



March 10, 2026

The Honorable Joseph M. McNamara, Chairman
House Education Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H7415, An Act Relating to Education – Establishment of Charter Public Schools

Dear Chairman McNamara:

We are writing to respectfully express our opposition to House bill 7415. We appreciate and share the General Assembly's commitment to expanding access to high-quality educational opportunities for Rhode Island families. Our organizations are deeply committed to strengthening public education in the state and to ensuring that every student has access to a school where they can thrive.

While none of our schools currently have plans to grow beyond the enrollment levels already approved in our charters, we have concerns about legislation that would broadly restrict or limit parent choices in the coming years – particularly economically disadvantaged parents who cannot afford private school options.

Demand from families for charter public schools in Rhode Island remains extraordinarily high. In the most recent enrollment cycle, Rhode Island families submitted nearly 30,000 charter school applications for roughly 2,500 available seats statewide, meaning only about 1 in 12 students received a seat through the lottery. This level of demand reflects the strong interest among Rhode Island families for a diverse set of public school options.

We believe Rhode Island's public education system is strongest when families have access to a range of high-quality public school choices. For this reason, we respectfully urge caution with legislation that would limit future opportunities for families seeking

these options. We appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective and look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the General Assembly to strengthen public education for all Rhode Island students.

Sincerely,



Sarah Anderson
CEO, Blackstone Valley Prep



Tom McDermott
Executive Director, Rhode Island
Achievement First



Owen Stearns
CEO, Excel Academy

cc: House Education Committee members

Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel, Office of House Speaker Joseph Shekarchi