

## R.I. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### MANDATES

#### Standards and Accountability

Statute/Regulation	Summary of Provisions
20 USC § 6301 “No Child Left Behind” (NCLB)	Requires states to set standards for adequate yearly progress towards proficiency in core subject areas. Failures to achieve adequate yearly progress may result in various sanctions, including requirements to offer school choice and/or supplemental instruction, and possible reconstitution of school or district.
RIGL § 16-53.1	Requires a School Improvement Team for each school for purposes of assisting in school improvement plan.
RIGL § 16-7.1-2	Board of Regents is required to set statewide benchmarks for performance. School districts must have strategic plans to improve performance in math, reading, and writing. Research-based reading instruction required, as well as Personal Literacy Plans for students below grade level in reading. The Commissioner is to establish performance targets. Additionally, asset protection program is required.
RIGL § 16-7.1-5	Progressive Support and Intervention Statute. If a school fails to improve after 3 years of support from the state, that school is subject to progressive levels of state control, up to and including reconstitution.
RIGL § 16-67-2	Requires school literacy programs, including requirements of screening on entry and focusing on reading in grades K-3. “Encourages” limited class size”. Requires supplemental literacy instruction for disadvantaged K-12 students. Also requires dropout prevention programs.
RIGL § 16-22.-9	RIDE must provide uniform achievement testing.
RIGL § 16-7.1-12	Requires technology plan as a condition of receiving state funding for technology.
RIGL § 16-83-3	Middle School Reform Act: requires schools to create policies to improve middle schools.

**R.I. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - MANDATES**

<b>Statute/Regulation</b>	<b>Summary of Provisions</b>
R & R RE Public High Schools and Ensuring Literacy	<p>Deals with assessment of students in reading before and during high school. Must have literacy instruction and support for students who read poorly.</p> <p>Graduation requirements must include “demonstration of proficiency”, i.e., testing, portfolios, projects. These requirements must incorporate individual results on state assessments.</p> <p>Requires plans for High School restructuring aimed at providing a “more personalized learning environment”.</p> <p>Requires 15 hours of professional development RE literacy, graduation, and personalization of learning environment.</p> <p>Requires common planning time at least weekly.</p> <p>Every student must be assigned “knowledgeable adult” to track his or her progress.</p>

**Compulsory Education and Eligibility for Attendance**

<b>Statute/Regulation</b>	<b>Summary of Provisions</b>
RIGL § 16-2-27	All children attaining 5 years of age on or before September 1 of a school year are eligible to attend kindergarten that year. <i>See also</i> Basic Education Program, P. 22, mandating provision of kindergarten programs.
RIGL § 16-19-3	Truant officers must be appointed and supplied.
RIGL § 16-19-10	Requires parental notification of pupil absence for K-9 students.
RIGL § 16-62-1.1	Establishes community of origin’s financial responsibility for children placed in group homes by DCYF.
42 USCA § 11431	“McKinney-Vento Homeless Act” Requires that homeless students have the opportunity to continue in school of origin, and be provided with transportation of necessary.

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**Length of School Year / Day**

<b>Statute/Regulation</b>	<b>Summary of Provisions</b>
RIGL § 16-2-2	180 school days required.
Reg. G-4.2	Elementary school day must consist of no less than 5 hours of actual school work, excluding lunch, recess periods, and pre- and post-school teacher time. Secondary school day must consist of not less than 5 ½ hours actual school work, excluding lunch, recess periods, and pre- and post-school time.

**Transportation**

<b>Statute/Regulation</b>	<b>Summary of Provisions</b>
RIGL § 16-21-1	Requires transportation for those "...who reside so far from the public or private school which the pupil attends as to make the pupil's regular attendance at school impractical and for any pupil whose regular attendance would otherwise be impracticable on account of physical disability or infirmity".  Requires bus monitors for grades K-5, unless variance is given. Monitors must be 16 or over.
RIGL § 16-21.1 <i>et seq.</i>	Requires school districts to provide transportation for students attending private, out-of-district "regionalized" schools.
RIGL § 31-20-31-23 <i>et seq.</i>	Establishes standards for school buses (operation, equipment, insurance, safety, inspections, etc.)
RIGL § 16-21-17	School bus safety instruction required for grades K-6.
R & R for School Bus Transportation	Establishes standards for buses, including equipment, dimension, etc.

