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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TRANSPARENCY IN ARTS EDUCATION ACCESS AND  
PROFICIENCY ACT

Introduced By: Representatives J. Brien, Baginski, Craven, Corvese, Casimiro, Noret,  
Newberry, and Finkelman

Date Introduced: January 05, 2024

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 16 of the General Laws entitled "EDUCATION" is hereby amended by  
2 adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 114

4 TRANSPARENCY IN ARTS EDUCATION ACCESS AND PROFICIENCY ACT

5 **16-114-1. Short title.**

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Transparency in Arts Education Access  
7 and Proficiency Act."

8 **16-114-2. Definitions and Findings.**

9 As used in this chapter:

10 (1) "Arts" means instruction, classes, courses, or organized school-based performance in  
11 dance, media arts, music, theater, and visual arts.

12 (2) "Department" means the Rhode Island department of elementary and secondary  
13 education.

14 (3) "School" means a public middle or high school.

15 (4) "TAEAPA" means transparency in arts education access and proficiency act  
16 ("TAEAPA").

17 **16-114-3. Proficiency in arts education.**

18 (a) Commencing with the 2025-26 academic school year, the department shall include, on

1 each school's annual school report card, each school's percentage of students enrolled in arts  
2 education courses, as defined by the national core arts standards, along with the number of courses  
3 available to students in each arts area, including, but not limited to, dance, media arts, music,  
4 theater, and visual arts.

5 (b) Commencing with the 2025-26 fiscal year, the department shall employ a qualified staff  
6 member to serve in the role of arts education curriculum coordinator at the same leadership level  
7 as the department's other content coordinators. A primary function of this coordinator shall be to  
8 support schools and school districts in meeting the arts education curricular and reporting  
9 requirements, as provided in this chapter, along with any other arts education related tasks within  
10 the department.

11 (c) Commencing with the 2026-27 academic school year, the department shall annually  
12 require each high school to provide a representative sample of graduated students' portfolios, that  
13 demonstrate evidence of meeting proficiency in one of the arts, as defined by the national core arts  
14 standards. The student portfolios shall include evidence of works developed via courses within the  
15 regular school day.

16 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 -- TRANSPARENCY IN ARTS EDUCATION ACCESS AND  
PROFICIENCY ACT

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1           This act would establish the Transparency in Arts Education Access and Proficiency Act  
2 ("TAEAPA") and promote education in the arts at the middle and high school levels by requiring  
3 each middle and high school to provide annual reports on the availability of, and percentage of  
4 students enrolled in, arts education courses.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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