

Chapter 254
2008 -- H 7280 SUBSTITUTE A
Enacted 07/05/08

A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Malik, Naughton, Silva, and Lewiss

Date Introduced: January 29, 2008

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Purpose and findings:

WHEREAS, Physical inactivity and poor nutrition are major contributors to the childhood obesity epidemic causing the current generation of youth to have a lower life expectancy than their parents' generation; and

WHEREAS, Childhood obesity has increased three hundred percent (300%) over the last three decades leading to a dramatic increase in the incidence of heart disease, type II diabetes, and other obesity related diseases among today's children and adolescents; and

WHEREAS, The economic impact of obesity on our health care system is estimated at one hundred seventeen billion dollars per year and physical activity offers young people many overall health benefits including cardiovascular endurance and maintenance of a healthy weight; and

WHEREAS, Children who become competent in a wide variety of motor skills are more apt to participate in a physically active lifestyle.

SECTION 2. Section 16-22-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-22 entitled "Curriculum" is hereby amended to read as follows:

16-22-4. Instruction in health and physical education. -- All children in grades one through twelve (12) attending public schools, or any other schools managed and controlled by the state, shall receive in those schools instruction in health and physical education under rules and regulations the department of elementary and secondary education may prescribe or approve during periods which shall average at least twenty (20) minutes in each school day. No private school or private instruction shall be approved by any school committee for the purposes of chapter 19 of this title as substantially equivalent to that required by law of a child attending a public school in the same city and/or town unless instruction in health and physical education similar to that required in public schools shall be given. Commencing September 1, 2012, the required health education curriculum shall be based on the health education standards of the Rhode Island Health Education Framework: Health Literacy for All Students as promulgated by the Rhode Island department of education and consistent with the mandated health instructional outcomes therein. Commencing September 1, 2012, the required physical education curriculum shall be based on the physical education standards of the Rhode Island Physical Education Framework: Supporting Physically Active Lifestyles through Quality Physical Education as promulgated by the Rhode Island department of education and consistent with the instructional outcomes therein.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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<p>Please note: The health education curriculum is already required to be aligned to the standards of the <i>Rhode Island Health Education Framework</i>, pursuant to Sec. 4.1 of the <i>Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs</i> (R-16-21-SCHO). -- RI Department of Education</p>
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