

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Karl Krusell <civicinput@newmode.io>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 30, 2026 1:31 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** My Support for H8355 & RISPE

**Categories:** Yellow category

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Dear Chair Marvin Abney,

I support state funding through H8355 for the Rhode Island School for Progressive Education (RISPE).

We have nearly 20,000 multilingual learners in our public schools. In Providence alone, 42% of students are multilingual learners. At a time when Rhode Island already suffers from a shortage of well-prepared educators, and when the federal Department of Education is being dismantled, it's imperative for the state to shore up support for organizations like RISPE that are doing the work. Over the past five years, the small but mighty RISPE has trained over 40% of all newly certified ESOL educators in the state!

If the state (via RIDE) determines the standards for TESOL, MLL, special education, and elementary education, then the very least that the state could do is offer sustained funding for the nonprofit organizations that offer pathways for compliance! All those who fail to support this funding need to explain how they expect the state's own standards to be met.

Karl Krusell  
kwkrusell@gmail.com, 583 Pleasant Valley Parkway, Providence, RI, US, 02908