

State of Rhode Island
Recess Law

CHAPTER 157
2016 -- H 7644 SUBSTITUTE A AS AMENDED
Enacted 06/27/2016

A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM -- FREE PLAY RECESS

Introduced By: Representatives Fogarty, Carson, Amore, Serpa, and Filippi
Date Introduced: February 12, 2016

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Findings. - The General Assembly finds as follows:

- (1) Free play time increasing learning outcomes for students; and
- (2) The department of elementary and secondary education aspires to offer our children the opportunities to participate in recess; and
- (3) The legislature recognizes recess as a right for our youngest learners.

SECTION 2. Chapter 16-22 of the General Laws entitled "Curriculum [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

16-22-4.2. Free-play recess. -- All children attending public schools, or any other schools managed or controlled by the state, that have elementary grades kindergarten through six (6) shall receive in those schools at least twenty (20) consecutive minutes of supervised, safe, and unstructured free-play recess each day. Free-play recess may be considered instructional time for those schools that would be required to extend the current school day in order to meet this requirement. Teachers shall make a good-faith effort to not withhold recess for punitive reasons. Free-play recess is in addition to the requirements set forth in §16-22-4. As used herein, the term "free play" means an unstructured environment, but which is supervised by appropriate school personnel or staff.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====
LC004716/SUB A