

**CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION NO. 25-05-15
A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATION S0785 AND H5744**

WHEREAS, the Cranston School Committee is committed to building Cranston's future one child at a time by advancing the best interests of its students, educators, and the greater Cranston community through policies and advocacy that promote equity, safety, and high-quality education for every student; and

WHEREAS, the Cranston School Committee recognizes the importance of supporting legislative efforts that direct resources to strengthen the public education system in ways that serve Rhode Island's diverse population of learners;

WHEREAS, Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) has found that Rhode Island has seen a 30% increase in multilingual learner enrollment over the past 5 years and that currently over 12% of students in Cranston Public Schools are multilingual learners;

WHEREAS, the 2024 Factbook released by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT showed that in October 2023, only 2% (227) of RI public school teachers and instructional coordinators held an active Bilingual, Dual Language, or English to Speakers of Other Languages certification;

WHEREAS, RIDE's Three-Year Analysis on Rhode Island Educator Emergency Certificates found that language educator certificates (English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Bilingual and Dual Language (BDL), World Languages (WL) Teachers) are the largest group of emergency certificates (236) making them account for 29% of the certificates issued;

WHEREAS, legislation introduced in the Rhode Island General Assembly, Senate Bill S0785 and House Bill H5744, The Bilingual, Dual Language, and World Language Teachers Investment Act, aims to provide an annual total of \$1 million in scholarships to college students and teachers seeking bilingual, dual language, or world language teacher certification who meet certain eligibility requirements;

WHEREAS, one eligibility requirement for the proposed scholarships is teaching in an urban core or urban ring public school in Rhode Island;

WHEREAS, Cranston is defined as an "urban ring" municipality; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island General Laws § 42-5.1-1(l) affirms that proficiency in a second or multiple languages can be a major tool for economic growth for our state and is an advantage in the world economy as we move into the twenty-first century.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cranston School Committee hereby expresses its strong support for S0785 and H5744 and urges the members of the Rhode Island General Assembly to pass these important pieces of legislation to expand the issuance of bilingual, dual language, and world language teaching certificates to teachers in urban core and urban ring public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the members of the Cranston delegation to the Rhode Island General Assembly, the President of the Rhode Island Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Governor of Rhode Island.

Adopted this 12 day of May, 2025, by the Cranston School Committee.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Domenic F. Fusco, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Domenic F. Fusco, Jr.
Cranston School Committee Chair