

ANGÉLICA INFANTE-GREEN  
*Commissioner*

JAVIER MONTAÑEZ  
*Superintendent*



Providence Public School District  
Office of Multilingual Learners  
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Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Finance Committee,

The Office of Multilingual Learners for Providence Public Schools strongly supports House Bills #5744 and #5982. As a department representing over 8,600 Multilingual Learners and their families, we care deeply about the impact these bills will have on multilingual education in Rhode Island.

We advocate for the linguistic and academic success of our students, who deserve to be treated with dignity and equity. We believe their languages and cultures are assets that strengthen our communities. Our district currently offers Dual Language and Bilingual education programs in grades K–8, with a goal to expand through grade 12.

**Bilingual programs benefit all students.** Research shows that Dual Language programs lead to stronger academic outcomes—not only for Multilingual Learners, but also for English-dominant students. These programs close achievement gaps and promote academic excellence in two languages. In fact, our own student data shows that MLL students enrolled in Dual Language programs make more growth on standardized English language assessments than those in ESL models.

**Multilingualism is essential to Rhode Island's future workforce.** Over 90% of employers seek workers with language skills. Investing in bilingual education prepares students for real-world careers, supports economic development, and strengthens the state's competitiveness.

**These bills also address equity and teacher shortages.** MLLs are concentrated in under-resourced districts, and this legislation expands access to high-quality programs in those communities. It also supports building a pipeline of qualified bilingual educators by easing certification barriers.

We respectfully urge you to support House Bills 5744 and 5982 to promote educational equity, academic achievement, and workforce readiness for Rhode Island's multilingual students.

Thank you,

Handwritten signature of Jennifer Q. Efflandt in black ink.

Jennifer Q. Efflandt  
Sr. Exec Dir. of MLLs

Handwritten signature of Nelia Fontes in black ink.

Nelia Fontes  
Supervisor of Dual  
Language Programs

Handwritten signature of Michelle Stockwell in black ink.

Michelle Stockwell  
Interim Dir. of MLL  
Instruction & Services

Handwritten signature of Dina Cerra in black ink.

Dina Cerra  
High School MLL Mgr

Handwritten signature of Angela Vieira in black ink.

Angela Vieira  
Elem. MLL Mgr.

Handwritten signature of Rosario Johnson in black ink.

Rosario Johnson  
Elem. MLL Mgr.

Handwritten signature of Diana Ferreira in black ink.

Diana Ferreira  
Coordinator of MLLs