Public Higher Education

Expenditures by Program	FY2025 Actual	FY2026 Enacted	FY2026 Governor	*Change from Enacted*		FY2027 Governor	*Change from Enacted*	
Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner	62.5	55.3	60.5	*$5.3*	*9.5%*	57.0	*$1.8*	*3.2%*
Rhode Island College	221.9	216.4	234.1	*17.7*	*8.2%*	232.6	*16.2*	*7.5%*
University of Rhode Island	1,058.2	1,111.7	1,109.2	*(2.5)*	*-0.2%*	1123.7	*12.0*	*1.1%*
Community College of R.I	188.6	214.5	212.3	*(2.2)*	*-1.0%*	223.7	*9.2*	*4.3%*
Total	**$1,531.2**	**$1,597.9**	**$1,616.2**	***$18.3***	***1.1%***	**$1,637.0**	***$39.1***	***2.4%***

Expenditures by Program	FY2025 Actual	FY2026 Enacted	FY2026 Governor	*Change from Enacted*		FY2027 Governors	*Change from Enacted*	
General Revenue	315.1	327.2	331.7	*$4.4*	*1.4%*	341.2	*$14.0*	*4.3%*
Federal Funds	17.8	5.6	11.7	*$6.1*	*107.4%*	5.4	*($0.3)*	*-4.7%*
Restricted Receipts	8.9	12.7	12.7	*$0.0*	*-0.4%*	12.8	*$0.1*	*0.6%*
Other Funds	1,189.4	1,252.3	1,260.1	*$7.9*	*0.6%*	1,277.6	*$25.3*	*2.0%*
Total	**$1,531.2**	**$1,597.9**	**$1,616.2**	***$18.3***	***1.1%***	**$1,637.0**	***$39.1***	***2.4%***
Third Party Funded FTE	544.8	544.8	166.00	*(378.8)*	*-69.5%*	166.00	*(378.8)*	*-69.5%*
Authorized FTE Levels	3,972.5	3,972.5	1,680.3	*(2,292.2)*	*-57.7%*	1,680.3	*(2,292.2)*	*-57.7%*
Total	**4,517.3**	**4,517.3**	**1,846.3**	***(2,671.0)***	***-127.2%***	**1,846.3**	***(2,671.0)***	***-127.2%***

$ in millions. Totals may vary due to rounding.

** The Governor proposes retroactivley exempting the University of Rhode Island from any limitations effective July 1, 2025, which would remove 2,671 FTE positions from the total.*

Prior to January 1, 2013, higher education in Rhode Island functioned under the direction of the Board of Governors for Higher Education. The FY2013 Budget as Enacted established a new Board of Education consisting of 11 members, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Board of Governors for Higher Education and the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education were abolished as of January 1, 2013.

The major responsibilities of the Board of Education (Board), pertaining to higher education, include the governance of public institutions of higher learning and the regulation of proprietary schools; the preparation of a public higher education budget and capital development program; and the development of policies in pursuit of the primary goals of excellence, opportunity and access, diversity and responsiveness, coordination and accountability in public higher education.

The system of public higher education consists of three major institutions located at eight different campuses across the State of Rhode Island: The University of Rhode Island (URI), Rhode Island College (RIC), and the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI).

The FY2015 Budget as Enacted established the Council on Postsecondary Education, which has duties and responsibilities per RIGL 16-59-1 and 16-59-4, much the same as the former Board of Governors for Higher Education. Article 9 of the FY2020 Budget as Enacted shifted oversight of the University of Rhode Island from the Board of Education, Council of Postsecondary Education (Council), and the Commissioner of Postsecondary Education to a newly established Board of Trustees (URI Board) at the University. The article further transferred all the duties and responsibilities pertaining to employees, debt service, and property from the Council to the URI Board of Trustees.

Division of Higher Education Assistance Fund

On December 6, 2017, the Council on Postsecondary Education voted to authorize the Commissioner to transfer the Federal Family Education Loan Portfolio to the United States Department of Education. The transfer was completed in FY2018; consequently, the Division of Higher Education Assistance (DHEA) no longer received any guaranty agency fee revenues. Consequentially, RIGL 16-57-6.1(b) and 16-56-6, CollegeBound Fund fees must be used for need-based grant programs; thereby limiting the use of these funds. Additionally, revenues from the CollegeBound fund are expected to decline due to the raising average age of participants and smaller contributions. The revenues are based on the amount of assets under management.

As the average age of the participants increases and participants enter college, they will withdraw assets. Furthermore, the new, younger participants are not joining in the numbers needed to offset withdrawals, and these new participants are generally making smaller contributions to their savings plans. Historically the account generated about $6.0 million annually.

Article 2 in the FY2026 Enacted Budget repeals the division of higher education assistance, transferring all functions and funding to the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, and creating a restricted receipts account for future scholarships. The dissolution of the Division of Higher Education Assistance, and its transfer of all funds are budget neutral, as these funds are already administered by the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner.

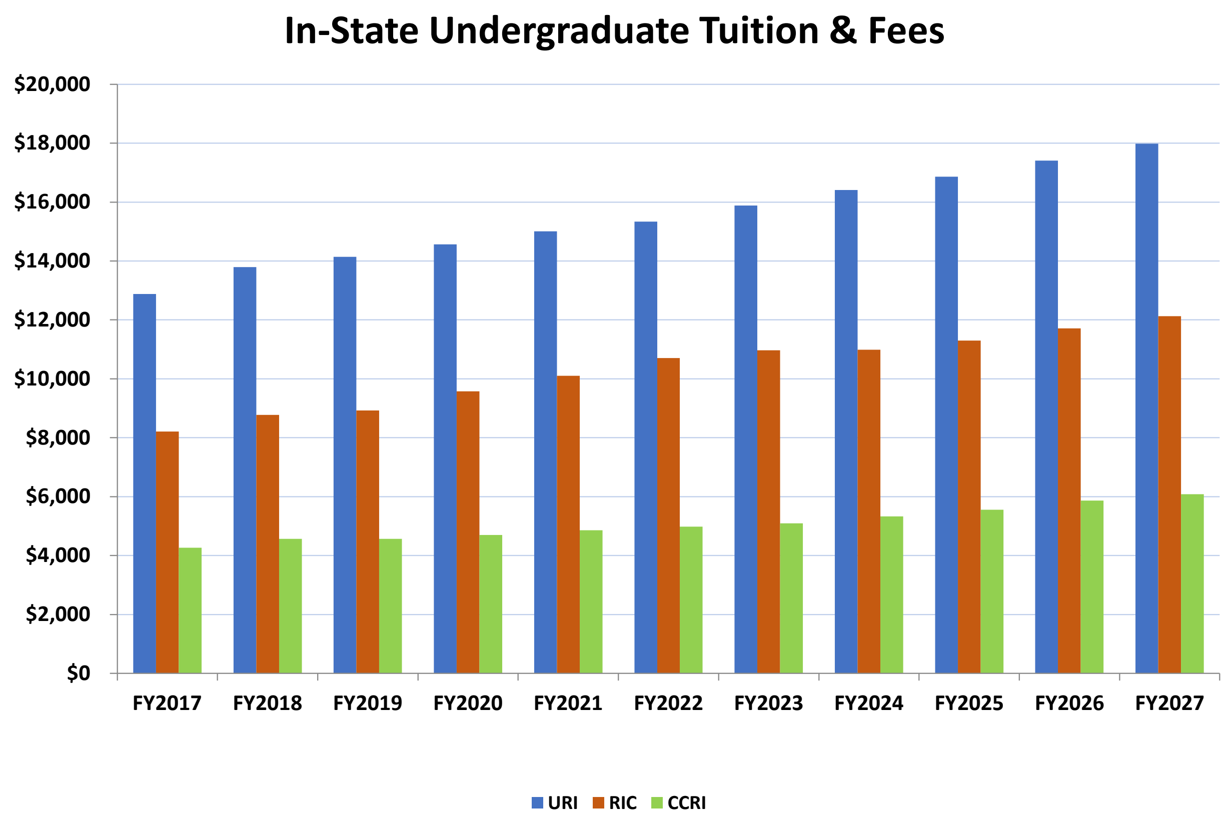
MAJOR ISSUES AND TRENDS

The FY2027 Budget includes total funding of $1,637.0 million, representing a net increase of $39.1 million (2.4 percent) from the FY2026 Budget as Enacted, including a general revenue increase of $14.0 million (4.3 percent). Of the $14.0 million in additional general revenue, $10.5 million relate to salary and benefits; $7.9 million within the University of Rhode Island, $2.9 million in the Community College of Rhode Island, and $151,680 within the Office of the Post Secondary Commissioner. Rhode Island College has a decrease of $438,169 in salary and benefits. The remaining funds increases are driven by $2.4 million in Debt Service and $3.4 million in assistance and grants.

