

2010 -- H 7616

LC01643

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

Introduced By: Representatives A Rice, Martin, Jackson, Loughlin, and Gallison

Date Introduced: February 25, 2010

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-45-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-45 entitled "Regional
2 Vocational Schools" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-45-6. Powers additional to previous authority.** -- (a) The powers delegated and
4 authorized in this chapter for the board of regents for elementary and secondary education and the
5 department of elementary and secondary education shall be in addition to those previously
6 authorized by any other general or public law.

7 (b) The governance, funding, and programming of the William M. Davies, Jr. vocational
8 technical school and the Metropolitan Career and Technical School shall be in accordance with
9 the rules and regulations formulated by the board of regents for elementary and secondary
10 education pursuant to chapter 35 of title 42. Provided, however, the additional appropriation by
11 the General Assembly in fiscal year 2005 for the William M. Davies, Jr. Vocational Technical
12 School shall be used to fund sixty (60) additional placements. Forty (40) of those placements
13 shall be made available to students from the City of Providence. [Provided, further that the board](#)
14 [of regents for elementary and secondary education provides equitable funding for the William M.](#)
15 [Davies, Jr. vocational technical school, and the Metropolitan Career and Technical School, and](#)
16 [the Newport County Career and Technical Center.](#)

17 (c) The purpose of this chapter is to restructure the system of career and technical
18 schools in Rhode Island for the benefit of the students, the economy, and the general welfare. The
19 paramount aim is to enable the schools to make more significant contributions in providing the

1 state's students with the career preparation they need to compete and succeed in the world of
2 today and of the future. To ensure student success, a system of model career and technical schools
3 will be established and supported. These schools will provide: integrated academic and vocational
4 curricula, up to date technology, programs to meet the varying needs of all students, and strong
5 links to business, industry, postsecondary education, and the community.

6 (d) (1) There shall be a system of state operated career and technical schools serving
7 geographic areas of the state. Students attending these regional schools will do so on a full time
8 basis with the costs for their education at the regional school fully funded by the state.

9 (2) These schools shall be operated as local education agencies and each shall be
10 governed by a board of trustees. With the exception of those powers and duties reserved by the
11 director, the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, and the board of regents for
12 elementary and secondary education, the board of trustees shall have the powers and duties of
13 school committees. The Davies school shall be the first school operated under the provisions of
14 this chapter and shall be renamed the William M. Davies, Jr. career and technical high school.
15 The Metropolitan Career and Technical School shall be the second school operated under the
16 provisions of this chapter- , [and the Newport County Career and Technical Center shall be the](#)
17 [third school operate under the provisions of this chapter.](#)

18 (e) (1) The board of regents for elementary and secondary education shall appoint the
19 members of the board of trustees from nominations made by the commissioner of elementary and
20 secondary education. The chairperson shall also be selected in this manner. The board of regents
21 shall determine the number, qualifications, and terms of office of members of the board of
22 trustees. The board of trustees will be broadly representative of the local communities served by
23 each school and the larger statewide workforce interests.

24 (2) The board of regents shall establish strategic directions for the career and technical
25 education system that are consistent with the state's economic development plans, workforce
26 requirements, and educational priorities and learner outcomes established by the board of regents.

27 (3) The board of regents shall provide parameters for the overall budget requests,
28 approve the budget, and participate in budget development as required in subsection (i).

29 (f) (1) The commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall recommend
30 parameters for the overall budget requests, recommend a budget and participate in budget
31 development as required in subsection (i).

32 (2) The commissioner shall approve the process for selection of a director of each
33 regional school. The commissioner shall develop a plan for statewide implementation of the
34 provisions of this chapter.

1 (g) The board of trustees shall meet monthly and serve without compensation. Nine (9)
2 members of the board of trustees shall be required to attend teacher appeal hearings conducted
3 pursuant to section 16-13-4. The board of trustees shall have broad policy making authority for
4 the operation of the school consistent with subsection (e) and the following powers and duties:

5 (1) To identify the educational needs of the communities in the district.

6 (2) To develop educational policies to meet the needs of students in the communities
7 served by the school district.

8 (3) To appoint a director of its regional school to serve as its chief executive officer and
9 to approve assistant and associate directors from nominations made by the director.

10 (4) To provide policy guidance and participate in budget development as required in
11 subsection (i).

12 (5) To develop staffing policies which ensure that all students are taught by educators of
13 the highest possible quality.

14 (h) (1) The director will serve at the pleasure of the board of trustees with the initial
15 appointment to be for a period of not more than three (3) years, provided, that the term and
16 conditions of employment are subject to the approval of the board of regents for elementary and
17 secondary education.

18 (2) It is the responsibility of the director to manage and operate the school on a day to
19 day basis. The director's duties shall include the following:

20 (i) To be responsible for the entire care, supervision, and management of the career and
21 technical high school.

22 (ii) To recommend to the board of trustees educational policies to meet the needs of the
23 district, and to implement policies established by the board of trustees.

24 (iii) To present nominations to the board of trustees for assistant and associate directors
25 and to appoint all other school personnel.

26 (iv) To provide for the evaluation of all school district personnel.

27 (v) To establish a school based management approach for decision making for the
28 operation of the school.

29 (vi) To prepare a budget and participate in budget development as required in subsection
30 (i), and to authorize purchases consistent with the adopted school district budget.

31 (vii) To report to the board of trustees on a regular basis the financial condition and
32 operation of the school, and to report annually on the educational progress of the school.

33 (viii) To establish appropriate advisory committees as needed to provide guidance on
34 new directions and feedback on the operation of the school.

1 (i) With policy guidance from the board of trustees and extensive involvement of the
2 administrators and faculty in the school, the director of each regional school shall annually
3 prepare a budget. The board of trustees will approve the budget and transmit it to the
4 commissioner. The board of regents for elementary and secondary education, upon
5 recommendation of the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, shall provide
6 parameters for the overall budget request. [In preparing the budget, the board of regents for](#)
7 [elementary and secondary education, and the commissioner of elementary and secondary](#)
8 [education, shall ensure that the overall budget request provides equitable funding for the William](#)
9 [M. Davies, Jr. vocational technical school, the Metropolitan Career and Technical School, and the](#)
10 [Newport County Career and Technical Center.](#) Based on review and recommendation by the
11 commissioner, the board of regents shall approve the total budget and incorporate it into its
12 budget request to the governor and to the general assembly. Line item budgeting decisions shall
13 be the responsibility of the director.

14 (j) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to limit or interfere with the rights of teachers
15 and other school employees to bargain collectively pursuant to chapters 9.3 and 9.4 of title 28 or
16 to allow the board of trustees or the director to abrogate any agreement by collective bargaining.
17 Employees at the William M. Davies school shall continue to be state employees and the
18 bargaining units which are presently established at the school shall remain intact.

19 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO EDUCATION -- REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

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2 technical school and the Metropolitan Career and Technical School, and the Newport County
3 Career and Technical Center.

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