



FROM: Andrew MacMannis, Collective Action for Education

Testimony in Support of HB8351

April 28, 2026

TO: House Finance Committee
(housefinance@rilegislature.gov)

My name is Andrew MacMannis, Chief of External Affairs for Collective Action for Education, and I am writing in support of HB8351, which would update and reestablish a fair and equitable way of funding schools in Rhode Island. This bill would be aligned with the recommendations of a cross-sector Blue Ribbon committee report put forward by the Rhode Island Foundation, and would positively shape the educational ecosystem for years to come.

The report and the bill do something important: it shifts the conversation away from “district vs. charter” and toward a unified goal: fair, student-centered funding across all public schools. This is where *all* of our educational discourse should be: not us against them, but rather, a system that sees all of us, together.

By centering funding decisions on student need rather than governance structure, this bill helps ensure that resources are distributed more equitably and predictably across the state. It creates a foundation for a more coherent approach to public education. We strongly urge the passage of this bill.

Andrew MacMannis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AM", is positioned below the typed name.

Chief of External Affairs, Collective Action for Education