The Budget includes a $25.3 million increase in other funds primarily related to projected growth in tuition and fees and auxiliary services at the three institutions. The Budget includes a total $42.0 million in additional funds in relation to estimated revenue through tuition and auxiliary funds. There is a net decrease of $16.7 million in RICAP funding for all institutions. More information on these projects is provided in the "*Capital Projects*" and "*Tuition & Fees"* sections of this analysis.

Tuition and Fees

Actual tuition and fee rates, by institution, along with a projection for FY2026 and FY2027, are shown in the following graph and table.



URI	FY2026 Enacted	FY2026 Revised	*Change from FY2026 Enacted*		FY2027 Request	*Change from FY2026 Enacted*		FY2027 Governors	*Change from FY2026 Enacted*	
In-State Tuition	$15,076	$15,148	*$72*	*0.5%*	$15,610	*$534*	*3.5%*	$15,610	*$534*	*3.5%*
Out-of-State Tuition	35,896	36,070	*174*	*0.5%*	37,170	*$1,274*	*3.5%*	37,170	*1,274*	*3.5%*
Mandatory Fees	2,328	2,328	-	*0.0%*	2,374	*$46*	*2.0%*	2,374	*46*	*2.0%*
Tuition & Fee Revenue	439,784,410	420,875,538	*(18,908,872)*	*-4.3%*	468,664,125	*28,879,715*	*6.6%*	447,659,143	*7,874,733*	*1.8%*
URI Enrollment										
In-State	6,850	6,953	*(13,803)*	*1.5%*	6,957	*107*	*1.6%*	6,957	*107*	*1.6%*
Out-of-State	7,773	7,678	*(95)*	*-1.2%*	7,732	*(41)*	*-0.5%*	7,732	*(41)*	*-0.5%*
RIC										
In-State Tuition	$10,107	$10,108	*$1*	*0.0%*	$10,461	*$354*	*3.5%*	$10,461	*$354*	*3.5%*
Out-of-State Tuition	26,666	26,666	-	*0.0%*	27,599	*933*	*3.5%*	27,599	*933*	*3.5%*
Northeast Neighbors Program	15,160	15,160	-	*0.0%*	15,691	*531*	*3.5%*	15,691	*531*	*3.5%*
Mandatory Fees	1,602	1,602	-	*0.0%*	1,662	*60*	*3.7%*	1,662	*60*	*4.4%*
Tuition & Fee Revenue	70,708,885	74,155,360	*3,446,475*	*4.9%*	81,079,006	*10,370,121*	*14.7%*	81,079,006	*10,370,121*	*14.7%*
RIC Enrollment										
In-State	4,613	4,936	*323*	*7.0%*	5,010	*397*	*8.6%*	5,010	*397*	*8.6%*
Out-of-State	809	775	*(34)*	*-4.2%*	786	*(23)*	*-2.8%*	786	*11*	*1.4%*
CCRI										
In-State Tuition	$5,374	$5,374	-	*0.0%*	$5,584	*$210*	*3.9%*	$5,584	*$210*	*3.9%*
Out-of-State Tuition	15,206	15,206	-	*0.0%*	15,800	*594*	*3.9%*	15,800	*594*	*3.9%*
Mandatory Fees	494	494	-	*0.0%*	498	*4*	*0.8%*	498	*4*	*0.8%*
Tuition & Fee Revenue	62,872,746	63,863,730	*990,984*	*1.6%*	65,616,910	*2,744,164*	*4.4%*	67,060,730	*4,187,984*	*6.7%*
CCRI Enrollment										
Total	7,679	7,570	*(109)*	*-1.4%*	7,570	*(109)*	*-1.4%*	7,570	*(109)*	*-1.4%*

At the University of Rhode Island (URI), the Governor projects a $7.8 million tuition and fee revenue increase over the FY2026 Enacted while maintaining the board of trustees approved tuition and fee rates for FY2027. However, the University's budget request included a $28.8 million, or 6.6 percent increase from the Enacted FY2026, attributable to a $534 increase to in-state tuition, a $1,274 increase to out-of-state tuition, and projected increase to enrollment. URI maintains that the Hope Scholarship implemented at RIC negatively impacts enrollment, hence the projected increase in their budget request. The University requested $4.2 million in general revenue to support an Anchor Merit Scholarship to minimize enrollment impacts from the Hope Scholarship, but it was not recommended in the Governor's Budget.

For Rhode Island College (RIC), the Governor projects a $10.3 million tuition and fee revenue increase over the FY2026 Budget as Enacted, while maintaining the College's tuition and fee increase as recommended by the Council on Postsecondary Education, consistent with the College's Budget Request. In the Budget request, Rhode Island College projected a $10.3 million or 14.7 percent increase from the FY2026 Budget as Enacted, attributable to a $354 or 3.5 percent increase to in-state tuition, and $933 or 3.5 percent increase to out-of-state tuition. The College predicts a net FTE enrollment increase of 397 in-state students (8.6%), and an increase of 11 out of state students (1.4%). The requested budget includes the creation of an "Inclusive Access Fee" in anticipation of a change to the textbook sales model utilized by the RIC bookstore. The fee, which is dependent on the amount of credit hours students participate in, provides textbooks and digital materials to students. Furthermore, RIC emphasizes that the remaining increases to the tuition and fee revenue are necessary to offset inflationary pressures and rising wage costs.

For the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI), the Governor recommends a $4.2 million increase in revenue compared to the FY2026 Enacted Budget, while maintaining the College's Board approved tuition and fee schedule. The Community College of Rhode Island's FY2027 requested budget projects a $2.7 million or 4.4 percent increase from the FY2026 Budget as Enacted, attributable to a net 2.9 percent increase in both tuition and mandatory fees. The College's enrollment projections are consistent with FY2026 fall enrollment, an approach that has been utilized while CCRI continues to recover from the pandemic.

The Postsecondary Council approved a $35 fee increase requested by CCRI's Division of Workforce Partnerships, which increases the fees for two-wheel motorcycle training to $325. This fee increase will generate an extra $48,000 in revenue and be used to replace aging equipment and support increasing repair costs.

State Support for Public Education

When looking at state support for public higher education, many policy makers tend to take a regional, per-student approach. For example, looking at New England, Rhode Island has the third lowest per-pupil appropriation in the region. In FY2024, the most recent data available, Connecticut appropriated $9,003 more per student FTE than Rhode Island and Massachusetts appropriated $6,534 more. Based on Rhode Island's FY2027 projected FTE enrollment of 29,005, the difference in per-student FTE appropriation between Rhode Island and Massachusetts is $189.5 million.

FY2024 State Educational Appropriations per FTE

Connecticut	$16,824
Massachusetts	14,355
Maine	9,512
Rhode Island	7,821
Vermont	5,345
New Hampshire	4,629
Regional Average	**$9,748**

Source: State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)

From a national perspective in FY2024, the District of Columbia appropriated $21,521 per student, $13,700 more than Rhode Island. The national average appropriation per student is $11,683, which is $3,862 more per student than Rhode Island.

The previous funding comparisons are not inclusive of Capital Investments. According to the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO), Rhode Island appropriated a total of $84.9 million in capital appropriations, ranking third behind Connecticut and Massachusetts, and spending $1.2 million less than the regional average.

