



**RHODE
ISLAND**

Rhode Island Department of Education

Presentation to the Senate Committee on Finance

March 20, 2025

Agenda

- Article 7: Relating to Education
 - Section 1: Student Success Factor Bonus for Districts with Greater Than 60% Poverty
 - Section 2: Mayoral Academy Board and Tuition Reduction Cap Changes
- RIDE Budget

Agency Priorities

According to the [*Education Recovery Scorecard*](#), Rhode Island students have recovered from learning impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic faster than other New England states. RIDE has an agency-wide focus on improving student outcomes with respect to four priorities.



Attendance

Significantly reduce chronic absenteeism. Create the conditions that enable students to be in school and learning.



Postsecondary Success

Students are graduating prepared to succeed after K-12 in college and/or careers



High-Quality Teaching & Learning

Deep focus on high quality teaching and learning to improve outcomes in ELA and Math, across all grade levels



Opportunity Gaps

For each of these outcomes, focus on closing historic academic gaps for multilingual learners and differently-abled students and addressing social-emotional needs for all students.

Education Aid: New Funding for Districts with Higher Poverty Concentration

The Governor recommends providing an additional 3 percentage points in student success factor (SSF) funding for districts with a poverty concentration over 60%.

- The SSF is an additional allocation of 40% of the Core Instruction Amount for students identified as being in poverty, with the goal of closing student achievement gaps.
 - The SSF used in the FY 2026 recommended budget is \$5,329.
- Poverty status is defined as those students whose family income is at or below 185% of federal poverty guidelines and is determined by participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
- The FY 2026 proposal adds 3 percentage points to the districts with the highest poverty concentrations (i.e., over 60%). They are: Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket, which would equate to an additional \$10.9M.

Mayoral Academy – 14% Cap on Local Share Tuition Reductions

The recommended budget amends the local district tuition reduction adjustment.

- Under current law, local districts reduce their per-pupil local share tuition to state schools, charter schools, and mayoral academies by the greater of:
 1. Seven percent (7%); or
 2. The per-pupil value of several statutorily defined expenditures for a local district, less the average per-pupil expenses for those same categories across all charter schools.
- For local districts that reduce local share tuitions by more than 7%, the local payment rate to mayoral academies can be reduced further.
- The holdback amounts can vary widely by community, and final numbers are not known until the end of the fiscal year, by which point most schools have prepared their budgets for the following year.
- The Governor proposes capping the reduction at 14% to address the budgetary uncertainty that current law creates.
- The proposed budget also clarifies participation on a mayoral academy board of trustees or directors by specifying that upon completion of a first charter term and an approved renewal, any member may be elected by the board to be its chairperson.

Significant Budget 2026 Increases

- State Education Aid, Current Law \$31.2M
- New Initiative: Poverty Density \$10.9M
 - 60% Poverty measured by state share ratio calculation

FY25 RIDE Budget Overview

This is a high-level overview of the budget with all funding sources.

Sources of Funds	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2025 Revised	FY 2026 Governor	Change to Enacted
General Revenue	\$1,588.8	\$1,595.3	\$ 1,643.1	\$ 54.3
Federal Aid	\$ 318.5	\$ 355.7	\$ 256.5	\$ (62.0)
Restricted Receipts	\$ 53.0	\$ 49.4	\$ 50.5	\$ (2.5)
Other	\$ 42.9	\$ 15.3	\$ 31.2	\$ (11.7)
Total	\$2,003.2	\$ 2,015.7	\$ 1,981.2	\$ (21.9)
\$ In millions				

Budget Comparison all RIDE Departments all Funding Sources

Note: All state schools received additional state funds, the year over year comparison shows negative funding due to planned federal and capital expenditures

