



The Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center

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April 10, 2025

To the Honorable Representatives O'Brien, Dawson, Corvese, Read, Slater, Kazarian, Diaz, Solomon, Casimiro, and Alzate,

Subject: Opposition to Bill H6058 – Dual Enrollment Equal Opportunity Act (Amended)

Dear Representatives,

On behalf of the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center (The Met), I write to express our concerns regarding Bill H6058, which proposes limiting dual enrollment opportunities strictly to Rhode Island's public higher education institutions. While we deeply value and actively engage with our state's excellent public colleges and universities, we are not in support of this bill as written.

At The Met, our commitment to personalized learning and career-aligned pathways has led us to establish strategic partnerships with both public and private postsecondary institutions in order to best serve our diverse student body. For example, we recently received a grant from the Rhode Island Department of Education that, in part, relies on a partnership with New England Institute of Technology—a private institution. This partnership was selected due to both the excellence of their programming in a high-demand technical area. It is also an area of study that does not exist, currently, within the public system.

Restricting dual enrollment to public institutions alone would curtail our ability to tailor experiences to student needs and limit equitable access to specialized programs that may not currently exist in the public landscape. It could also unintentionally disrupt existing student pathways that have already demonstrated success.

We respectfully suggest that H6058 be **held for further study**, to more fully examine the potential impacts on student access, educational equity, and workforce alignment across the state. The goal of dual enrollment should be to expand opportunity, not limit it, especially when high-quality private options may be the best fit for a student's goals.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued efforts to improve education in Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Joseph Battaglia
Director of Curriculum and CTE Director
Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center