

2024 -- H 7196 SUBSTITUTE A

LC003336/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE NATHAN BRUNO AND JASON FLATT ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Casimiro, Bennett, McEntee, Spears, Carson, Knight, and Noret

Date Introduced: January 17, 2024

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The title of Chapter 16-21.7 of the General Laws entitled "The Nathan Bruno
2 and Jason Flatt Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

~~CHAPTER 16-21.7~~

~~The Nathan Bruno and Jason Flatt Act~~

CHAPTER 16-21.7

THE NATHAN BRUNO, JASON FLATT, AND ALICIA BIROS BEREAVEMENT ACT

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 16-21.7 of the General Laws entitled "The Nathan Bruno and Jason
8 Flatt Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

9 **16-21.7-5. Emergency response and crisis management upon death of a student or**
10 **staff member.**

11 (a) Each public school district shall adopt a policy for the immediate response to the death
12 of a student or staff member which may include, within and using administrative discretion, a
13 period to be commenced upon the death of the student or staff member or at such other times as the
14 administration determines is appropriate under the particular circumstances, during which time the
15 local education agency (LEA) shall provide school schedule modifications that foster a supportive
16 school climate for responding proactively to losses that impact students and staff.

17 (b) Modifications to the school schedule pursuant to this section may include, but not be
18 limited to, time allowances provided for students and/or staff to attend services for the deceased;
19 time allowances dedicated to training staff to support grieving students; time allowances to attend

1 school-sponsored grief counseling; and time allowances to process grief privately in separate areas
2 and/or support rooms within the school separate and apart from the classroom setting where a
3 student may have privacy.

4 (c) Time allowances provided pursuant to this section shall be considered part of the school
5 day for purposes of § 16-19-1.

6 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====
LC003336/SUB A
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE NATHAN BRUNO AND JASON FLATT ACT

1 This act would require public school districts to adopt a policy for responding to the death
2 of a student or staff member. This act would also amend the title of chapter 16-21.7 to "The Nathan
3 Bruno, Jason Flatt, and Alicia Biros Bereavement Act."

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC003336/SUB A
=====