



Parents Leading for Educational Equity  
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June 3, 2026

**Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,**

Parents Leading for Educational Equity (PLEE) is a parent-led, grassroots organization based in Providence. We work to ensure that families, particularly multilingual families, are meaningfully included in the decisions that impact their children's education.

PLEE strongly supports H-7389, the Support and Access to Bilingual Education (SABE) Act, and respectfully urges the General Assembly to include the full \$950,000 SABE investment in the enacted FY27 state budget.

Parents of multilingual learners want their children to have the same opportunities to learn, grow, and succeed as every other student in Rhode Island. Families should not have to worry that their children will fall behind because their school does not have enough trained educators or high-quality bilingual and dual-language programs.

Our parents have shared how difficult it can be to advocate for their children when there are language barriers, limited access to information, and not enough educators equipped to meet the needs of multilingual students. Parents want to be active partners in their children's education. They want to understand their child's academic progress, communicate with teachers, participate in school meetings, and make informed decisions about the supports their children receive.

H-7389 would establish a bilingual education support fund beginning in FY27. The bill would invest \$950,000 annually, including:

- \$300,000 to support the implementation and expansion of dual-language programs in traditional public school districts; and
- \$600,000 for strategy and support to expand certifications for bilingual dual-language and world-language educators.

For families, this is more than a budget line item. It is an investment in trust, access, and educational opportunity. Increasing the number of trained educators and expanding high-quality dual-language programs would help ensure that multilingual learners feel seen, valued, and supported. It would also create more opportunities for parents and caregivers to engage meaningfully with schools while affirming that their children's languages and cultures are strengths.

PLEE brings lived experience and policy leadership to this issue. Our parent leaders provided testimony and advocacy that directly informed Rhode Island's statewide Multilingual Learner Regulations, including the adoption of multiple parent-driven recommendations. Parents have consistently asked for stronger systems of support, more trained educators, and meaningful opportunities to participate in decisions about their children's education.

We respectfully urge the House Finance Committee to support H-7389 and ensure that the full \$950,000 SABE investment is included in the enacted FY27 state budget.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Parents Leading for Educational Equity (PLEE)**