



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. McKEE

May 14, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair
House Committee on Finance
State House Room 35
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Letter of concern for H6255 – An Act Relating to Education – School Committees and Superintendents – Central Falls School District

Dear Chair Abney,

I am writing to express concern regarding House Bill 6255, particularly the section that limits the city's share of education funding to the amount it receives from the State as a payment in lieu of taxes under R.I. Gen. Laws § 45-13-5.1.

While I have long supported returning Central Falls to local control, I have concerns that the bill does not require the City of Central Falls to contribute its local share calculated through Rhode Island's funding formula, unlike every other municipality in Rhode Island. Allowing Central Falls to ignore its financial obligation creates an inequitable system and a double standard that undermines the shared commitment of local and state governments to fund public education.

A few years ago, during my State of the State address, I acknowledged, "we have held onto one district for too long." My administration is pleased that the Mayor of Central Falls and her team have worked diligently on the governance side of that equation. While I applaud that effort, and I will continue to engage with the Mayor, I cannot support a governance structure that does not accompany an obligation to fund the city's local share of education funding. Every other Rhode Island community is expected to and fulfills their local share — and Central Falls should not be an exception. Failing to require any local contribution from the municipality sets a troubling precedent. It risks creating long-term fiscal imbalances and undermines both equity and accountability in the system.

I respectfully urge this Honorable Committee to hold H6255 or to consider amending it to include a requirement for Central Falls to contribute to its local share, consistent with the expectations and actions of all other Rhode Island municipalities.

Sincerely,


Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Chair Abney
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CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance
The Honorable Joshua J. Giraldo
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker