

EPEA

Affiliated with the
National Education Association
and
NEA Rhode Island

East Providence Education Association

P.O. Box 15421, East Providence, Rhode Island 02915

March 6, 2024

Honorable Members of the Rhode Island House Finance Committee,

My name is Nick Shattuck, I live in East Providence and work for the East Providence School District. I am the President of the East Providence Education Association representing 517 members and a member of NEARI.

I submit written testimony today representing the East Providence Education Association, a steadfast advocate for quality education and equitable access to learning opportunities for all students in our community. With grave concern, we address the proposed \$600,000 cut in educational aid to East Providence, put forth by the Governor's office.

Education is the cornerstone of our society, the pathway to prosperity, and the foundation upon which our future is built. As educators, we understand the profound impact that adequate funding has on the quality of education and the overall well-being of our students. It is fundamental to ensure that every child receives the resources and support necessary to thrive academically, emotionally, and socially.

The proposed \$600,000 cut in educational aid strikes at the heart of our educational system, threatening the very fabric of our community's ability to provide a high-quality education for our students. Such a drastic reduction in funding would have far-reaching consequences, jeopardizing essential programs, services, and opportunities that are integral to student success.

In East Providence, we have worked tirelessly to create a cultivating and inspiring learning environment that allows all students to reach their full potential in a 21st century setting. Our educators have dedicated their lives to inspiring, educating, and uplifting the next generation.

The ramifications of the proposed cut in educational aid are profound and deeply troubling. It threatens to increase class sizes, reduce individualized support services, reduce staffing levels, eliminate programs and activities, and diminish the overall quality of education in our schools.

We urge you to consider the long-term implications of this proposed cut and the profound impact it will have on our students, our educators, and our community. Now, more than ever, we must prioritize investment in education.

We implore you to reject the Governor's proposed cut in educational aid to East Providence and instead, work collaboratively to identify sustainable solutions that prioritize the needs of our students and safeguard the future of our educational system.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter and for your unwavering commitment to the children and families of Rhode Island.

Sincerely,



Nick Shattuck
President
East Providence Education Association