



April 28th, 2026

To: House Finance Committee  
House Bill No. 8351 FUNDING FORMULA

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

The youth of Young Voices wish to express their strong support of H8351, which would establish the Rhode Island Education Funding and Accountability Act. We recognize this as a generational opportunity to adequately and equitably create better pay for teachers, revitalize our crumbling infrastructure, and require greater transparency for all school districts.

School is a place where every student, regardless of their household income or area code, should feel safe, challenged, and loved. Yet all of us at Young Voices understand that right now, our resources are not being fairly managed by the state. The areas with the highest need are often the most insufficiently funded, the schools most lacking in accountability measures are also the most opaque in their reporting, and out-of-school-time programs are at constant risk of being cut, while more and more resources are channeled into wealthy private schools and affluent neighborhoods year after year. This imbalance cannot be allowed to continue.

The proposed legislation offers a path forward. It is built on a comprehensive set of recommendations that focus on accounting for the full cost of education and sharing those costs more equitably, tailoring instructional costs directly to what students need, increasing funding for economically disadvantaged students, multilingual learners, and students with disabilities, and requiring accountability measures that tie spending to educational outcomes. From renovating old buildings, fixing leaky ceilings, and ensuring that our classrooms are safe, this new funding formula ensures that we can focus on our education, not just our safety.

We hope that the members of the Finance Committee will make the correct decision and vote YES to advance H8351 today. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

The Youth of Young Voices