

## S-2208 & H-7271: Ensuring Stability for UCAP Students

### What is UCAP?

The UCAP School opened its doors in 1989 as “The Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program,” to balance the scale for students at risk of dropping out. We are the only middle school in RI to partner with other school districts to identify and help students catch up with their grade and return to high school prepared and ready for success.

Our supportive learning community has helped over 4,000 Rhode Island middle school students through personalized, enriched journeys.



### Who UCAP Serves

- Students at risk of **falling off track or dropping out**
- Students **2–5 grade levels behind**
- Students needing academic and social-emotional intervention
- Students who have **not succeeded in traditional school settings**

### Proven Impact in a Short Time

Compared to the state and Providence in 2025 SurveyWorks data, UCAP successfully demonstrated:

- Higher College and Career Readiness
- Greater School Climate
- More Rigorous School Expectations
- Better Teacher-Student Relationships

**Despite short enrollment periods, UCAP produces strong outcomes, often achieving measurable progress in months—which can take years in traditional district settings.** Students make significant growth toward proficiency, accelerate in grade level and stay on track to graduate, and re-engage.

### How UCAP Supports District Classrooms

**In many districts, classrooms average 26–26 students with diverse and complex needs.** UCAP provides **smaller, highly-structured environments (10–20 students)** designed for students requiring more intense intervention. This helps:

- Ensure students with the highest needs receive intensive, individualized support
- Allow district classrooms to maintain appropriate student-to-teacher balance
- Teachers better meet the needs of all students within their classrooms
- Strengthens our public education system by matching students with the level of support they need

### What Families, Students, and Staff Say:

- 90% of families report Special Education Services satisfaction (vs. 72% statewide)
- 72% of students report high expectations from teachers (vs. 58% statewide)
- 86% of UCAP teachers feel prepared to support diverse learners (vs. 73% statewide)

### Why This Legislation Matters (S-2208 / H-7271)

- Modernizes UCAP’s statutory framework
- Allows more districts to refer students
- Ensure access is based on student need, not geography or structure
- Provide continuity and stability for vulnerable students
- Strengthens UCAP’s future—without S-2208 / H-7271, UCAP is at risk

### S-2208 / H-7271 Are Cost-Effective Solutions

- **No additional cost to the state or districts**
- Prevents costly alternatives (out-of-district placements can cost \$30,000–\$75,000+ per student)
- UCAP delivers stronger outcomes at a lower cost