

5/19/2026

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

As Superintendent of Schools for Portsmouth School Department, I write in support of House Bill 8531 relating to compulsory attendance and at-home instruction.

This legislation provides school districts with important safeguards to ensure that decisions regarding at-home instruction are made in the best interest of students while also preserving due process for families. The bill promotes accountability and allows districts to better support students experiencing chronic absenteeism or educational disruption.

The proposed language encourages collaboration between schools and families and ensures that educational plans are appropriate for each child's academic and social-emotional needs.

I appreciate the General Assembly's continued focus on student engagement and educational equity, and respectfully urge your support of House Bill 8531.

Sincerely,



Dr. Elizabeth Vivieros
Superintendent of Schools
Portsmouth School Department
Portsmouth, Rhode Island