FY2024 Capital Appropriations

Connecticut	$209,445,660
Massachusetts	178,219,333
Rhode Island	84,960,533
Maine	18,752,469
New Hampshire	17,541,727
Vermont	8,100,000
Regional Average	**$86,169,954**

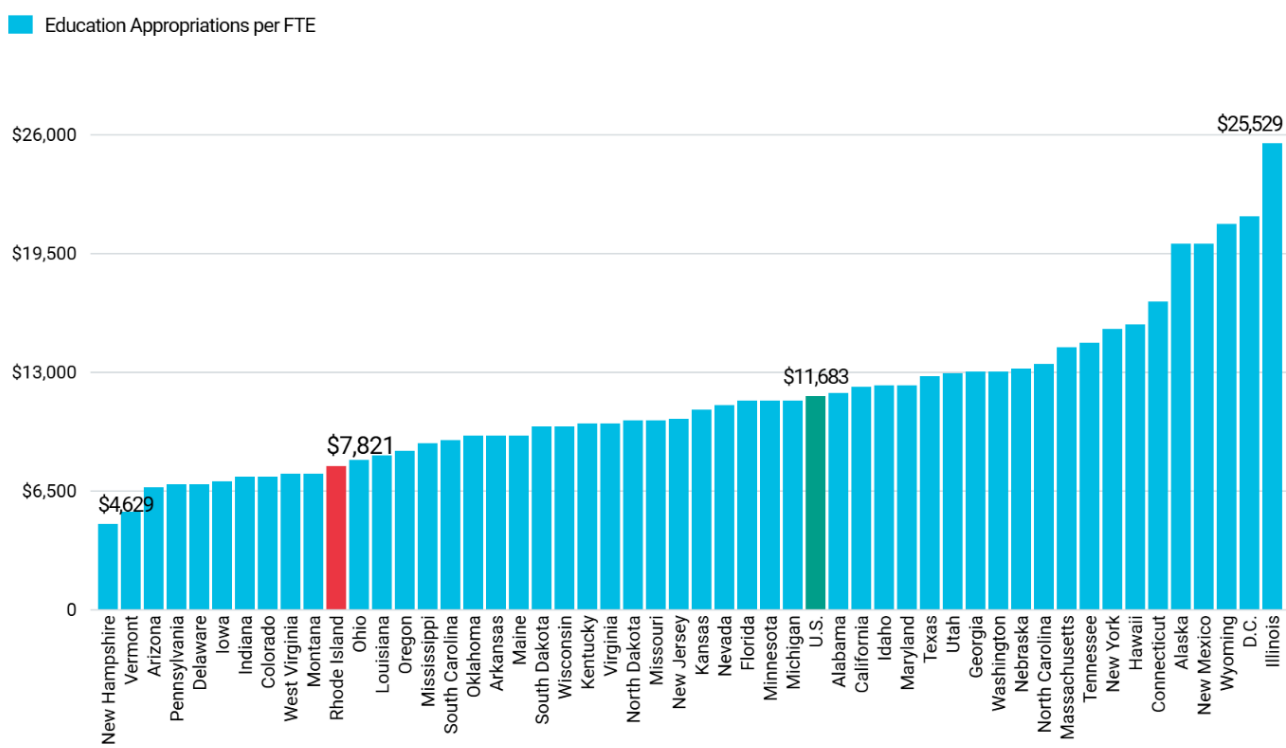
Source: State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)

However, when looking at capital appropriation per FTE pupil, Rhode Island ranks first among its New England counterparts, spending approximately $2,910 per pupil, $181 more than Connecticut and $1,663 more than Massachusetts.

In FY2027, the three state institutions requested a $42.7 million increase in State general revenue support, excluding general obligation debt service. The Budget provides $14.0 million in additional funding, excluding general obligation debt service.

FY2024 Capital Appropriation per FTE	
Rhode Island	$2,910.3
Connecticut	2,728.9
Massachusetts	1,287.4
New Hampshire	586.9
Maine	554.7
Vermont	395.6
Regional Average	**$1,410.6**

Public Higher Education Appropriations per FTE by State, FY 2024 (Adjusted)



Notes:

1. Education appropriations are a measure of state and local support available for public higher education operating expenses and student financial aid, excluding appropriations for research, hospitals, and medical education. Education appropriations include federal stimulus funding.
2. The U.S. calculation does not include the District of Columbia.
3. Fiscal year 2024 state-level education appropriations include estimated uncategorizable state support for New Mexico and South Carolina.
4. Each year, approximately one-third of education appropriations in Illinois go toward the state's retirement pension system. See the Illinois State Spotlight for more details.
5. Constant dollars adjusted to the latest year of data available by the Higher Education Cost Adjustment (HECA).
6. Adjusted to account for interstate differences using the Enrollment Mix Index (EMI).
7. Adjusted to account for interstate differences using the Cost of Living Index (COLI). The COLI is not a measure of inflation over time.

Source(s): State Higher Education Executive Officers Association

FY2027 General Revenue Appropriations for State Higher Education Institutions

The budget process for State higher education institutions deviates from the usual process followed by other State agencies as budgets for RIC and CCRI are approved by the Rhode Island Board of Education, and at

URI, the Board of Trustees. While the legislature may, and often does, modify an institution's restricted budget, there are very few opportunities to modify their unrestricted budget, which includes revenue from tuition and fees, and auxiliary operations. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) typically make changes to general revenues and the mirror accounts and does not reduce institutional funds. The following table illustrates the three higher education institutions request compared to the FY2027 Governor's Recommended Budget.

FY2027 Budget Request

Change to FY2026 Budget as Enacted

University of Rhode Island	Request	Governor
State Appropriation	$28.9	$6.1
RICAP	7.7	(8.6)
Tuition and Fees	16.7	*7.8*
Total	**$53.3**	**$5.3**

Source: University of Rhode Island

Rhode Island College	Request	Governor
State Appropriation	$2.1	$2.0
RICAP	0.5	0.5
Tuition and Fee Revenue	10.3	10.3
Total	**$12.9**	***$12.8***

Source: Rhode Island College

Community College of Rhode Island	Request	Governor
State Appropriation	$2.2	$1.8
RICAP	(5.7)	(5.5)
Tuition and Fees	2.7	4.2
Total	**$2.2**	**$1.8**

Source: Community College of Rhode Island
Excludes general obligation bond debt service.
$ in million. Totals may not add due to rounding.

The Governor's budget recommendations differ from what was requested by the colleges and University, especially so at URI, where the Governor did not fund the new proposed "strategic initiatives". Further information is in the *Major Issues and Trends* section under the University's portion of this brief. Additionally, the University of Rhode Island requested several new capital projects that were not included in the Governor's budget including the Student Success Center, Dock Replacement, and New Graduate Housing. You can review other changes in RICAP funding in the *Capital Projects* section of this brief.

OFFICE OF THE POSTSECONDARY COMMISSIONER

Expenditures By Source	FY2026 Enacted	FY2026 Governor	*Change from Enacted*		FY2027 Governor	*Change from Enacted*	
General Revenue	33.3	33.4	*$0.0*	*0.1%*	36.2	*$2.9*	*8.6%*
Federal Funds	5.6	11.7	*6.1*	*107.4%*	5.4	*(0.3)*	*-4.7%*
Restricted Receipts	11.8	11.7	*(0.1)*	*-0.6%*	11.8	*0.0*	*0.3%*
Other Funds	4.5	3.8	*(0.8)*	*-16.6%*	3.7	*(0.9)*	*-19.1%*
Total	**$55.3**	**$60.5**	***$5.3***	***9.5%***	**$57.0**	***$1.8***	***3.2%***

$ in millions

The mission of the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner (OPC), formerly the Office of Higher Education, is to support the work of the Board of Education and the Council on Postsecondary Education in providing an excellent, accessible, and affordable system of higher education designed to improve the educational attainment of Rhode Island citizens, support economic development, and enrich the civic, social, and cultural life of the residents of the State. The Commissioner works with the presidents of the state higher education institutions to determine the benefits or disadvantages of proposed new programs, departments, courses of study, and policies with the scope and role adopted by the Council on Postsecondary Education. The OPC also supports specific programs, such as early college access and veterans' affairs. The FY2016 Budget as Enacted created a new Division of Higher Education Assistance

(DHEA) within the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner and eliminated the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority. The OPC provides research, policy, and fiscal analysis, and seeks to ensure that higher education in Rhode Island remains economically and geographically accessible.

The Budget provides 48.0 FTE positions for the OPC in FY2027, consistent with the FY2026 budget as Enacted.

Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner	**General Revenue**
FY2026 Enacted	$33,322,291
Target and Other Adjustments	*132,539*
Hope Scholarship	1,586,103
Rhode Island Promise Scholarship Program	694,490
Longitudinal Data System	437,069
Dual and Concurrent Enrollment	Informational
College Visions	Informational
FY2027 Governor	**$36,172,492**

Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner	**Other Fund Changes**
Westerly Education Center Annex Site (RICAP)	($1,060,000)
Longitudinal Data System (federal funds)	(199,131)
Last Dollar (Promise 1) Scholarship (federal funds)	(60,000)
Longitudinal Data System (restricted receipts)	(31,803)
GEAR UP (federal funds)	Informational

Hope Scholarship ***$1.6 million***

Article 7 repeals the Hope Scholarship sunset, while maintaining the reporting requirement. making the Hope Scholarship a permanent, state-funded scholarship program for Rhode Island College juniors and seniors. The Budget includes $7.1 million in general revenue to support the Hope Scholarship, an increase of $1.6 million from FY2026, and $3.7 million more than FY2025.

In an effort to increase the number of students enrolling and completing four-year degrees and certificates on time, Article 8 of the FY2024 Enacted Budget established the Hope Scholarship Pilot program. The pilot program began with students who enrolled in Rhode Island College (RIC) in the fall of 2023 and students enrolled in RIC as of July 1, 2021, who have attained junior status as of July 1, 2023.

The scholarship covers the cost of up to two years of tuition and mandatory fees for the junior and senior years of the student, or for adult students who have attained at least 60 credit hours. While the eligibility requirements are very similar to the Promise II Scholarship program at the Community College of Rhode Island, students cannot receive an award under both programs. Since its inception, the program has been extended once. Rhode Island College reports that enrollment has grown by 7.0 percent for each of the past two fall semesters, partially attributable to the Hope Scholarship. The College has experienced difficulty recruiting for the 2027 school year as many high school seniors are unsure whether they will receive the Hope Scholarship due to the program expiration date. The College reports a 29.0 percent four-year graduation rate for the program’s first cohort, which is an increase of 4.1 percentage points (24.9 percent) from the college’s previous year graduates.

At Rhode Island College, 67.0 percent of undergraduates receive financial aid through grants; 50.3 percent identify as White, 25.4 percent identify as Hispanic or Latino, 10.9 percent identify as Black or African American, 3.29 percent identify as Asian, and 0.6 percent identify as American Indian or Alaska Native. Throughout all three cohorts, the Hope scholarship reflects similar demographics to what is reported for the College’s student population as a whole. Hope has produced a total of 310 graduates and continues to serve 1,328 students. Most of these students are female, Pell eligible, and between the ages of 18 and 24.

The scholarship is modeled after the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship and requires the timely accrual of credit hours and grade point average of 2.5 or greater; however, the Hope Scholarship is available to adult students and allows for the completion of the necessary 60 credit hours over four years, instead of two. While not defined within the statute, RIGL 16-112, adult students are generally 25 years of age and older.

Rhode Island Promise Scholarship Program ***$694,490***

The Budget includes $8.0 million in general revenue, an increase of $694,490, to fund the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship program (RI Promise). Article 3 of the FY2018 Budget established the program to provide students with two years of tuition and mandatory fees at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI), less federal and all other financial aid available to the recipient. The increase is due to updated enrollment projections for the 2026-2027 school year. The program was scheduled to sunset with the high school graduating class of 2021; however, 2021-S-0079 Sub A eliminated the sunset and made the program permanent.

Longitudinal Data System ***$437,069***

The Budget recommends a $437,069 general revenue increase, partially offset by a net reduction of $230,934 in federal and restricted receipts, resulting in a net increase of $206,135 to support the Longitudinal Data System.

These funds partially support DATA RI, a unified database intended to improve data transparency for both state analysts and outside researchers through an integrated system containing data across all State agencies. The Office anticipates decreased federal and restricted receipt funding due to federal reductions to the federal grant which helps support the program. There general revenue increase offsets the federal reductions, while simultaneously supporting the 3.0 percent COLA for 9.0 FTE positions.

Dual and Concurrent Enrollment ***Informational***

The FY2026 Budget as Enacted shifted $2.9 million in Rhode Island Student Loan Authority reserve funds to general revenue in both FY2026 and FY2027, to support the dual enrollment initiative, as all funds that previously supported this program are exhausted or insufficient.

Pursuant to RIGL 16-100, Rhode Island began offering the Dual Enrollment program, which allows students to take college courses to earn credits at both secondary and higher education institutions. In 2015, the Board of Education adopted provisions to ensure all Rhode Island high school students can access college level work while still in high school. All three of the State institutions offer dual enrollment courses.

According to a study conducted by the Education Commission of the States (ECS), dual enrollment programs have been proven to positively impact prospective students by preparing them to meet and maintain college readiness benchmarks. Students who are dually enrolled maintain higher GPAs and are more likely to enter college after high school graduation and complete an undergraduate degree within four to six years. Dual enrollment also increases second year retention rates.

College Visions ***Informational***

The Budget includes $175,000 in general revenue, level with FY2026 Enacted. College Visions was founded in 2004 and supports equitable access to higher education opportunities for all historically underserved communities. It is the oldest organization in Rhode Island that guides students from the admission process through graduation.

Westerly Education Center Annex Site (RICAP) ***($1.1 million)***

The Budget includes $160,000 in FY2027 to build out the space for an annex location at Westerly Education Center, a decrease of $1.1 million from the FY2026 Enacted Budget. The Annex Site meets employer demand for a highly trained and skilled workforce requiring an education credential beyond high school. Despite being outfitted to only support 3.0 trade, WEC offers nine trades to support employees at Electric Boat, higher education institutions, and other workforce partners. WEC is at capacity and requires additional classroom space. Due to delays in construction, funding, and development, the Commission requested to carry forward the remaining FY2026 appropriation to FY2027. Constructing is anticipated to be completed in FY2027.

Last Dollar (Promise I) Scholarship (federal funds) ***($60,000)***

The Budget recommends a $60,000 federal funds decrease related to the dissolvement of the Division of Higher Education Assistance (DHEA) to general revenue account. Article 2 in the FY2026 Enacted Budget repealed the division of higher education assistance, transferring all functions and funding to the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, and creating a restricted receipts account for future scholarships.

On December 6, 2017, the Council on Postsecondary Education voted to authorize the Commissioner to transfer the Federal Family Education Loan Portfolio to the United States Department of Education. The transfer was completed in FY2018; consequently, the Division of Higher Education Assistance (DHEA) no longer receives any guaranty agency fee revenues. Without the revenues, the reserves balance decline and was exhausted in FY2025. Pursuant to RIGL 16-57-6.1(b) and 16-56-6, CollegeBound Fund fees must be used for need-based grant programs; thereby limiting the use of these funds. Additionally, revenues from the CollegeBound fund which, based on the amount of assets under management, are expected to decline due to the raising average age of participants and smaller contributions. As the average age of the participants increases and participants enter college withdraw assets, the new, younger participants are not joining in the numbers needed to offset withdrawals, and these new participants are generally making smaller contributions to their savings plans.

GEAR UP (federal funds) ***Informational***

The Budget includes $4.8 million in federal funds to support Rhode Island's GEAR UP program, which is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Rhode Island's gear up grant supports the Onward We Learn (OWL) program, formerly known as the College Crusade. OWL has funded 6,000 scholarships to low-income Rhode Island students for over 20 years. According to OWL, a majority of students participating in the program continue their education and careers in Rhode Island. While there is no change in relation to the Office's support, the Governor proposes a $100,000 general revenue increase through Learn365RI to support tutoring initiatives and FAFSA support.

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Expenditures By Source	FY2026 Enacted	FY2026 Revised	*Change from Enacted*		FY2027 Governor	*Change from Enacted*	
General Revenue	148.6	151.8	*($3.2)*	*-2.1%*	154.8	*$6.1*	*4.1%*
Other Funds	963.1	957.5	*5.6*	*0.6%*	968.9	*$5.9*	*0.6%*
Total	**$1,111.7**	**$1,109.2**	***$2.5***	***0.2%***	**$1,123.7**	***$12.0***	***1.1%***

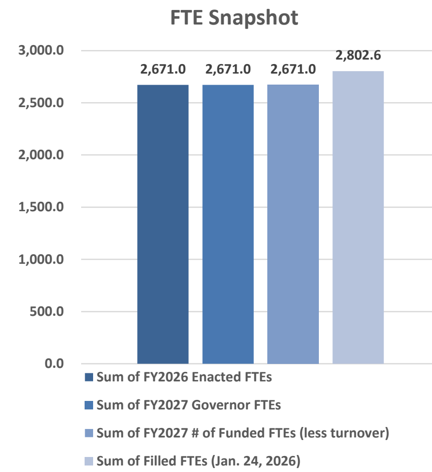
$ in millions. Totals may vary due to rounding.