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### Health and Safety

Statute/Regulation	Summary of Provisions
RIGL § 16-21-7	All schools are required to have a School Health Program.
RIGL § 16-21-8	Certified school nurse-teachers required. <i>See also</i> <u>Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs</u> (“School Health Regs”), 7.2, which requires that certified school-nurse teachers deliver population and individualized health services.
RIGL § 16-21-9	School must appoint physician and dentist for screening. <i>See also</i> School Health Regs 7.1, 13.0.
RIGL § 16-21-10	School must conduct annual scoliosis screening for grades 6-8. <i>See also</i> School Health Regs 12.0 (includes instructional component of screening).
RIGL § 16-21-14	Requires hearing, speech and vision screening. <i>See also</i> School Health Regs. 9.0, 10.0, 11.0.
RIGL § 16-21-15	Requires eye protection for labs and shops.
RIGL § 16-38-2	Outlines immunization requirements. <i>See also</i> Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Immunization and Testing for Communicable Diseases.
RIGL § 16-21-3	Requires annual inspection of school buildings by fire chief, building inspector, Department of Health, and Department of Labor & Training.
RIGL § 23-28 <i>et seq.</i>	Sets out School Building Standards. <i>See also</i> School Health Regs.
School Health Regs. 17.2	Requires that first aid training to be provided to personnel who might be involved in managing injury.
School Health Regs. 17.3	Requires that at least one person other than school nurse with basic first aid, CPR, Heimlich, epinephrine training be on-site at school at all times.
School Health Regs. 17.4	Requires anaphylaxis training for personnel who might need to administer epinephrine.
School Health Reg. 2.3 & 6	Requires “adequate” health personnel.
Physical Restraint Regulations 4.0	Requires training for all staff regarding restraint policies, advanced training for others who might administer restraint.
BEP, P. 367	Describes housekeeping standards. Establishes schedule for minimum number of cleanings per year.
BEP, P. 369	Describes standards temperature and water supplies. Winter temperature of 65-74°F is “satisfactory”.
BEP, P. 372	Water disposal procedures.
BEP, P. 370-383	General safety standards, including for labs, shops, and general purpose areas.
School Health Regs. , Part IV	Sets general standards for healthful school environment, including abatement of hazardous materials. Mandates standards for clinic and sanitation, including number of lavatories. Mandates asset protection plans.
RIGL § 16-21-23 & 16-21-24	School safety plans & school crisis response teams required. Plans must establish procedures for responding to violent incidents and preventing same.

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### Counseling and Guidance

Statute/Regulation	Summary of Provisions
Basic Education Program, (BEP) P. 191	Mandates K-12 guidance program, describes coverage. At elementary, can be fulfilled by a “variety of professionals”. At secondary level, there must be a formal guidance and counseling program with certified counseling and guidance personnel.

### Curriculum

Statute/Regulation	Summary of Provisions
BEP, P. 13, 32-34	K-12 art education program required. ½ unit of art required for all college-bound students. Requires provision of materials for a variety of projects, as well as space for storage and display.
BEP, P. 13, 43-46	Mandates business education program at secondary level. Describes specific coursework that must be provided. College-bound students must have ½ unit in Computer Literacy. Equipment must be maintained in working order.
RIGL § 16-22-8	Mandates instruction in Italian, Portuguese or Spanish if 20 or more students request it.
BEP, P. 13, 66-68	College-bound students are required to have 2 units of foreign language. Mandates provision of instruction in any two of the languages listed. School must guarantee 3 years of instruction in at least 2 languages.
RIGL § 16-22-4	Health and phys. ed. Mandated for grades 1-12, averaging at least 20 minutes a day.
RIGL § 16-22-3; RIGL § 16-22-12	Schools must make provision for instruction in physiology and hygiene, including effects of drugs and alcohol.
RIGL § 16-22-14; RIGL § 16-22-16	Mandates that health program incorporate suicide awareness, CPR and Heimlich maneuver instruction.
RIGL § 16-22-6	Mandates fire prevention course.
RIGL § 16-22-17	Mandates AIDS education.
BEP, P. 78-85	Further describes components of K-12 health instruction, including instruction in sex and family life.

