



April 1, 2026

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

RE: H-7127 -- Governor's FY 2027 Budget -- Elementary and Secondary Education, Learn 365RI

Chair Abney and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns and our 39 member municipalities, we are pleased to express our strong support for House Bill H-7127, the Governor's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget as it relates to Elementary and Secondary Education, and specifically the Learn365RI initiative.

Learn365RI represents a forward-thinking investment in Rhode Island's students and communities by expanding access to meaningful learning opportunities beyond the traditional school day and year. For municipalities, these out-of-school time programs are not only educational supports, but also critical community resources that help engage youth, support working families, and strengthen neighborhood stability.

Across our cities and towns, afterschool and summer programs play a vital role in promoting academic achievement, improving attendance, and supporting students' social and emotional well-being. These programs also provide safe, structured environments that keep young people connected and engaged, particularly during out-of-school hours when many families rely on local programming.

At the same time, municipalities continue to see demand for these services outpace available resources. Barriers such as cost, transportation, and limited program capacity leave many families without access. The Learn365RI initiative helps address these gaps by expanding equitable access to high-quality programming across Rhode Island communities.

This investment is especially important given ongoing uncertainty in federal funding streams that have historically supported afterschool and summer learning. Strengthening state-level commitment through Learn365RI will help provide greater stability for providers and ensure continuity of services for students and families.

We also appreciate the initiative's focus on supporting and developing the out-of-school time workforce. Building a strong, sustainable pipeline of trained professionals is essential to maintaining program quality and maximizing the long-term impact of these investments at the local level. Ultimately, Learn365RI is an investment not only in education, but in the overall health and vitality of our communities. By supporting students outside the classroom, we are reinforcing municipal efforts to foster safe, vibrant, and resilient cities and towns.

For these reasons, the League respectfully urges support for House Bill H-7127 and the continued investment in the Learn365RI initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.R. Rossi', written in a cursive style.

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Finance Committee