

2016 -- S 2572

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LC004815
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Satchell, Lombardi, Archambault, and Gallo

Date Introduced: February 25, 2016

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-64 of the General Laws entitled "Residence of Children for
2 School Purposes" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-64-1.4. Graduation requirements for students in state care. --** [The department of](#)
4 [elementary and secondary education, in consultation with local school districts, shall promulgate](#)
5 [rules and regulations regarding graduation requirements for public school students who are under](#)
6 [the care and control of the state at any time on or after the student's fourteenth birthday. The rules](#)
7 [and regulations shall consider the requirements for admission into post-secondary institutions and](#)
8 [shall take effect no later than January 2, 2017. Local school districts shall award the diplomas if](#)
9 [all state graduation requirements are met.](#)

10 SECTION 2. Section 42-72.4-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-72.4 entitled
11 "Compulsory School Attendance - Children Under State Care" is hereby amended to read as
12 follows:

13 **42-72.4-1. Children under state care -- Admission to public schools -- Intra-state**
14 **education identification card. --** (a) It is the duty of the director of the department of children,
15 youth, and families to ensure that all children in the care of the state are allowed immediate
16 admission, subject to the provisions of § 16-64-1 -- § 16-64-8, to a public school in the city or
17 town in which they are residing in an authorized placement. To facilitate the discharge of this
18 duty, the director shall issue to every child in the state's care who has completed three (3) years of
19 life and has not completed eighteen (18) years of life and to every other child in the state's care

1 who is eligible to be enrolled in a public school, an intra-state education identification card. The
2 intra-state education identification card shall include evidence of immunization as provided in §
3 16-38-2.

4 (b) It is the duty of the director to update the intra-state education identification card for
5 each child in order to provide current information regarding the residence of the parent or
6 guardian and evidence of immunization as provided in § 16-38-2 on an annual basis prior to and
7 each time the child transfers to another school district. This card shall provide that each city or
8 town be required to immediately enroll the child in its school system and for purposes of
9 determining the school district financially responsible for the child's education in accordance with
10 § 16-64-1.1, the parent's residence designated on the intra-state education identification card shall
11 constitute prima facie evidence of the parent's residence in that district.

12 (c) It is the duty of both the receiving and sending school system to effect the immediate
13 transfer of the child's school records without any additional documentation except as provided by
14 the department of elementary and secondary education. The requirements of this section are in
15 addition to the provisions of § 16-64-7, which empowers the department of children, youth, and
16 families to authorize the transfer of school records in certain situations. The director of the
17 department of children, youth, and families is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations
18 necessary to the implementation of this chapter. The director shall comply with the terms of this
19 chapter upon passage for all children in state care who are not then enrolled and/or registered in
20 the school district within which they reside and shall comply with the terms of the chapter for
21 children who are currently so enrolled or registered no later than the time of the children's next
22 school transfer.

23 (d) All inmates in the training school, without regard to their age, must attend or
24 participate in a school, vocational, general equivalency diploma program, or other training
25 program, located on the training school grounds as part of the training school's programs while
26 committed to the training school.

27 (e) Beginning no later than January 2, 2017, any child who is under the care and control
28 of the state at any time on or after such child's fourteenth birthday may meet the state graduation
29 requirements prescribed by the department of elementary and secondary education pursuant to
30 §16-64-1.4.

31 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would require the department of elementary and secondary education to
2 promulgate rules and regulations regarding graduation requirements for public school students
3 fourteen (14) years of age or older who are under the care and control of the state.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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