



# RIEEA

Rhode Island Environmental  
Education Association

10 Davol Square, Suite 100  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903  
[RIEEA.org](http://RIEEA.org)

Jeanine Silversmith

On Behalf of the Rhode Island Environmental Education Association

**In Support of H-5203 – School Funds and Property**

House Committee on Finance

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

The Rhode Island Environmental Education Association (RIEEA) supports H-5203, and respectfully urges its passage. The RIEEA membership includes over 400 individuals including educators, scientists, advocates, students, and parents, as well as over 65 organizations<sup>1</sup> who care deeply about Rhode Island's natural places, health, and environmental and economic stability.

The impact of school buildings on student health and academic performance as well as attendance, concentration, and motivation, is well documented<sup>2</sup>. Requiring that all school buildings meet the latest Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools (NE-CHPS) standards will help ensure that all of Rhode Island's students are motivated and prepared to learn. Furthermore, this legislation would allow the School Building Authority to provide technical advice and assistance, training, and education to municipal leaders, local education agencies, contractors, designers, and others on these standards.

Education is often overlooked as one of the best ways to address the climate crisis and other environmental issues. In fact, strengthening climate education and engagement was identified by scientists as one of six key societal transformations needed to address the climate crisis in a recent paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences<sup>3</sup>. **I urge you to pass H-5203.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.rieea.org/about-us/organizational-members/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://research.childrenandnature.org/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.pnas.org/content/117/5/2354>