RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 230

Approved June 2, 2017

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Education currently requires that states and school districts aggregate data for all students of Asian descent, regardless of their ethnicity, under the aggregated category, "Asian," despite the many different ethnicities and distinct cultural traditions that are part of those students' heritage; and

WHEREAS, There are approximately 1,200 Providence Public School students categorized as "Asian" currently; and

WHEREAS, The reporting guidelines mask the educational inequalities that exist amongst Asian Americans and Pacific Islander (AAPI) groups; and

WHEREAS, According to a report from Johns Hopkins University, while Asian American students, taken as a broad category, average very high standardized test scores and grade point averages, such statistics hide large differences in educational outcomes between students of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, 42% of all Asian American adults have at least a college degree, yet Vietnamese Americans have a college degree attainment rate of only 16%, and Laotian and Cambodian Americans have rates estimated at 5%; and

WHEREAS, According to the Center for Southeast Asians, as of 2014, there are more than 13,000 Providence residents of Asian descent, 25.4% of whom are Cambodian, 9.2% are Laotian, and 12.3% are Filipino, Hmong, or Thai; and

WHEREAS, Since federal funding is distributed to schools and school districts to close achievement gaps, lack of disaggregated data denies many Southeast Asian American students access and resources to the quality of education they need to succeed and achieve their full potential; and

WHEREAS, H5453, the "All Students Count Act," would require the use of separate collection categories and tabulations for specified Asian ethnic groups in every demographic report on the ancestry or ethnic origins of residents.
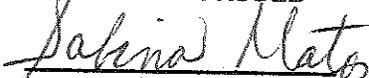
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby urge the General Assembly to pass H5453, the "All Students Count Act."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon adoption, copies of this resolution be forwarded to the sponsors of H5453, as well as to the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the Majority Leaders of the House and Senate, and all Providence representatives and senators.

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAY 2 4 2017

READ AND PASSED

_____
PRES.

_____
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

_____
Mayor

Date: 6/2/17

LC001135

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- ALL STUDENTS COUNT ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Slater, Williams, Casey, and Morin

Date Introduced: February 09, 2017

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1   SECTION 1. Legislative Findings.

2   (1) According to the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center the U.S. Department of

3 Education currently requires that states and school districts aggregate data for all Asian students

4 regardless of their ethnicity under the aggregated category of "Asian." However, the "Asian" race

5 category comprises more than forty-eight (48) ethnicities including, American Indian,

6 Bangladeshi, Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Pakistani, Thai,

7 Vietnamese.

8   (2) This reporting guideline masks the educational inequalities that exist for Asian

9 American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) groups, particularly those from Southeast Asian American

10 (SEAA) backgrounds.

11   (3) Federal funding is distributed to schools and school districts to close achievement

12 gaps. However, the lack of disaggregated data denies many SEAA students access and resources

13 to the quality education they need to succeed and reach their full potential.

14   SECTION 2. Title 16 of the General Laws entitled "EDUCATION" is hereby amended

15 by adding thereto the following chapter:

16   CHAPTER 107

17   ALL STUDENTS COUNT ACT

18   **16-107-1. Short title.**

19   This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "All Students Count Act".

1   <u>16-107-2. Definitions.</u>

2   The following words and phrases, as used in this chapter shall have the following

3   meanings:

4   (1) "Entity" means the Rhode Island department of elementary and secondary education,

5   its subagencies, state agency(s) and local municipalities from which it collects demographic data.

6   (2) "Southeast Asian" means individuals who identify with one or more ethnic groups

7   originating from the countries in the Southeast Asian region, including Cambodia, the

8   Philippines, Laos, Vietnam, and other Southeast Asian.

9   <u>16-107-3. Data transparency.</u>

10   (a) Whenever the department of elementary and secondary education collects

11   demographic data as to the ancestry or ethnic origins of students for a report that includes

12   educational proficiencies, graduation rates, attendance rates, and access to educational resources,

13   the entity shall use separate collection categories and tabulations in accordance with the

14   following:

15   (1) No later than twelve (12) months after a decennial United States Census is released to

16   the public, each entity shall use the collection and tabulation categories for the Asian population

17   groups as they are reported by the United States Census Bureau as well as people with disabilities

18   and English language learners.

19   (2) The categories used by each entity for Asian population, to the extent not already

20   required pursuant to this section shall always include, but not be limited to, the following Asian

21   ethnic groups:

22   (i) Cambodian, Filipino, Hmong, Laotian, Vietnamese, and other Southeast Asian.

23   (3) Until the release of the next decennial United States Census following the enactment

24   of this chapter, each entity shall use the enhanced data collection and tabulation categories that

25   the entity was required to use prior.

26   (4) Each entity shall comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, (20

27   U.S.C. §1232g, 34 CFR Part 99) and shall observe criteria for ensuring statistical significance of

28   data collected and published.

29   (i) Districts reporting data with a student group that has too few students, as defined by a

30   minimum size of ten (10), for evaluation must be notated.

31   (5) Each entity shall cross-tabulate data of student outcome by gender, disability and

32   English proficiency for all students.

33   (6) Each entity shall make the demographic data publicly available, except for personal

34   identifying information, which shall be deemed confidential, by posting the data on the applicable

1   entity's website by July 1, 2018 and shall update the data annually thereafter. This subdivision

2   shall not be construed to prevent any other state agency from posting data collected on the state

3   agency's website, in a matter prescribed by this section.

4   (b) This chapter shall only apply to the collection of data for students in the public

5   elementary and secondary education system. It does not apply to the demographic data of

6   students participating in post-secondary education.

7   (c) If the state determines that this chapter contains costs mandated by the state,

8   reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made.

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

LC001135

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- ALL STUDENTS COUNT ACT

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1   This act would create the "All Students Count Act" and would require the department of

2   elementary and secondary education to use separate collection categories and tabulations for

3   specified Asian ethnic groups in every demographic report on ancestry or ethnic origins of

4   residents.

5   This act would take effect upon passage.

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