The University of Rhode Island (URI) was founded in 1888 as an agricultural school known as the Rhode Island College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. The University was the second State institution established in Rhode Island. The Agricultural Experiment Station building was the first structure on campus and was built in 1889: the building was later renamed Taft Hall. Today, Taft Hall houses internship, international exchange, and foreign student programs. In 1955, the school became known as the University of Rhode Island.

URI evolved beyond its genesis as a land grant and agricultural school and today has retained a focus on biological and natural sciences, along with a developing focus on technology in areas such as ocean engineering, chemistry, pharmacy, economics, nursing, and renewable energy. URI has the third oldest continuously operating marine laboratory in the United States, the oldest turfgrass research program in the country, and has implemented green building technology in the expansion and renovation of its facilities.

URI provides Bachelor, Master, and Doctorate level degrees. URI has three campuses: the 1,250-acre Kingston Campus; the 153-acre Bay Campus in Narragansett; and the W. Alton Jones Campus located on 2,300 acres in West Greenwich.

The Budget provides 2,671 FTE positions, including 378.8 positions that are third party funded, consistent with the FY2026 Enacted Budget. In 2025, the University indicated that it had exceeded its general FTE cap by 20.0 FTEs and has not met its third-party cap. According to URI, the FTE cap has failed to keep up with enrollment and research growth over the years. URI hired an additional 20.0 FTEs as a result of investments from the State and internal reallocation of resources to support its strategic plan. To address the fact that the University exceeded its FTE cap, the General Assembly added an additional 100.0 FTE positions, 25.0 of which are third party funded in the FY2026 Enacted Budget.



In FY2027, the Governor recommends eliminating the University's FTE Caps, straying from Rhode Island's historical practice of imposing FTE caps on public higher education institutions. Nationally, legislators often impose FTE caps on higher education institutions, including Massachusetts, however; other New England counterparts including Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, do not impose explicit FTE caps. In January 2026, the University published a press release stating that URI will need to freeze hiring though June 2026 due to already meeting the imposed FTE Cap.

Despite the legislative restraints imposed by the FTE cap, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) asserts that the University is exempt from any FTE/hiring oversight. There is no law exempting URI from legislative oversight; however, both OMB and URI refer to RIGL 16-32-2(c), that states that the URI Board of Trusties is the employer of record and therefore allows them to hire personnel without oversight. This differs from the usual process related to hiring new FTE positions where the Budget Officer and a budget analyst must approve the requested position prior to posting and ensure the position can be filled within an agencies FTE cap and budget. The University is not the only state agency exempt from this process. Other exempt agencies include the General Assembly, Judiciary, General Officers, Higher Ed, and RIDE.

According to WorkDay, as of January 24, 2026, the University is exceeding its FTE Cap by 131.0 FTE positions.

Major Issues and Trends

While the Governor includes $4.2 million in additional support, the Budget increase is lower than what URI requested and does not specifically earmark funds for the University's strategic initiatives.

The URI Board of Trustees requested a 3.5 percent ($534) increase for in-state tuition and 3.5 percent ($1,274) increase for out-of-state tuition. There is a net increase in mandatory fees of 2.0 percent ($46).

In addition to the 3.5 percent increase in tuition and fee revenue, URI requested a general revenue, state appropriation increase of $37.0 million relative to the FY2026 Budget as Enacted, excluding general obligation debt service. The increase in state appropriation was requested to provide support toward $48.4 million in cost increases associated with the current service level and $14.4 million in new initiatives. While approving the tuition and fee increase, the Budget provides a state appropriation increase of $4.2 million, excluding debt service, for general obligation bonds.

For FY2027, URI requested $14.4 million in funding for their four strategic initiatives related:

- **Broaden Our Impact ($1.3 million)**: The University requested $1.3 million to broaden its impact on Rhode Island's life sciences workforce by supporting 10.0 new faculty. This strategic initiative supports the cultural, social, and economic ecosystems by elevating the University's research enterprise and evolving it into a world class hub for innovation and public/private partnerships. This is not funded in the Governor's budget.

- **Academic Advisors ($1.1 million):** The University requested $1.1 million to support 13.0 new advisors to aid students with resources and support that emphasize inclusion, well-being, and holistic development. Currently, the URI's advisor to student ratio is 1:900, which is well above the standard (1:300). These funds would support 13.0 new advisors. This is not funded in the Governor's budget.
- **Anchor RI Merit Scholarship ($4.2 million):** The University proposed a state-funded matching merit scholarship that doubles URI's top merit award (up to $12,000 a year over four years), to retain Rhode Island's high school graduates and strengthen the States talent pipeline. While this had not been officially submitted to the University's request, it was discussed during a Board of Trustee's Finance and Facilities meeting on September 15th, 2025, and has been discussed in the Senate Committee on Finance in the past. URI continues to assert that the Hope Scholarship negatively impacts enrollment at the University.
- **IT Modernization ($4.5 million):** The University requested $4.5 million to support investments and implementation of administrative and financial practices the position URI for long-term success. These funds would support the installation and implementation of the new ERP System, migration to Cloud, and audio and visual upgrades. This is not included in the Governor's budget.
- **TD Program ($3.3 million):** The University proposed $4.5 million to support the Talent Development (TD) Program, which provides scholarship opportunities to individuals from diverse backgrounds. The Program helps create a diverse and inclusive community, fostering culture, excellence, and giving back. The Budget does not include the program.

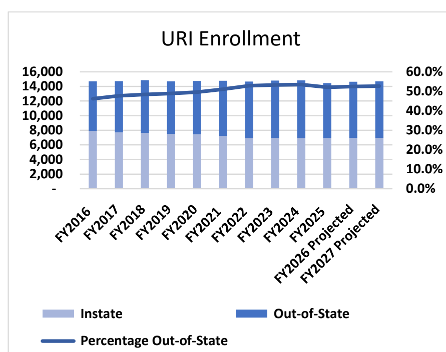
The FY2026 Enacted Budget included a $3.8 million operating deficit. Consequentially, the Board of Trusties requested to utilize $3.8 million in reserve funds in FY2027 to mitigate the burden of the deficit. The Governor recommends the use of these funds to close the operating deficit.

Article 1 eliminates the University's FTE cap. The University has consistently been at risk of exceeding or has exceeded its FTE cap. According to the University, student enrollment grew 19.0 percent from FY2006 to FY2026 while the FTE cap only grew 4.0 percent. The University asserts that it is below peer universities in staffing for HR, IT, facilities, research, administration, marketing, and legal, undercutting student support, research competitiveness, and economic impact.

According to historical data tracked by the Senate Fiscal Office, which is based on the University's annual budget requests, the University has experienced a 0.17 percent decrease in enrollment from FY2017 to FY2027, and a 1.6 percent increase from FY2013 to FY2027.

Enrollment

In-state enrollment is projected to be 6,957 full-time equivalent students, an increase of 4.0 students, or 0.1 percent from the FY2026 Budget as Enacted. Out-of-state student enrollment is projected at 7,732 in FY2027, an increase of 54 students, or 0.7 percent. The projected net enrollment for FY2027 reflects an overall increase in enrollment of 58 students, 0.4 percent, compared to the FY2026 Budget as Enacted. The FY2026 Revised projection reflects similar trends, with a net increase of 174 students, 1.2 percent, relative to the FY2026 Enacted level.



University of Rhode Island	General Revenue
FY2026 Enacted	$148,637,923
Target and Other Adjustments	-
State Appropriation	4,165,099
General Obligation Debt Service	1,327,374
State Crime Lab	633,538
FY2027 Governors	**$154,763,934**

State Appropriation — *$4.2 million*

The State appropriation for URI increases by $4.2 million in FY2027 to a total of $116.6 million, excluding general obligation bond debt service and the State Crime Lab. Of the total net increase, $7.7 million supports personnel adjustments, partially attributable to the State's portion of the 3.0 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA). An additional $1.7 million general revenue supports assistance and grants. The increases are partially offset by $5.3 million in general revenue reductions in operating expenditures, contract services, and capital purchases. According to the Office of Management and Budget, these expenditure changes are required to maintain current services.

