

Dear House Education Committee:

My name is Dr. Ellen Foley and I am an instructional coach at The Greene School. I oppose HB7415. If it becomes law, HB7415 would work at cross-purposes with many of the educational goals I know we share. The Greene School completed a rigorous process of stakeholder engagement and strategic planning to receive the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education's approval to add middle grades this past January. This bill would stop us from doing so, even though The Greene School:

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- **Has**
- **a proven track record of success.** Successful
- middle school seats are desperately needed in Rhode Island. Any educator will tell you that middle school can be a difficult transition for students and SurveyWorks data shows that parents are concerned about middle school education. HB7415 would stop The
- Greene School, which has a proven track record of success at the high school level, from adding middle grades beginning in the 2027-28 school year—seats that parents and students are clamoring for.
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- **Is**
- **a truly statewide**
- **charter**
- **school.** As

- a resident of Providence, a longtime educator in the Providence School District, and a parent of PPSD graduates, I do not want to see our traditional districts hurt by enrollment challenges. But charters are often the scapegoat when enrollment changes in districts
- are due to a number of factors. The Greene School does not target any specific city; in fact we draw from cities and towns all over Rhode Island. The economic impact on any one district is marginal.

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- **Provides**

- **an innovative model** that
  - is not available in traditional public schools. As the state's only EL-certified school, a TGS education is based on a nationally recognized, research-based model for teaching and learning developed in partnership with Outward Bound and the Harvard Graduate
  - School of Education. Our school attracts families whose students have not fit into traditional districts and who want a hands-on curriculum focused on sustaining our environment.
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Thank you for your commitment to public education. The Greene School IS a public school. Please oppose HB7415 and let the Greene School offer high quality middle school seats that our students and families want and need.

Ellen Foley  
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