

2014 -- S 2791 SUBSTITUTE A

=====
LC004951/SUB A/2
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

—————
A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP - SCHOOL
POPULATION

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, McCaffrey, Felag, Miller, and Lynch

Date Introduced: March 25, 2014

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-7-22 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7 entitled "Foundation
2 Level School Support" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-7-22. Determination of average daily membership.** -- Each community shall be
4 paid pursuant to the provisions of ~~section~~ §16-7-17 an amount based upon the following
5 provisions:

6 (1) On or before September 1 of each year the average daily membership of each city
7 and town for the reference year shall be determined by the commissioner of elementary and
8 secondary education from data supplied by the school committee in each community in the
9 following manner: The aggregate number of days of membership of all pupils enrolled full time
10 in grade twelve (12) and below, except that pupils below grade one who are not full time shall be
11 counted on a full time equivalent basis: (i) ~~i~~Increased by the aggregate number of days of
12 membership of pupils residing in the particular city or town whose tuition in schools approved by
13 the department of elementary and secondary education in other cities and towns is paid by the
14 particular city or town; and (ii) ~~d~~Decreased by the aggregate number of days of membership of
15 nonresident pupils enrolled in the public schools of the particular city or town and further
16 decreased by the aggregate number of days of membership equal to the number of group home
17 beds calculated for the purposes of reimbursement pursuant to ~~section~~ §14-64-1.1; and (iii)
18 decreased further, in the case of a city or town ~~which~~ that is a member of a regional school district

1 during the first year of operation of the regional school district; by the aggregate number of days
2 of membership of pupils residing in the city or town who would have attended the public schools
3 in the regional school district if the regional school district had been operating during the
4 previous year, divided by the number of days during which the schools were officially in session
5 during the reference year. The resulting figures shall be the average, daily membership for the
6 city or town for the reference year. For purposes of calculating the permanent foundation
7 education aid as described in ~~section~~ §16-7.2-3(1) and (2), the average daily membership for
8 school districts shall exclude charter school and state school students, and beginning in school
9 year 2014-2015, include an estimate to ensure that districts converting from a half-day to a full-
10 day kindergarten program pursuant to ~~section~~ §16-99-4 are, credited on a full-time basis
11 beginning in the first year of enrollment; and are funded notwithstanding the transition plan
12 pursuant to § 16-7.2-7.

13 (2) The average daily membership of pupils attending public schools shall apply for the
14 purposes of determining the percentage of the state's share under the provisions of ~~sections~~ §§16-
15 7-16(3), 16-7-16(10), 16-7-18, 16-7-19, 16-7-20, 16-7-21 and 16-7.2-4.

16 (3) In the case of regional school districts, the aggregate number of days of membership
17 by which each city or town is decreased in subdivision (1)(iii) of this section, divided by the
18 number of days during which the schools attended by the pupils were officially in session, shall
19 determine the average daily membership for the regional school district during the first year of
20 operation. After the first year of operation, the average, daily membership of each regional school
21 district, except the Chariho regional high school district, shall be determined by the commissioner
22 of elementary and secondary education from data supplied by the school committee of each
23 regional school district for the reference year in the manner provided in subdivision (1) of this
24 section.

25 SECTION 2. Section 16-7.2-7 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-7.2 entitled "The
26 Education Equity and Property Tax Relief Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

27 **16-7.2-7. Transition plan.** -- (a) The general assembly; shall annually determine the
28 appropriation of education aid pursuant to this chapter using a transition plan to begin in fiscal
29 year 2012, not to exceed seven (7) years for LEA's for whom the calculated education aid
30 pursuant to ~~section~~ §16-7.2-3 is more than the education aid the LEA is receiving as of the
31 effective date of the formula, and ten (10) years for LEA's for whom the calculated education aid
32 pursuant to ~~section~~ §16-7.2-3 is less than the education aid the LEA is receiving as of the
33 effective date of the formula.