General Obligation Debt Service — *$1.3 million*

The Budget includes $32.9 million in general revenue for general obligation debt service at URI in FY2027. This is a increase of $1.3 million in FY2027. The FY2026 Revised includes a total of $34.8 million in FY2026 Revised, an increase of $3.2 million from FY2026 Enacted.

Debt Service

	FY2026 Enacted	FY2026 Revised	*Change from Enacted*		FY2027 Recommended	*Change from Enacted*	
University of Rhode Island	$31,526,482	$34,755,232	*$3,228,750*	*10.2%*	$32,853,856	*$1,327,374*	*4.2%*
Rhode Island College	7,933,336	8,730,076	*796,740*	*10.0%*	9,159,563	*1,226,227*	*15.5%*
Community College of Rhode Island	1,097,898	1,092,138	*(5,760)*	*-0.5%*	934,564	*(163,334)*	*-14.9%*
Total	**$40,557,716**	**$44,577,446**	***4,019,730***	***9.9%***	**$42,947,983**	***$2,390,267***	***5.9%***

Source: Rhode Island Budget Office

Crime Lab — *$633,538*

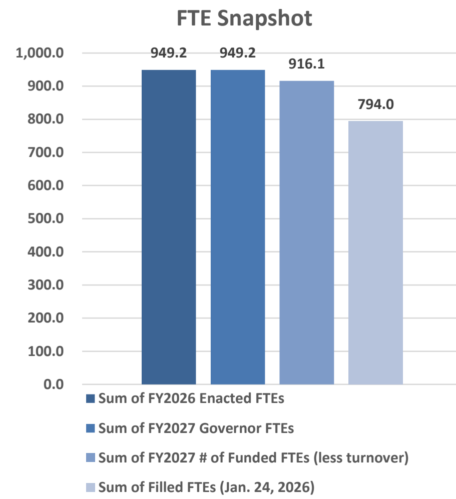
The Budget provides an increase of $633,538 in general revenue ($2.4 million total) for the State Crime Lab for target and other adjustments, consistent with the requested budget. According to a memorandum submitted to the Office of Management and Budget, the crime lab has received an influx of cases, resulting in a backlog that will grow if the appropriation is reduced or level with FY2026 Enacted. The University requested to amend RIGL 12-1.2-4, allowing the Lab to charge agencies for services utilized. The Governor did not include the new fee and instead recommended $633,538 in general revenue to support the Lab and alleviate its backlog.

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE (RIC)

Expenditures By Source	FY2026 Enacted	FY2026 Revised	*Change from Enacted*		FY2027 Governor	*Change from Enacted*	
General Revenue	80.4	81.1	*$0.7*	*0.9%*	83.7	*$3.2*	*4.0%*
Other Funds	136.0	153.0	*17.0*	*12.5%*	148.9	*12.9*	*9.5%*
Total	**$216.4**	**$234.1**	***$17.7***	***8.2%***	**$232.6**	***$16.2***	***7.5%***

$ in millions. Totals may vary due to rounding.

Rhode Island College (RIC) was established in 1854 as the Rhode Island State Normal School, with the mission of providing teacher preparation to Rhode Island residents. In 1959, RIC moved to its current campus location on 180 acres off of Mount Pleasant Avenue in Providence and was renamed Rhode Island College to reflect expanded curriculum.



Today, RIC provides comprehensive education at the Bachelor and Master levels, with a focus on Rhode Island residents. Rhode Island College is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education, the Council on Social Work Education, National Association of Schools of Art and Design, National Association of Schools of Music, National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification, National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

The Budget includes 949.2 FTE positions in FY2027, including 76.0 third-party funded positions, consistent with the FY2026 Budget as Enacted.

Major Issues and Trends

The Governor includes $2.0 million in State support, $113,000 less than requested. The Governor does not specifically earmark funds for Rhode Island College's strategic initiatives.

RIC's Budget requested a $10.3 million increase in tuition and fee revenue compared to the FY2026 Enacted Budget. The request includes a $2.1 million general revenue to offset the impact of rising personnel and operational costs.

According to the College, Fall semester enrollment has increased by 7.0 percent compared to recent years, and residence hall occupancy has increased by 20.0 percent. This observed increase in enrollment is connected to the recently enacted Hope Scholarship, which allows eligible full-time students to attend the College at no expense during their junior and senior years. Additionally, RIC has opened new majors in Sports Management, Biotechnology, and Cybersecurity, and opened the new Institute of Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies, which attracts new students who would otherwise need to attend different colleges to study these fields. Additionally, RIC is investing in its infrastructure through the renovation and opening of the new Cybersecurity building, and new athletic fields. Due to the increase in enrollment, the College requested $1.7 million for student aid.

Of the $18.8 million increase requested, excluding debt service for general obligation bonds, $5.6 million for personnel adjustments and $4.7 million for student aid, $3.2 million for capital purchases, $1.6 million for operating expenditures, and $3.7 million to support the creation of an "Inclusive Access Fee" in anticipation of a change to the textbook sales model utilized by the RIC bookstore. According to RIC, inclusive access models aim to improve affordability, increase student success, and enhance student experience while providing colleges with a more streamlined and transparent approach to course materials. Students still have the option to purchase physical books; however, the fee bundles all required materials at a discounted rate that appears in the course charges. Students receive a one-day access and may opt out. RIC asserts that the model will:

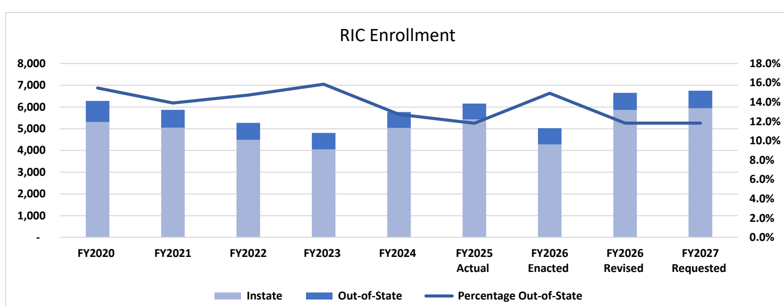
- Lower textbook costs and improve affordability
- Make it easier to use financial aid awards to purchase classroom materials
- Ensure every student gets materials on the first day
- Reduce equity gaps caused by cost-related non-purchasing
- Simplify bookstore operations
- Improve academic readiness and consistency across courses

RIC's Budget request included two strategic initiatives, totaling $1.8 million in general revenue expenditures, focusing on improving workforce readiness, academic success, higher student retention, and higher four-year graduation rates.

- **RIC Enhancing Academic Support to Deliver Stronger Retention and Graduation ($1.2 million):** Rhode Island College requested a general revenue increase of $1.2 million to support 8.0 new FTE positions, consisting of peer mentors, tutors, and supplemental instructional costs. According to the College, the Hope Scholarship has increased enrollment, exceeding historical enrollment numbers. Additionally, the Hope scholarship sets forth academic standards in line with a four-year graduation goal. To ensure that students' academic needs are met, the College proposes these 8.0 FTE positions to support multilingual learners, enhance STEM Support, provide writing support, increase tutoring for healthcare programs, and enhance student presentation and public speaking skills. The positions are as follows:
    - 3.0 Coordinators ($98,852 each)
    - 5.0 Success Coaches ($87,597 each)
- **RIC Career and Workforce Readiness for All Students ($665,334):** Rhode Island College requested a general revenue increase of $665,334 for 3.0 FTE positions to support the College's Career Development Center. In 2023, the College retained leaders from the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) to conduct an external review of the Career and Development Center. The review recommended to enhance services across four areas: career counseling, student employment, experiential learning, and employer relations. RIC is also implementing a career advising model that links student programs of study to possible careers from the beginning of their studies. To implement this model, RIC requires 3.0 FTE positions to foster stronger relationships with both RIC students and employers.
    - 2.0 Assistant Professor ($75,000/each)
    - 1.0 Coordinator ($67,161)

Enrollment

Total enrollment is projected to be 6,746 full-time equivalent students in FY2027, an increase of 1,324 students, or 8.0 percent, relative to FY2026 Enacted enrollment, and an increase of 76 students, or 1.5 percent from the FY2026 Revised level. This enrollment projection includes estimates related to the Hope Scholarship, which was passed in the FY2024 Enacted Budget, and is proposed to become a permanent program in the Governor's Recommended Budget. RIC also ties enrollment increases to the opening of the Institute of Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies, which was authorized by the FY2025 Enacted Budget.