Department all funding sources	2025 Enacted Budget	2025 Revised Budget	2026 Governor's Budget	\$ Change
ACES (Ride operating budget)	\$ 312,621,565	\$ 346,578,424	\$ 294,407,848	(\$18,213,717)
Davies CTE	\$ 65,267,137	\$ 36,271,405	\$ 55,751,562	(\$9,515,575)
RI School for the Deaf	\$ 9,717,563	\$ 10,454,382	\$ 10,278,768	\$561,205
Metropolitan CTE	\$ 13,631,142	\$ 15,253,156	\$ 13,227,328	(\$403,814)
Central Falls	\$ 54,634,574	\$ 55,041,889	\$ 53,688,083	(\$946,491)
Education Aid	\$ 1,308,822,720	\$1,307,626,379	\$1,295,951,779	(\$12,870,941)
School Housing Aid	\$ 106,198,555	\$ 106,198,555	\$ 119,887,755	\$ 13,689,200
Teachers' Retirement	\$ 132,268,922	\$ 138,298,470	\$ 137,991,006	\$ 5,722,084
Total	\$ 2,003,162,178	\$2,015,722,660	\$1,981,184,129	(\$21,978,049)

Capital Budget

Project	Total Cost	Start Date	End Date	Source
Davies New Wing	\$35.0	FY 2025	FY 2027	RICAP
Davies HVAC	\$ 2.2	Pre FY 2023	FY 2029	RICAP
Davies Health Classrooms	\$ 7.0	Pre FY 2023	FY 2025	RICAP
Davies Asset Protection	\$ 5.8	Pre FY 2023	On Going	RICAP
Met Asset Protection	\$ 7.7	Pre FY 2023	On Going	RICAP
RISD Asset Protection	\$ 2.9	Pre FY 2023	On Going	RICAP
School Construction Bond	\$500.0	Pre FY 2023	FY 2028	Gen. Oblig.
Total \$ In millions	\$560.6			



FY26 Performance Measures

The performance measures in RIDE's FY26 budget represent a sample of various metrics the agency reports and evaluates to assess outcomes. Performance measures are aligned with agency priorities and the RI 2030 plan.

Performance Measure	2024 Actual	2025 Target	2026 Target
Student Chronic Absenteeism Rate	24.8% (SY23-24)	28%	25%
Student Graduation Rate	84.1% (SY22-23)	89%	92%
State-Funded High-Quality Pre-K Program Enrollment	20% (SY23-24)	24%	24%
English Language Proficiency*	67 (SY23-24)	71	75
Post-Secondary Success Indicator*~	48% (SY22-23)	57%	65%

**new or revised measure for FY26*

~measure updated since January print of FY26 budget

Appendix



Proposed Student Success Factor Changes

District	FY 2026 Poverty	FY 2026 Current Law	FY 2026 Gov.	Diff.
Central Falls	72.3%	\$53.3	\$53.9	\$0.6
Newport	67.8%	14.8	15.1	0.3
Pawtucket	66.3%	110.7	112.2	1.4
Providence	84.0%	293.8	298.1	4.3
Woonsocket	85.6%	87.5	88.9	1.4
Other Districts	<60%	506.4	506.4	-
Charters/State	n/a	229.9	232.7	2.8
\$ in millions Total		\$1,296.4	\$1,307.2	\$10.9

➤ Charter & state school aid based on students' residence

Article 7 – Charter Tuition Reduction

- Most districts not affected
- FY 2025 - 29 districts used 7% holdback
- Woonsocket
 - 21.7% or \$573 for charters
 - 63.0% or \$1,663 for mayoral
- Central Falls
 - 12.3% or \$418 for charters
 - 51.2% or \$1,732 for mayoral

FY	Avg PP Charter “Unique Cost”	Pupils	# Districts w/ Cost > 7%
2021	\$1,220	8,428	9
2022	\$1,779	8,993	3
2023	\$1,758	9,681	3
2024	\$1,475	10,519	8
2025	\$1,488	11,364	7

Article 7 – Charter Schools Hypothetical Impact

Local Tuition Payments	FY 2025 Current Law	FY 2025 Proposed	Chg. to Current Law
Central Falls	\$4,248,650	\$5,107,864	\$859,214
Jamestown	205,296	206,176	880
Johnston	805,908	809,811	3,903
Woonsocket	1,171,930	1,909,100	737,170
All Others	72,170,748	72,170,748	-
Total	\$78,602,532	\$80,203,699	\$1,601,167

- 4 districts and 16 charter schools would be affected *if this were law for FY 2025*
- Article effective for FY 2026
 - Changes subject to updated data released in May