34 (b) The local share of funding pursuant to ~~section~~ §16-7.2-5 shall be transitioned

1 proportionately over a period not to exceed five (5) years. The transition shall provide a
2 combination of direct aid to districts, funds for the categorical programs, and district savings
3 through state-assumed costs, as determined by the general assembly on an annual basis, Updates
4 to any components of the permanent foundation education aid formula, such as student data,
5 property values, and/or median family income, that result in an increase or decrease in state
6 education aid that impacts the total state and local contribution by more than three percent (3%)
7 shall be transitioned over a period of time not to exceed three (3) years.

8 (c) For districts that are converting from a half-day to a full-day kindergarten program for
9 the 2014-2015 school year and after, as defined by § 16-99-4, the increase in aid provided
10 pursuant to the formula for the increased reference average daily membership due to the
11 conversion of the kindergarten students from 0.5 full-time equivalent to 1.0 full-time equivalent is
12 not subject to the transition plan in subsection (a); instead, the increased kindergarten full-time
13 equivalents will be funded at the fully transitioned value of the formula beginning in FY 2017.

14 SECTION 3. Section 16-99-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-99 entitled "Full-Day
15 Kindergarten Accessibility Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

16 **16-99-4. Eligible school districts; funding.** -- (a) A school district shall be eligible to
17 request funding pursuant to ~~subsection~~ §16-99-4(b), if:

18 (1) The school district is a public school district; and

19 (2) The school district operates a half-day kindergarten program as of September 1,
20 2012, but not a full-day kindergarten, as defined herein, serving more than one-half of the
21 kindergarten students in the district as determined on a headcount basis.

22 (b) Subject to appropriation, beginning with school year 2013-2014, the commissioner of
23 elementary and secondary education shall rank and approve ~~up to four (4)~~ eligible public school
24 districts ~~per year to~~ that voluntarily implement a full-day kindergarten program as defined herein.
25 The aforementioned school district shall receive funding to offset a portion of the reasonable,
26 one-time; start-up costs including, but not limited to, desks, books, facility upgrades, ancillary
27 costs associated with relocation of students, costs associated with the development and
28 implementation of new curriculum, and any other necessary expenses associated with each
29 school's implementation of a full-day kindergarten program. ~~Funds will be appropriated~~ Ranking
30 shall be based upon criteria established by the commissioner of elementary and secondary
31 education to ensure the quality and sustainability of the full-day kindergarten programs
32 implemented.

33 ~~(c) If more than four (4) eligible school districts apply in one year, or if the appropriation~~
34 ~~does not support four (4) eligible districts, the commissioner of elementary and secondary~~

1 ~~education shall determine which districts shall access the available funds for start up costs. In~~
2 ~~ranking the school districts' proposals. The the commissioner's commissioner decision~~ shall
3 consider the quality and sustainability of the program and the average number of children eligible
4 for USDA reimbursable school meals served by the respective district's elementary schools with
5 priority given to school districts with enrollment greater than eight thousand (8,000). ~~The~~
6 ~~commissioner may consider the school district's plan to house the kindergarten enrollment,~~
7 ~~implement a quality full-day program.~~ If no school district has enrollment greater than eight
8 thousand (8,000), then priority shall be given to school districts with enrollment greater than four
9 thousand (4,000).

10 (c) The commissioner shall fully fund all eligible expenditures of each district in rank
11 order. If a district's proposal cannot be fully funded, the district may either accept the available
12 funding for the project or refuse funding. If funding is refused, the commissioner shall fund the
13 next eligible school district's request based on the aforementioned ranking.

14 (d) School districts receiving funds pursuant to this chapter must operate only a full-day
15 program, no half-day programs. The full-day kindergarten program must continue to operate for
16 five (5) years.

17 (e) All funding provided under this section is subject to appropriation.

18 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d), school districts ~~who~~ that request
19 funding pursuant to this chapter may be allowed to phase-in the implementation of a full-day
20 kindergarten program, provided that the district provides the department of elementary and
21 secondary education with a schedule and plan as to the implementation of such program.

22 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====
LC004951/SUB A/2
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION - AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP - SCHOOL
POPULATION

1 This act would prioritize the awarding of state aid for the implementation of full-day
2 kindergarten programs. The commissioner of elementary and secondary education would rank all
3 eligible school districts. Ranking would be based on the quality and sustainability of each
4 program. Districts with eight thousand (8000) or more students would be given priority.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC004951/SUB A/2
=====