Rhode Island College	General Revenue
FY2026 Enacted	$80,448,058
Target and Other Adjustments	-
State Appropriation	2,008,543
General Obligation Debt Service	1,226,227
FY2027 Governor	**$83,682,828**

State Appropriation — *$2.0 million*

The Budget includes $2.0 million in increased general revenue support ($72.7 million total), excluding G.O. bond debt service. The increase is primarily attributable to maintaining current service levels, including general revenue increases of $1.6 million for operating supplies, $860,216 for contracted services, and $200,429 for capital purchases. The Budget also recommends $438,169 in general revenue savings attributable to decreased state personnel expenses relative to the college's overall budget. RIC will cover the reduction with college funds, maintaining all personnel.

General Obligation Debt Service — *$1.2 million*

The Budget provides $9.2 million in FY2027 general obligation debt service at RIC funded by general revenue. This increases by $1.2 million relative to FY2026 Enacted. FY2026 Revised includes a total of $8.7 million in FY2026 Revised, $796,740 more than Enacted.

Debt Service

	FY2026 Enacted	FY2026 Revised	*Change from Enacted*		FY2027 Recommended	*Change from Enacted*	
University of Rhode Island	$31,526,482	$34,755,232	*$3,228,750*	*10.2%*	$32,853,856	*$1,327,374*	*4.2%*
Rhode Island College	7,933,336	8,730,076	*796,740*	*10.0%*	9,159,563	*1,226,227*	*15.5%*
Community College of Rhode Island	1,097,898	1,092,138	*(5,760)*	*-0.5%*	934,564	*(163,334)*	*-14.9%*
Total	**$40,557,716**	**$44,577,446**	***4,019,730***	***9.9%***	**$42,947,983**	***$2,390,267***	***5.9%***

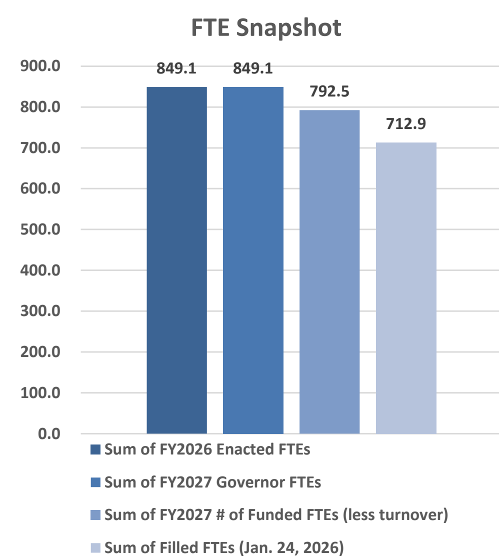
Source: Rhode Island Budget Office

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND (CCRI)

Expenditures By Source	FY2025 Enacted	FY2025 Final	*Change from Enacted*		FY2026 Enacted	*Change from Enacted*	
General Revenue	$62.3	$62.5	*$0.2*	*0.4%*	$64.8	*$2.6*	*4.1%*
Restricted Receipts	0.8	0.9	*0.1*	*13.7%*	1.0	*0.1*	*17.0%*
Other Funds	132.8	125.2	*(7.7)*	*-5.8%*	148.7	*15.9*	*11.9%*
Total	**$195.9**	**$188.6**	***($7.3)***	***-3.7%***	**$214.5**	***$18.6***	***9.5%***

$ in millions. Totals may vary due to rounding.

The Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) was established by the General Assembly in 1960 as Rhode Island Junior College. The first class of 325 students enrolled at a temporary Providence location in the fall of 1964. CCRI has provided a variety of career, technical, and academic programs and has established partnerships with businesses and non-profit organizations to provide worker training.



Today, CCRI has four main campuses: the 205-acre Knight Campus in Warwick; the 300-acre Flanagan Campus in Lincoln; the 7-acre Liston Campus in downtown Providence; and the 5-acre Newport County Campus in Newport. In addition, CCRI holds classes in the Westerly Higher Education and Industry Center.

The Budget includes 849.1 FTE positions in FY2027 and FY2026 revised, including 86.0 third-party funded FTE positions, consistent with FY2026 Enacted.

Major Issues and Trends

The Governor includes $4.2 million in State support, $1.4 million more than requested; however, the Governor does not specifically earmark funds for the Community College's strategic initiatives.

CCRI's FY2027 budget request includes a 6.7 percent increase in tuition and mandatory fees, with total tuition and fee revenue estimated to increase by $4.2 million from the FY2026 Enacted level. The FY2026 Revised request includes an increase of $2.7 million (4.4 percent) from the FY2026 Enacted level. The state appropriation request increases by $1.9 million to $66.6 million.

The expenditure request includes a $9.1 million change in all funds, excluding G.O Bond debt service, from the FY2026 Enacted level.

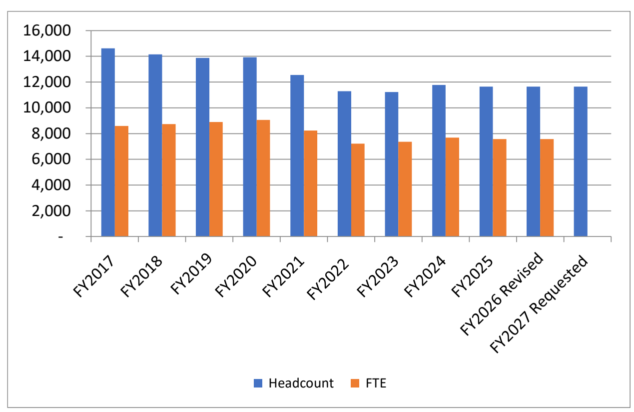
- **Student Aid ($3.6 million):** CCRI requested $3.6 million in all funds to support assistance and grants. The Governor concurs with the request.
- **Personnel Investment ($4.1 million):** The College requested $4.1 million in all funds for personnel expenditure, including contracted services. The Governor concurs with the request.
- **Capital ($5.8 million):** CCRI requested an all funds decrease of $5.8 million in capital expenses based on project progress and completions. The Governor concurs with the request, with a slight modification based on updated project schedules.
- **Technology and Other Operating ($7.2 million):** The College requested $7.2 million in all funds to support all other operating expenses, including expansion to a cloud-based data system and upgraded financial reporting systems. The Governor concurs with the request.

The Governor's Recommended Budget includes an increase of $2.0 million in general revenue funding, excluding G.O. debt service. While the College did not request any strategic initiatives for FY2027, the Budget does include the Workforce Innovation Center, which is a newly constructed building located at the Knight campus in Warwick, enabling CCRI to expand its trades education programs and address workforce shortages. The building will have flexibility to adapt to new workforce needs as they change. Article 6 authorizes the issuance of $60.0 million in general obligation bonds to be placed on the ballot for voter approval in November 2026.

Enrollment

CCRI Student Enrollment

Year	Headcount	*Headcount % Change*	FTE	*FTE % Change*
FY2017	14,624	*-6.3%*	8,593	*-5.9%*
FY2018	14,155	*-3.2%*	8,732	*1.6%*
FY2019	13,878	*-2.0%*	8,899	*1.9%*
FY2020	13,923	*0.3%*	9,065	*1.9%*
FY2021	12,549	*-9.9%*	8,231	*-9.2%*
FY2022	11,290	*-10.0%*	7,224	*-12.2%*
FY2023	11,223	*-0.6%*	7,365	*2.0%*
FY2024	11,777	*4.9%*	7,679	*4.3%*
FY2025	11,648	*-1.1%*	7,570	*-1.4%*
FY2026 Revised	11,648	*0.0%*	7,570	*0.0%*
FY2027 Requested	11,648	*0.0%*	7,570	*0.0%*
10-Year Average	**12,578**	***-2.5%***	**8,045**	***-1.6%***



The table shows the actual student enrollment, both by headcount and by FTE, from 2017 through 2027, and a projection for 2026 and 2027. In FY2027, the College expects enrollment to be level with the FY2026 Revised levels and FY2025 actuals.

