



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE of MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
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MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
 Chairman, House Finance Committee

The Honorable William J. Conley, Jr.
 Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

From: Thomas A. Mullaney *Thomas A. Mullaney*
 Executive Director/State Budget Officer

Date: February 25, 2020

Subject: Corrections to the FY 2021 Appropriations Act
 (20-H-7171)

The Budget Office has reviewed the FY 2021 Appropriations Act as posted on the legislative website and through this review and from feedback provided by the House Fiscal Staff have identified typographical errors that were contained in the original version submitted by our office to the Legislative Counsel's office. Attached is a list of the errors and corrections by Article number and page and line number within each article.

Also provided are new sections for Articles 8 and 10 that were inadvertently left out of the original appropriations act as submitted by our office. The new section in Article 8 proposes to increase the tax credit available for contributions made for scholarships from \$1.5 million to \$2.0 million beginning in FY 2022. This change was accounted for in the revenue estimates used in the five-year forecast. The new sections in Article 10 propose to allow the School for the Deaf (RISD) to enter into fee-for-service agreements with local education agencies for the provision of hearing screening tests. Savings of \$235,000 were assumed in the Department of Education/RISD budget in FY 2021 based on implementation of this fee-for-service program.

If you have any questions regarding these corrections, please feel free to call me at 222-6300.

TAM: 21-Amend-1

cc: Sharon Reynolds Ferland, House Fiscal Advisor
 Stephen Whitney, Senate Fiscal Advisor
 Jonathan Womer, Director, Office of Management and Budget

1 New Sections – Article 10

2 SECTION X. Effective July 1, 2020, Section 16-21-14 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-21
3 entitled “Health and Safety of Pupils” is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 16-21-14. Hearing, speech, and vision screenings. – Records. – Statewide hearing screening
5 program.

6 (a) ~~The program~~ All schools shall provide ~~for~~ screenings of the hearing, speech, and vision of all
7 children in these schools, and the preservation of records of the screenings of the children and notification
8 of the parent or guardian of any child where there is an identified or suspected special health care need.

9 (b) Upon initial entry, all school children shall be given a hearing screening test by a properly
10 trained professional ~~employed by the department of elementary and secondary education,~~ at intervals
11 consistent with regulations promulgated by the director of health and the commissioner of elementary and
12 secondary education.

13 (c) Pupils who failed the hearing screening test in previous years, repeat a grade, have a history of
14 hearing difficulty or pathology, or are suspected by school personnel of a hearing loss shall be screened as
15 often as is necessary.

16 (d) ~~The program shall be known as the statewide hearing screening program. It shall be operated~~
17 ~~by the department of elementary and secondary education~~ shall ensure that all schools provide adequate
18 screenings.

19 (e) ~~The department is authorized and directed to maintain the program and provide equipment~~
20 ~~that may be necessary to implement the purposes of this section.~~

21 (f) ~~Upon request from a local education agency the commissioner of elementary and secondary~~
22 ~~education may grant the local education agency permission to conduct its own hearing screening program~~
23 ~~after he or she first determines that the agency has a capacity to adhere to the screening schedule as~~
24 ~~outlined in this section and that properly trained professionals defined in regulation will be performing the~~
25 ~~activities.~~

1 (e) The local education agency may enter into a fee-for-service agreement with Rhode Island
2 School for the Deaf or any other provider who meets the personnel requirements to conduct hearing
3 screening tests as specified by the department of health.

4 (gf) Tests shall not be required of any student whose parent or guardian objects on the ground that
5 the tests conflict with their religious beliefs.

6 SECTION X. Effective July 1, 2020, Section 16-26-12 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-26
7 entitled “School for the Deaf [See Title 16 Chapter 97 – The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]” is
8 hereby amended to read as follows:

9 **16-26-12. Other sources of funding.**

10 (a) The 2009 general assembly, through the FY 2010 appropriation act, established a fee for a
11 service program, also known as a tuition program, for the Rhode Island school for the deaf effective July
12 1, 2009 in accordance with the fee structure developed and implemented by the department of elementary
13 and secondary education. Under this fee for service program, and the provisions of Rhode Island general
14 law § 16-26-7.1 notwithstanding, districts shall be assessed tuition to cover the costs of educational
15 services that are additional to the core deaf and hard-of-hearing education program that is provided to
16 resident students at the Rhode Island school for the deaf.

17 (b) Tuition assessed at the school for the deaf to cover costs of educational services that are
18 additional to the core deaf and hard-of-hearing education program shall be based on a graduated tuition
19 schedule correlating to the varying needs of students. Districts shall receive three (3) times each school
20 year, invoices summarizing the basis for the tuition charged. There shall be deducted from the final aid
21 payment to each school district at the end of the fiscal year any amounts owed to the state for these
22 additional educational services. All tuition paid by districts and any aid deducted for non-payment shall
23 be deposited in a restricted receipt account and shall be exempt from the indirect cost recovery provisions
24 of § 35-4-7.

25 (c) The school for the deaf is hereby authorized to rent or lease space in its school building. The
26 school shall deposit any revenues from such agreements into a restricted receipt account, to be known as

1 the school for the deaf rental income account, to be used for the same educational purposes that its state
2 appropriation is used. Any such rental agreements must receive prior approval from the school's board of
3 trustees and by the state properties committee.

4 (d) The school for the deaf is hereby authorized to enter into a fee-for-service agreement with
5 local education agency for providing hearing screening tests defined in § 16-21-14. Any revenues from
6 such agreements shall be deposited into a restricted receipt account, to be known as the school for the
7 deaf hearing screening test account, to be used to cover the costs of providing these hearing screening
8 tests.

