



State of Rhode Island

Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State

Gregg M. Amore, *Secretary of State*

May 15, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair
House Committee on Finance

RE: In support of House Bill 6255, An Act Relating to Education – School Committees and Superintendents – Central Falls School District

Dear Chair Abney,

As a longtime public educator, I write in support of House Bill 6255, which would both restore local governance of the Central Falls School District and ensure the sustainability and predictability of district funding. This legislation finally gives the people of Central Falls—families, educators, and local leaders—a voice in the future of their schools.

It is imperative that the Central Falls Schools are governed in a way that fully represents the community and its needs. A local school board, by its nature, is the body politic most closely related to the students, families, and educators of a community, and therefore the most responsive to their needs. The democratic nature of a school board allows the voices of the community to be heard and allows the community to hold the policymakers accountable. The students, families, and educators of Central Falls deserve to have that voice once again.

House Bill 6255 builds on over a year of listening and learning from hundreds in the community and the work of a dedicated community advisory board, with leaders from the city, schools, and local and state labor partners. The community advisory board reached a strong consensus, recommending a 9-member hybrid School Board (5 appointed and 4 elected members). The passage of House Bill 6255 will empower those who know the students and community best. Local control means accountability, transparency, and a direct investment in children's success.

In short, the time has come to change the status quo after 34 years of state control. House Bill 6255 ensures that families, educators, and local leaders shape the future of the city's schools, while also providing a financially responsible path forward.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Arias, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at marias@sos.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance
The Honorable Joshua J. Giraldo

State House, Room 218, Providence, RI 02903

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