

2014 -- S 2950

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT

Introduced By: Senators Picard, Metts, and Pearson

Date Introduced: May 01, 2014

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-97 of the General Laws entitled "The Rhode Island Board of
2 Education Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-97-8. Competency-Based/Proficiency-Based Learning Model Policy. – (a) The**
4 board of education shall adopt a competency-based/proficiency-based learning policy and a
5 model district policy designed to increase programmatic opportunities for students to earn credits
6 through demonstrations of competency.

7 (b) The board of education competency-based/proficiency-based learning policy and
8 model district policy shall be approved on or before June 1, 2015. The department of elementary
9 and secondary education shall issue guidance on the application of the policy in areas that
10 include, but are not limited to, virtual learning career and technical education, and foreign
11 languages.

12 (c) Any seat time freed up by demonstrating competencies must be used to advance the
13 academic and/or technical training of students, including, but not limited to, tutoring or other
14 supports for areas a student may require, advanced placement "AP" courses, dual enrollment, and
15 internships and apprenticeships. No student shall be allowed to use the available seat time as free
16 time unless otherwise approved by the school district and the department of elementary and
17 secondary education.

18 (d) The department of elementary and secondary education shall provide the
19 forementioned model district policy to school districts and school committees upon approval by

1 [the board of education.](#)

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 - THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT

1 This act would require that the board of education adopt a competency-
2 based/proficiency-based learning policy and a model district policy designed to increase
3 programmatic opportunities for students to earn credits through a demonstration of competency
4 and this policy would be approved by June 1, 2015. This act would also provide mandates for the
5 use of seat time freed up by students advancing because of their demonstration of competency.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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