsection must be used to provide high-quality, research-based services to EL students and  
21 managed in accordance with requirements set forth by the commissioner of elementary and  
22 secondary education. The department of elementary and secondary education shall collect  
23 performance reports from districts and approve the use of funds prior to expenditure. The  
24 department of elementary and secondary education shall ensure the funds are aligned to activities  
25 that are innovative and expansive and not utilized for activities the district is currently funding. The  
26 department of elementary and secondary education shall prorate the funds available for distribution  
27 among eligible recipients if the total calculated costs exceed the amount of funding available in any  
28 fiscal year.

29 (h) Categorical programs defined in (a) through (f) shall be funded pursuant to the  
30 transition plan in § 16-7.2-7.

31 SECTION 2. This article shall take effect as of July 1, 2017.