

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chelsea Galley, and I serve as the seventh grade math teacher at the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (UCAP).

For more than 37 years, UCAP has provided accelerated, personalized education to students who have struggled in traditional settings. Our students often require intensive academic and social-emotional support, and UCAP was built specifically to meet those needs.

We see students every day who have struggled in their other school environments. I hear kids talk about what their schools were like that they came from - constant fights, cutting classes, and chaotic environments prohibited them from reaching their full potential. At UCAP, students do not fight. At UCAP, students are held accountable for being in class every day and trying their best. At UCAP, we see kids striving towards their goals and slowly start believing in themselves. As an educator, I live for the "ah ha" moments that kids experience when they finally understand something. I see this happen daily at the UCAP school. I have never experienced this in other places.

The UCAP school is truly a special place. The principal knows every student by name and by story. The administrators are directly involved with the students every day. The students know there is always a person they can turn to if they need support. The UCAP school strives to make it so that every student has a trusted adult in the building.

Though my time at the UCAP school has been brief, this is only my second year here, I have so valued the time I have spent in this community. I have grown so much as a teacher and as a person from being in this environment. I am supported here so that I am able to better support my students. I am pushed to be better so I can require the same from my students.

S-2208 / H-7271 would modernize UCAP's statutory framework and allow additional districts to refer students. This ensures that access to UCAP is based on student need.

Our students deserve continuity and stability. I urge you to support this legislation to protect a proven public education model that has served Rhode Island students for decades.

Sincerely,
Chelsea Galley, Seventh Grade Math Teacher
Providence, RI