



March 30th, 2026

The youth of Young Voices would like to voice their support of House Bill #7907, which would permit student advisory members to have a permanent vote on the Elementary & Secondary Education Council.

As high school youth, there are unfortunately not many opportunities for us to have a lasting say in our education. It is even more disconcerting to know that right now, student representatives do not hold any decisionmaking power on our own Board of Education, despite sharing the same responsibilities and expectations as adult members. Their role is only ceremonial, despite being the most directly affected by what choices the Board of Education makes.

Having someone that reflects the community being served can help us have a clearer picture of challenges. It is highly important for our youth representatives to be heard and acknowledged in an authentic, non-tokenizing way.

Permanently giving student advisory council members a vote is just common sense, and makes our education system more democratic for everyone.

I am asking you and your colleagues in the House to pass H7907, to elevate the voices of all Rhode Island students now and in the future. We are relying on you to do the right thing. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

The Youth of Young Voices