



April 28, 2026

Hon. Marvin Abney
Chair
House Committee on Finance
HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

Re: Support for HB 8429; An Act Relating to Education – School Committees and Superintendents

Dear Chair Abney,

Build Rhode Island, and our partners in the Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades, have built a strong partnership between the City of Central Falls and Mayor Maria Rivera.

When presented with the once-in-a-generation opportunity to construct a new high school, Mayor Rivera and the City developed a thoughtful and strategic plan. They engaged stakeholders from the Building Trades and the union construction industry to ensure the project would be completed on time and in compliance with strict funding deadlines. Mayor Rivera and her administration demonstrated a clear commitment to her community and to ensure the construction of their new high school would be built on time for the school year, she utilized a project labor agreement in the development of the new Central Falls High School. Her focus on delivering the project responsibly, on time, and with meaningful local workforce participation, including over 20% apprenticeship utilization, reflects a leadership approach that will translate directly to how the city oversees its school district and serves its students.

This same deliberate and inclusive approach has guided the City's efforts to return to local control of its schools. City leadership has convened stakeholders, carefully evaluated all options, and positioned itself to successfully reclaim and manage its school district.

Build Rhode Island proudly support HB 8429 and the City of Central Falls' efforts to regain local control of its schools.

In addition to HB 8429 moving oversight of the Central Falls schools under local control, this legislation also helps stabilize William M. Davies, Jr. Career and Technical High School's (Davies) funding. Davies is a critical public education institution proving an education pathway to many who want to develop a career in the unionized construction trades. Build Rhode Island strongly supports any efforts in growing Davies' educational reach to more students across Rhode Island.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Best,

Anthony Cherry
Assistant Executive Director
Build Rhode Island