



**THE Providence
Country Day SCHOOL**



**HENRY
BARNARD
SCHOOL**

October 14, 2021

The Honorable Daniel J. McKee
Governor of Rhode Island
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Governor McKee,

Despite the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Providence Country Day School has seized the moment to reinvent the school and to reimagine the private school business model. In March 2021, PCD announced an historic merger with the Henry Barnard School, thus saving a cherished Rhode Island institution that was founded in 1898. Now the exciting work remains of bringing these two fantastic school communities together through a shared mission and vision. One of the key challenges that lay ahead is building a new home for HBS. I hope that you will consider this proposal as we collectively write the next chapter in Henry Barnard's storied history.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin J. Folan
Head of School



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The Henry Barnard School at Providence Country Day

The toll of the COVID-19 pandemic has been immense. Beyond its tragic impact on Rhode Island families, many institutional pillars of our community - businesses and non-profit organizations alike - have been hit hard by the economic onslaught of the past two years. Our collective effort to save and rebuild these institutions is paramount in preserving Rhode Island's storied heritage while also securing the state's future. Providing resources for education, a critical sector in charting Rhode Island's path forward, must be placed near the top of the list of priorities for support.

In early 2021 the Providence Country Day School stepped into the breach to rescue a beloved Rhode Island institution, the Henry Barnard School, following Rhode Island College's decision to close the school. HBS has served a noble public purpose for nearly 125 years by educating thousands of Rhode Island students and training hundreds of Rhode Island teachers. Its impact on the state's civic and economic life, through the contributions of generations of graduates whose lives have been lifted up by the education they received there, is immeasurable. Rhode Island College's decision to close HBS would have deprived the state of a vital and historic institution.

At the end of the 2019-2020 school year, Henry Barnard's enrollment stood at 217 students. When RIC announced in August 2020 that it would close the school at the end of the 2020-21 school year, there was a mass exodus of families. Enrollment plummeted to under 100 students and despite the heroic efforts of a committed group of HBS parents to keep the school open, closure was a near certainty.

Rescue came in the form of a merger with Providence Country Day in March 2021. Leadership and faculty worked hard to stabilize the school and to restore confidence in the new HBS. Henry Barnard opened this school year with 100 students as part of a new PK-12 institution of 355 total students. As we forecast our total enrollment with our new PK-12 integrated school, we anticipate a full enrollment of 450 students.

Providence Country Day's intervention guarantees that this venerable school, along with its employees, will continue its impact and influence on the state as part of a new PK-12 school committed to bringing affordable and accessible independent education to a broad cross-section of Rhode Island families. The Henry Barnard program and legacy will remain intact within this new institution, ensuring that its culture, climate, and values - so aligned with Providence Country Day's - will endure in the decades ahead.

Providence Country Day School History

In 1923 a group of business leaders, educators, and parents set out to establish a premier college-preparatory school in a rural setting. They wanted to provide area students with the advantages of a boarding school campus but afford them the additional benefits of a day school. The Sweetland Farm in East Providence offered the perfect location to bring their vision to fruition, and though the physical layout of the school has evolved over the ensuing years, the "Farm" remains a reminder of the original PCD campus.

Initially a small all-boys middle and high school, PCD was able to successfully navigate its commitment to becoming a coeducational institution thanks to a strict adherence to its founding principles. In 1991 the school admitted its first female students, and in 1998 the Board of Trustees hired Susan Haberlandt as Head of School to lead and secure the school through those critical transformational years and beyond.

Coinciding with the school's demographic shift was a geographic shift: in 1997, PCD completed an extensive campus consolidation and building project, in which two historic buildings, Metcalf and Chace Halls (1927) were moved to the east side of campus and renovated. At the same time Murray House opened as the new administration building, and the Moran Annex was added to the West Field House, providing greatly expanded and improved athletic facilities.

In the present day, the school's diversity and gender balance are decidedly more reflective of Rhode Island's current population, and the vibrant school community is a living testament to the vision of the school's founders.

Henry Barnard School History

The Henry Barnard School, initially called "The Observation School", opened its doors in 1898. It consisted of ten classrooms on the first floor of the Normal School where young women trained to become teachers. The Normal School was located downtown, across from the State House. The Observation School was in the same building for thirty years. By 1920, the Observation School became Henry Barnard School and The Normal School changed its name to Rhode Island College of Education. Just eight years later, Henry Barnard School moved out of the Rhode Island College of Education into its own four story building next door. The principal of the newly opened school was Dr. Clara Craig, who was one of the first critical teachers in the Normal School. The new building was thoroughly modern with 23 classrooms to accommodate grades K through Grade 9. The school also housed a library, auditorium, art room, general shop, cafeteria and a health clinic. It was now capable of receiving as many as 700 elementary and junior high students.

