



State of Rhode Island

**Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State**

**Gregg M. Amore, Secretary of State**

April 28, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

RE: In support of House Bill 8429, An Act Relating to Education – School Committees and Superintendents

Dear Chair Abney,

As a longtime public educator, I write in support of House Bill 8429, which would both restore local governance of the Central Falls School District and ensure the sustainability and predictability of district funding. This legislation finally gives the people of Central Falls—families, educators, and local leaders—a voice in the future of their schools.

It is imperative that the Central Falls Schools are governed in a way that fully represents the community and their needs. A local school board, by its nature, is the body politic most closely related to the students, families, and educators of a community, and therefore the most responsive to their needs. The democratic nature of a school board allows the community's voices to be heard and holds policymakers accountable. The students, families, and educators of Central Falls deserve to have that voice once again.

House Bill 8429 repeals the structure governing the Central Falls School District board of trustees, creates a pathway for local control, maintains the city-state's partnership, and establishes a fund that would ensure student support and fiscal responsibility. The passage of this legislation will empower those who know the students and the community best and encourage accountability, transparency, and direct investment in children's success.

Therefore, I urge this committee and the full House to support House Bill 8429, as it will guarantee families, educators, and local leaders shape the future of the city's schools, while also providing a fiscally responsible path forward.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Arias, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at [marias@sos.ri.gov](mailto:marias@sos.ri.gov).

Sincerely,

Gregg M. Amore  
Secretary of State

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance  
The Honorable Joshua J. Giraldo

State House, Room 218, Providence, RI 02903

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