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**Curriculum (cont'd)**

<b>Statute/Regulation</b>	<b>Summary of Provisions</b>
School Health Regs., 5.0	Lists other topics to be covered in Health Instruction – tobacco, environmental, community health, consumer health, child abuse, growth and development, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, safety, disease control and prevention.
BEP, P. 150-151	Describes K-12 Phys. Ed. Program and coursework. Adaptive Phys. Ed. required.
BEP, P. 92	Mandates secondary home economics program, lists coursework. Sufficient supplies and facilities must be offered.
BEP, P. 100-102	Mandates that basic industrial arts/technology concepts be integrated into elementary curriculum. At secondary level, coursework must be provided. Must provide adequate facilities, equipment, supplies.
BEP, P. 12-13, 110-111	Describes coursework that must be provided in Language Arts/English. All students must have 4 units of English to graduate.
BEP, P. 120	Mandates library/media program, and lists required coursework.
BEP, P. 12, 130	All students must have 2 units of mathematics as graduation requirements; 3 college-bound. Lists coursework required for elementary and secondary level.
BEP, P. 140	Mandates K-12 music program, describes coursework.
BEP, P. 12-13, 160	2 units of science required for graduation for career bound, 2 of laboratory science for college bound. Mandates K-12 science instruction, describes coursework by grade level. Requires provision of adequate facilities and equipment.
RIGL § 16-22-20	Requires provision of alternatives to dissection/vivisection for objecting students.
RIGL § 16-22-2	Requires a course of study in civics. Also mandates instruction in history and Rhode Island government beginning 4 <sup>th</sup> grade, and in every high school instruction on the Constitution and government of Rhode Island and the United States.
RIGL § 16-22-10	Requires voting instruction for seniors.

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### Curriculum (cont'd)

Statute/Regulation	Summary of Provisions
RIGL § 16-22-22	Genocide ed. required.
BEP, 12-13, P. 172-	2 units social studies required for graduation, 1 of which must be US History. Mandates for K-12 social studies program, describes coursework.
RIGL § 16-45-1.1	Mandates that all youth who choose vocational education shall have access to such programs.
R & R RE Management & Operation of Area Vocational Technical Centers	Mandates that every student who chooses vocational-technical education and who is qualified for admission shall have access to such programs and shall be provided free attendance by their local school committee, i.e., tuition, transportation.

### Extracurricular Activities

Statute/Regulation	Summary of Provisions
BEP, P. 223	Mandates provision of extracurricular activities. One of the indicators that this standard is met is, “Student Handbook or other document describing at least one in a majority of activities such as student governance, performance and assemblies, publications, musical activities, dramatics, athletics, and clubs”.
RIGL § 16-83-3	Middle School Reform Act. Requires school committees to establish policies that encourage, among other things, after school social and recreational activities.

### Textbooks

Statute/Regulation	Summary of Provisions
RIGL § 16-23-2	Mandates textbook loans to both public and private school students.

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### Library Facilities

Statute/Regulation	Summary of Provisions
BEP, P. 200-01	Provides student:staffing ratios.
BEP, P. 202-03	Establishes student:volume ratio.
BEP, P. 204-05	Establishes required annual book expenditures.
BEP, P. 207	Describes required supplemental materials (encyclopedia, reference works, periodicals) and annual expenditures therefore.
BEP, P. 209	Requires that equipment be available for print/nonprint media.
BEP, P. 121	Requires that library be available for independent use on a daily basis.

### Special Education

Statute/Regulation	Summary of Provisions
20 U.S.C.A. § 1400 <i>et seq.</i>	Education of Individuals with Disabilities Act. Mandates that every child with a disability must be given a free and appropriate education within the least restrictive environment. Contains extensive procedural protections.
RIGL § 16-24-1	Mandates provision of special education to disabled students.
RIGL § 16-24-3	Mandates child find.
RIGL § 16-24-4	Mandates transportation to services for disabled.
RIGL § 16-24-18	Mandates transition planning for older students.
RIGL § 16-25-1-2	Mandates instruction in Braille proficiency for blind/visually impaired.