By 1936, Dr. Mary Tucker Thorp took over as principal and remained in that position for the next 23 years. Under her leadership, the school grew, became nationally known and had a reputation for excellence in education. Enrollment climbed to 725 students with a long waiting list for the elementary school. After school activities included: United Nations Club, model airplanes, Russian language, knitting, orchestra, and chess, to mention just a few.

In 1958, Henry Barnard School moved along with Rhode Island College to its present location at the center of the Mount Pleasant campus. Some 62 years later, in 2020, Rhode Island College

announced its intention to permanently close Henry Barnard School, an iconic and groundbreaking educational institution.

Affordability and access

One of the greatest challenges facing Rhode Island families is access to excellent education. Despite the best efforts of the public school system, there are thousands of students who are better served in a smaller, more intimate classroom setting, like that at a private school. All too often, however, families are confronted with the reality of wanting a change for their child, but are unable to do so because of the exorbitant cost of private school tuition.

In October 2020, PCD announced an initiative called the PCD Quest, featuring a 36% reduction in tuition. In doing so the school boldly addressed financial challenges related to access, and affordability will be a key element of this new PK-12 venture. For 2021-2022 the new tuition levels are: \$15,000 for elementary students; \$22,000 for middle school students; and \$25,000 for high school students.

Demographic research indicates that with this more modest price point, approximately 6,000 additional Rhode Island families can now explore a private school education. It is within this groundbreaking three-tier tuition structure that Henry Barnard will continue its mission of educating a broad cross section of Rhode Island students, as it has for nearly 125 years.

Request

A critical priority during this new era is relocating the school from the Rhode Island College campus, where we have a 5-year lease in place through no longer than the spring of 2026. We are seeking a one-time gift of \$5,000,000 in stimulus funds towards the construction of a new elementary school building on our East Providence campus. We will match this amount with funds raised from our community along with the land that we will donate. We will use these funds to act on our stated vision of establishing a PK-12 school that, through a visionary tuition structure, will serve a wide socioeconomic range of Rhode Island families for years to come. Our goal and expectation is to build a state-of-the-art elementary facility worthy of a school of its history and stature.

During times of crisis, like those we are currently living through, leaders must think creatively and collaboratively. This partnership between the public and private sector will help set a new standard for synergy and thoughtful problem-solving. Together we can help preserve the Henry Barnard School's strong legacy of serving the public good and training future generations of leaders.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin J. Folan
Head of School



THE Providence Country Day SCHOOL

American Rescue Plan State Fiscal Recovery Fund Recommendation Cover Sheet

Please submit this document with any recommendations for funding from Rhode Island's allocation of federal fiscal recovery funds available through the American Rescue Plan Act. This information will be made available to the public along with any detailed documents submitted that describe the proposal. It is encouraged that such documents identify clear goals and objectives and quantifiable metrics.

This is not a formal request for funds, and submission of recommendations does not guarantee a response, public hearing, or appropriation from the General Assembly.

Name of Lead Agency: Providence Country Day School

Additional agencies making recommendation (if applicable): Henry Barnard School

Contact Person / Title: Kevin Folan, Head of School Phone: 401-438-5170

Address: 660 Waterman Ave, East Providence, RI 02914

Email Address (if available): folan@providencountryday.org

Brief Project Description (attachments should contain details): In March 2021, Providence Country Day School announced an historic merger with the Henry Barnard School that helped save a beloved educational institution from closure. Now PCD is working diligently to build a new home for HBS, a school that has educated thousands of students and trained hundreds of teachers. We are asking for support as we construct a new building for Henry Barnard. Please see attached for further details.

Total request: up to \$5,000,000 in matching funds

One-time or Recurring Expense? One-time expense

ARPA Eligibility Category (check all that apply) – See link for further information

[https://www.rilegislature.gov/commissions/arpa/commdocs/Treasury%20-%20Quick-Reference Guide.pdf](https://www.rilegislature.gov/commissions/arpa/commdocs/Treasury%20-%20Quick-Reference%20Guide.pdf)

- Respond to the public health emergency and its economic impacts _____
- Premium pay to eligible workers _____
- Government services/state revenue replacement _____
- Water/sewer/broadband infrastructure _____