



**WILLIAM M. DAVIES, JR.
CAREER & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL**

50 Jenckes Hill Road
Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865
Phone: (401) 728-1500 Fax: (401) 728-8910

*Educating Innovators for the
Twenty-First Century*

Mary Watkins, *Director/Superintendent*
Jose Libano, *Associate Director/Principal*
Cheryl Carroll, *Assistant Director/Finance & Operations*

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair
House Finance Committee
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: In Support of Governor's FY 2027, FY 2026 Revised and Capital Budget submissions for William M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical High School

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

We are writing to respectfully request your support for the Governor's FY 2027, FY 2026 Revised, and Capital Budget submissions on behalf of William M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical High School (Davies).

FY2027 and FY2026 Revised Budgets

The Davies FY2027 submission is a level-service budget. The principal driver of increase is the transportation line, consistent with ongoing escalation for bus transportation as seen throughout the state. Additionally, the FY2026 enacted budget funds only 123 of Davies' 125 authorized FTEs. However, full funding for all positions is supported and reflected in the Governor's recommendation in both the revised FY2026 and the FY2027 budgets. Funding for these positions is essential for Davies to fully implement Rhode Island's new readiness-based graduation requirements, effective for the Class of 2028 and beyond.

RICAP: Critical Facilities Investment

Our request for \$3.5 million in RICAP funding to complete the replacement of our deteriorating 1970s wing – a critical investment to protect the State's \$45.5M Phase I commitment and ensure that Rhode Island's only state-owned CTE school has facilities worthy of its workforce development mission.

Phase I of the project is well underway:

- Phase I Addition — a fully new CTE wing to house our Health Careers, Electrical & Renewable Energy, and PreEngineering programs— construction begins in August 2026.
- Emergency roof replacement on the 1970s wing - currently in progress as a necessary stopgap until the new wing is complete.



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To avoid additional, wasteful stopgap measures in the 1970s wing and make good on the state's initial investment, it is critical that we see this project through to completion. Phase II funding (\$3.5M) will enable Davies to begin planning and design for the complete relocation of remaining CTE programs and classrooms currently housed in the 1970s wing, and, ultimately, the demolition of that aging structure.

Our Request

For 54 years, Davies has provided Rhode Island students with the skills and opportunities needed to succeed in careers, civic life, and college (see Appendix A, "Evidence of Recent Student Success"). We respectfully request your support for the Davies FY2027 and FY2026 Revised budgets as proposed in the Governor's submission, including the \$3.5 million in RICAP funding for Phase II planning and design for the 1970s wing replacement project. This critical investment will ensure that Davies can continue preparing students to contribute meaningfully to Rhode Island's workforce and communities.

Thank you for your consideration and your service.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Watkins, M.Ed.
Director/Superintendent

~and~

Davies Board of Trustees, as endorsed by a resolution of the Board on Monday, March 9, 2026 by the members in attendance:

Dr. Rosemary Costigan,
Interim Chair
Doug Sherman
Alyssa Alvarado
Harold "Skip" Burns

Raymond Chartier
David Chenevert
Kelly Doern
Carolyn Kyle
John Quinn

James Segovis
Heather Singleton
Shawn Sullivan
Mario Zuluaga



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Appendix A: Evidence of Recent Student Success

CTE & Industry Outcomes:

- **CTE Industry Certification Pass Rates:** 95%+ (2023–2025).
- **Workforce Alignment:** 9 of 10 CTE programs aligned to RI's most critically undersupplied occupations.
- **Governor's 2030 Industry Clusters:** CTE programs aligned to 5 of 6 key clusters, including Electrical & Renewable Energy, Pre-Engineering (Environmental), and Cybersecurity.
- **Advanced coursework:** available through CCRI, RIC, and URI (and others) in every CTE program area.
- **CTE Program Expansion:** Cybersecurity (NEW 2025); Construction (planned for launch in Fall 2027)

Academic Achievement:

- **AP Pass Rate:** Increased from 17% (2021) to 52% (2025) — more than tripling in four years.
- **ELA Proficiency:** Increased 51.6% (2021) to 58.6% (2025).
- **Science (NGSS) Proficiency:** Increased from 31.9% (2021) to 45.6% (2025).
- **Graduation Rate:** 86–89% annually, consistently above the state average of 83–85%.
- **MLL Exit Rate Growth:** 3 students exited in 2022–23, 9 in 2023–24, and 17 in 2024–25.
- **MLL ACCESS** scale score growth has exceeded the state average for three consecutive years.

Staff and Student Distinctions:

- RI Association of Career and Technical Educators Teacher of the Year (2025)
- Presidential Scholar (2024)
- Division IV Superbowl Champions (2024)
- National Merit Scholar (2022)
- Students recently admitted to Boston College, Brandeis, Georgetown, Northeastern, Providence College, PennState, University of Rhode Island, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute