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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- ACCESS TO ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES FOR
ALL STUDENTS ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Amore, O'Brien, Speakman, Williams, and Messier

Date Introduced: February 26, 2020

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 16-98-2, 16-98-4 and 16-98-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-
2 98 entitled "Access to Advanced Placement Courses for All Students Act [See Title 16 Chapter
3 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" are hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **16-98-2. Definitions.**

5 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter shall have the following
6 meanings given to them unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

7 (1) "Advanced placement" means a college-level class taught at the high school level
8 ~~preparatory course for a college advanced placement that provides students the opportunity to~~
9 earn college credit upon passage of an exam that:

10 (i) Incorporates all topics specified by the ~~college board~~ College Board on its standards
11 syllabus for a given subject area; and

12 (ii) Is authorized by the ~~college board~~ College Board.

13 (2) ~~"Board of regents" means the board of regents for elementary and secondary~~
14 ~~education.~~

15 (3) "College ~~board~~ Board " means ~~the non-profit examination board in the United States~~
16 ~~comprised of over four thousand five hundred (4,500) institutions of higher learning and known~~
17 ~~for managing standardized tests such as the advanced placement or "AP" tests~~ and refers to the
18 nonprofit organization that develops and administers standardized tests and curricula used by

1 [kindergarten through grade twelve \(K-12\) and post-secondary education institutions to promote](#)
2 [college readiness.](#)

3 (4) "Department" means the Rhode Island department of elementary and secondary
4 education.

5 (5) "Eligible teacher" means a professional employee that is certified in the subject area
6 of the advanced placement course that he or she will be teaching.

7 [\(6\) "Examination" or "exam" means the test provided by the College Board to measure a](#)
8 [student's mastery of the advanced placement subject matter.](#)

9 ~~(6)~~[\(7\)](#) "Four core academic areas" means advanced placement courses in English,
10 mathematics, science and social science.

11 ~~(7)~~[\(8\)](#) "Poverty level" means the percentage of students in a school district eligible for
12 free and reduced lunch.

13 ~~(8)~~[\(9\)](#) "Program" means [furtherance of](#) the advanced placement [classes in the public](#)
14 [schools and includes](#) teacher training ~~program~~ [and increased student participation.](#)

15 ~~(9)~~[\(10\)](#) "School district" means any public school district, school unit, area-vocational-
16 technical school, ~~or~~ charter school [or mayoral academy](#) that composes a school district; the term
17 also encompasses a single high school or multiple high schools within a school district where
18 applicable.

19 ~~(10)~~[\(11\)](#) "Teacher training entities" means institutions of higher education, intermediate
20 units or organizations approved/certified by the ~~college-board~~ [College Board](#) to train teachers to
21 teach advanced placement courses.

22 ~~(11)~~[\(12\)](#) "Virtual learning instruction" means providing academic courses to students via
23 the Internet and/or the use of technology in providing instruction to students.

24 **16-98-4. Powers and duties of department.**

25 (a) Guidelines. The department shall promulgate rules, regulations and procedures
26 necessary for the implementation of this chapter including, but not limited to, the following:

27 (1) In consultation with the ~~college-board~~ [College Board](#), certify those teacher-training
28 entities that are qualified to provide training of teachers to teach advanced placement courses in
29 the four (4) core academic areas;

30 (2) In certifying teacher-training entities for this program, the department shall ensure
31 that the training times and locations will be geographically accessible for teachers from eligible
32 school entities to attend;

33 (3) The department, in consultation with the ~~college-board~~ [College Board](#), shall ensure
34 that training provided by those teacher-training entities must provide teachers of advanced

1 placement courses with the necessary content knowledge and instructional skills to prepare
2 students for success in advanced placement courses and examinations; ~~and~~

3 (4) Starting at the end of the first year of the program, and every year thereafter, the
4 department shall issue a report to the general assembly on the advanced placement teacher-
5 training program that shall include, but not be limited to:

6 (i) The number of teachers receiving training in advanced placement instructions in
7 school entities, school districts and high schools in each of the four (4) core academic areas.

8 (ii) The number of students taking advanced placement courses at school entities in each
9 of the four (4) core academic areas.

10 (iii) The number of students scoring a three (3) or more on an advanced placement
11 examination at school entities in each of the four (4) core academic areas.

12 (iv) The remaining unmet need for trained teachers in school entities that do not offer
13 advanced placement courses.

14 (v) The number of students taking advanced placement courses who do not take the
15 advanced placement examination.

16 (vi) The number of students below the poverty level who take advanced placement
17 courses.

18 (vii) The number of students below the poverty level who take advanced placement
19 courses and do not take the advanced placement examination; and.

20 (5) In consultation with local education authorities, ensure that the opportunity to
21 participate in the advanced placement program and gain college credit is available to the greatest
22 amount of students as practicable.

23 (b) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit the board of education, through the department,
24 from expanding the program to include other nationally accepted courses of study that provide
25 students an opportunity to gain college credits from classes taken in high school.

26 **16-98-6. Program funding.**

27 (a) Funding for this program is subject to appropriation by the general assembly to the
28 department for that purpose.

29 (b) In the event that insufficient moneys are appropriated in any fiscal year to provide
30 funding for all eligible school entities applying to the program, the department shall prioritize
31 funding of eligible school entities based on the poverty level of the school districts that high
32 school students who will be taking the advanced placement courses reside in.

33 (c) Notwithstanding any general law, rule or regulation to the contrary, the department
34 shall include as part of its annual budget the amount necessary to pay the exam costs for all

1 students below the poverty level who take advanced courses.

2 (1) In support of the Rhode Island promise scholarship act (the “scholarship”), chapter
3 107 of title 16, the board of education shall remit to each school district, from the funds allocated
4 for the scholarship or other similar program, the amounts necessary to pay for the exam costs for
5 all students below the poverty level who take advanced placement courses.

6 (2) Funds allocated for the purpose of paying the cost of the examinations may be used
7 only to pay those costs and may be carried over into the next fiscal year for the same purpose.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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ALL STUDENTS ACT

1 This act would change the definition of advance placement to mean a college level class
2 taught at the high school level that provides students the opportunity to earn college credit upon
3 passage of an exam. This act also expands the reach of access to advanced placement courses to
4 ensure that the opportunity to participate in the advanced placement program and gain college
5 credit is available to the greatest amount of students as practicable. This act would add
6 requirements to the annual report issued by the department of education on the program.

7 This act would take effect upon passage.

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