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**Special Education (cont'd)**

<b>Statute/Regulation</b>	<b>Summary of Provisions</b>
RIGL § 16-25-.2 <i>et seq.</i>	Mandates language assessment for deaf/hard-of-hearing students.
R & R Governing Education of Children with Disabilities (“SPED Regs”), 300.500 <i>et seq.</i>	Lists required array of services, criteria for programs, including placements available and staffing ratios.
BEP, P. 288-290	Mandates equality of facilities between regular/special education students, as well as sufficient providers and SPED in-service training for all staff.
RIGL § 16-25-3.2	Mandates provision of 1 full-time speech pathologist for every 40 students receiving services.

**Limited English Proficiency**

<b>Statute/Regulation</b>	<b>Summary of Provisions</b>
RIGL § 16-54-2	Mandates provision of instruction for students with limited English proficiency.
Limited English Proficiency Regulations (“LEP Regs”), 3.1	Requires that schools must determine primary language at time of registration, and provide assessment if the home language is other than English.
LEP Regs. 4.1	Provides minimum program criteria, including amount of instructional time.
LEP Regs. 4.2.2	Provides personnel requirements. If district has LEP population of 300 or more, must have a full-time LEP administrator. Must have sufficient other personnel to provide services.

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**Charter Schools**

<b>Statute/Regulation</b>	<b>Summary of Provisions</b>
RIGL § 16-77-6	Requires local districts to fund/provide services to charter schools. Local school district may be required to provide services as well, with costs paid out of revenues of charter school.
RIGL § 16-77.1-2	Mandates that local districts pay tuition for students attending charter schools.

**Meals**

<b>Statute/Regulation</b>	<b>Summary of Provisions</b>
RIGL § 16-8-10	Mandates availability of Type A School Lunches.
RIGL § 16-8.10.1	Mandates school breakfast program.
BEP, P. 225	Mandates adequate facilities for preparation and consumption of school lunches.

**Student Records**

<b>Statute/Regulation</b>	<b>Summary of Provisions</b>
RIGL § 16-71-3	Requires that parents be permitted to review school records within 10 days.
BEP, P. 212-221	Describes student records that must be maintained. Mandates that they be kept in secured facilities.
Records Retention Schedule	Enumerates length of time that records must be maintained.

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### School Committees

Statute/Regulation	Summary of Provisions
RIGL § 16-27-16	School Committees must post rules and regs for attendance, classification, introduction and use of texts and works of reference, instruction, government, and discipline, studies to be pursued.
RIGL § 16-2-2-32	School Committees must have policy manuals.

### Student Discipline

Statute/Regulation	Summary of Provisions
RIGL § 16-21-21	Mandates distribution and signature of student discipline code.
RIGL § 16-21-26	Mandates policy regarding bullying and harassment.
RIGL § 16-21-27	Mandates plan for alternative education program for students on long-term suspension.

### Personnel

Statute/Regulation	Summary of Provisions
RIGL § 16-13-2	Establishes March 1 <sup>st</sup> deadline for teacher layoffs.
RIGL § 16-7-29	Mandates teacher salary schedule reflecting years of service, experience, and training required. Must have no more than 12 steps.
RIGL § 16-11-1	Mandates that teachers be appropriately certified.
BEP, P. 348	Requires program for staff development and describes.
RIGL § 28-9.3 <i>et seq.</i>	Duty to collectively bargain with teachers.
RIGL § 28-9.3 <i>et seq.</i>	Duty to collectively bargain with non-teachers.
RIGL § 28-7-13	Enumerates unfair labor practices, including refusal to bargain.

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**Night Schools**

<b>Statute/Regulation</b>	<b>Summary of Provisions</b>
RIGL § 16-29 <i>et seq.</i>	Requires evening schools for English instruction.

**Discrimination**

<b>Statute/Regulation</b>	<b>Summary of Provisions</b>
20 U.S.C.A. § 1681 <i>et seq.</i>	Forbids discrimination based upon sex in programs receiving federal financial assistance.
20 U.S.C.A. § 794 “Section 504”	Forbids discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.
42 U.S.C.A. 12131 <i>et seq.</i>	Forbids discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, public accommodations and public services.
42 U.S.C.A. 2000d <i>et seq.</i>	Forbids discrimination based on race, color, national origin in programs receiving financial assistance.