



BLACKSTONE VALLEY PREP

Preparing every scholar for success in college and the world beyond.

May 6, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chair, House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Abney:

As the CEO and Superintendent for the Blackstone Valley Prep, I write to endorse the passage 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.


At BVP, I have seen firsthand how much our children are capable of, how much our families care, and how talented our educators are. I appreciate every day the chance to work with my team and Board to make decisions based on what is best for our students. City residents deserve a chance to have that same direct voice in decision-making for the schools that serve over half their children.

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. Its passage will empower those who know the students and community best.

House Bill 6255 also makes good on the state's intentions for the Central Falls Stabilization Fund, ensuring predictable, proper, and transparent funding for all the students of Central Falls. And, House Bill 6255 leverages the community's local assets to bring revenue to the school district, directing that any state Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) revenues from the Wyatt Detention Facility—currently the only detention center in Rhode Island excluded from the PILOT program—be used to support the Stabilization Fund, all without adding costs to the state. This creative solution will provide the city time it needs to take control of the schools and identify financial efficiency opportunities and address financial concerns.

At Blackstone Valley Prep, we are committed to the educational success of the children of Central Falls - both those who attend our schools and their siblings and neighbors who do not. We are proud to support Central Falls' efforts to return the schools to local governance in order to better serve the young people of the city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Anderson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sarah Anderson