Community College of Rhode Island	General Revenue
FY2026 Enacted	$64,838,244
Target and Other Adjustments	-
State Appropriation	1,955,803
General Obligation Debt Service	(163,334)
FY2027 Governor	**$66,630,713**

State Appropriation — *$2.0 million*

State general revenue support for CCRI increases by $2.0 million in FY2027 to a total of $65.7 million, excluding general obligation bond debt service. Of these funds, $2.9 million will finance personnel adjustments, including the 3.0 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) for eligible non-union employees due to the most recent contract negotiations, which is offset by a 908,334 general revenue decrease, which supports the college's current services. The decrease is primarily associated with lower costs for contracted services, a reduction to institutional scholarship funding, and the elimination of one-time capital expenditures.

General Obligation Debt Service — *($163,334)*

The Budget provides $934,564 in FY2027 for general obligation debt service at CCRI funded by general revenue. This is a decrease of $163,334 from FY2026 Enacted. The FY2026 Revised Budget includes $1.1 million, a decrease of $5,760 from FY2026 Enacted.

Debt Service

	FY2026 Enacted	FY2026 Revised	*Change from Enacted*		FY2027 Recommended	*Change from*	*Enacted*
University of Rhode Island	$31,526,482	$34,755,232	*$3,228,750*	*10.2%*	$32,853,856	*$1,327,374*	*4.2%*
Rhode Island College	7,933,336	8,730,076	*796,740*	*10.0%*	9,159,563	*1,226,227*	*15.5%*
Community College of Rhode Island	1,097,898	1,092,138	*(5,760)*	*-0.5%*	934,564	*(163,334)*	*-14.9%*
Total	**$40,557,716**	**$44,577,446**	***4,019,730***	***9.9%***	**$42,947,983**	***$2,390,267***	***5.9%***

Source: Rhode Island Budget Office

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Budget includes a total of $121.0 million in capital expenditures from Rhode Island Capital Plan (RICAP) funds in FY2027 and $144.9 million in FY2026, including the following.

	FY2026 Enacted	FY2026 Revised	*Change from Enacted*		FY2027 Governor	*Change from Enacted*	
Univerity of Rhode Island Total	**$88,943,784**	**$88,943,784**	***$0***	**-**	**$80,366,442**	***($8,577,342)***	***-9.6%***
URI, RIC, CCRI - Asset Protection	24,025,988	29,965,917	*5,939,929*	*24.7%*	25,106,315	*1,080,327*	*4.5%*
URI - Academic Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing	7,293,838	7,293,838	-	-	6,217,170	*(1,076,668)*	*-14.8%*
URI - Fire Protection Academic Phase 2	1,641,903	1,641,903	-	-	1,323,475	*(318,428)*	*-19.4%*
URI - Narragansett Bay Campus	8,146,722	8,146,722	-	-	16,853,278	*8,706,556*	*106.9%*
URI - PFAS Water Treatment Plant	13,759,400	13,759,400	-	-	11,661,319	*(2,098,081)*	*-15.2%*
URI - Athletics Complex Renewal	33,942,707	33,942,707	-	-	21,361,818	*(12,580,889)*	*-37.1%*
URI - Stormwater Management	4,252,678	4,252,678	-	-	1,437,519	*(2,815,159)*	*-66.2%*
URI - Campus Access Control	-	-	-	-	1,575,000	*1,575,000*	*100.0%*
URI - Campus Accessibility	2,300,000	2,300,000	-	-	1,700,000	*(600,000)*	*-26.1%*
URI - Building Envelope	3,000,000	3,000,000	-	-	3,000,000	-	*0.0%*
Office of Postsecondary Commissioner Total	**$1,220,000**	**$1,220,000**	**-**	**-**	**$160,000**	***($1,060,000)***	***-86.9%***
OPC - WEC Expansion – Annex Site	1,220,000	1,220,000	-	-	160,000	*(1,060,000)*	*-86.9%*
Rhode Island College Total	**$11,625,000**	**$22,973,541**	***$11,348,541***	***97.6%***	**$12,175,000**	***$550,000***	***4.7%***
RIC - Infrastructure Modernization	5,675,000	11,806,437	*6,131,437*	*108.0%*	5,675,000	-	-
RIC - Whipple, Fogarty, and Adams Library	-	500,000	*500,000*	*100.0%*	-	-	-
Community College of Rhode Island Total	**$33,809,452**	**$31,776,926**	***($2,032,526)***	***-6.0%***	**$28,334,885**	***($5,474,567)***	***-16.2%***
CCRI - Flanagan Campus Renewal (Lincoln)	3,200,000	3,349,954	*149,954*	*4.7%*	3,600,505	*400,505*	*12.5%*
CCRI - Data, Cabling, and Power Infrastructure	5,750,000	6,021,095	*271,095*	*4.7%*	5,500,000	*(250,000)*	*-4.3%*
CCRI - Renovation and Modernization Phase I	15,000,000	16,513,600	*1,513,600*	*10.1%*	13,499,928	*(1,500,072)*	*-10.0%*
CCRI - Renovation and Modernization Phase II-IV	6,100,000	900,000	*(5,200,000)*	*-85.2%*	2,240,000	*(3,860,000)*	*-63.3%*
CCRI - Accessibility Improvements	290,000	300,000	*10,000*	*3.4%*	125,000	*(165,000)*	*-56.9%*
Grand Total	**$135,598,236**	**$144,914,251**	***$9,316,015***	***6.9%***	**$121,036,327**	***($14,561,909)***	***-10.7%***

- **URI, RIC, CCRI - Asset Protection:** Asset Protection projects are budgeted from Rhode Island Capital Plan funds (RICAP) and are used to maintain and repair facilities, including roads, buildings, and infrastructure. The asset protection program includes a number of projects at various facilities and allows each school to shift funding based on current priorities. In FY2027, there is a total of $25.1 million, including $15.2 million in RICAP asset protection funding for URI, $6.5 million for RIC, and $3.4 million for CCRI. In FY2026, the Budget includes a total of $33.7 million in asset protection funding for URI ($17.9 million), RIC ($11.1 million), and CCRI ($4.7 million).
- **URI - Academic Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing:** The Budget provides total RICAP funding of $6.2 million in FY2027 and $5.3 million in FY2026 to provide new HVAC systems in Fogarty and White Hall. The total project cost is $14.2 million. Fogarty Hall, currently housing the Crime Lab and Nutrition and Food Science Department, will be renovated for administrative and academic departments. Substantial renovations will address the building envelope, mechanical systems, HVAC, as well as removing laboratory fixtures and associated utilities. White Hall, currently housing the College of Nursing, requires the upgrade of obsolete building systems and building envelop improvements, including foundation waterproofing, a drainage system, and minor cosmetic improvements.
- **URI - Fire Protection Academic Phase 2:** The Budget includes total RICAP funding of $3.4 million in FY2026 and $1.3 million in FY2027, toward the total cost of $16.5 million in all funds ($5.4 million in RICAP funds) to provide safety improvements. This project involves the installation of fire-suppressing sprinkler systems, the upgrade/replacement of existing fire alarm systems, and safety improvements in academic and administrative buildings in order to comply with changes in the State Fire Code. This phase will also provide a central bank of generators to provide the necessary power back up to allow the University to shelter in place during prolonged power outages. Phase I ($25.8 million) of this project was completed in December 2016.

- **URI - Narragansett Bay Campus:** In addition to the $100.0 million general obligation bond which was approved in November 2022, the Budget provides total RICAP funding of $8.1 million in FY2026 and $16.8 million in FY2027 toward repairs and construction on the Narragansett Bay Campus in support of education and research for the marine disciplines.
- **URI - PFAS Water Treatment Plant:** The Budget includes total RICAP funding of $4.8 million in FY2026 and $11.7 million in FY2027 toward the total cost of $21.7 million to construct a permanent water treatment plant to address the University's elevated per- and polyfluorinated substances (PFAS) levels. Originally, these funds were identified as ARPA SFRF funding; however, the University's capital improvement plan timetable put these time-sensitive funds at risk of being reclaimed by the federal government, instead the project will be completely funded through RICAP funds
- **URI - Athletics Complex Renewal:** The Budget $37.3 million in RICAP funds in FY2026 and $21.4 million in FY2027 for the renovation of the Meade Stadium East Grandstands and the Slade Outdoor Track and Field. Total funding for the project is $83.1 million over three years, including $61.8 million in RICAP funds.
- **URI - Stormwater Management:** The Budget provides total RICAP funding of $3.2 million in FY2026 and $1.4 million in FY2027 to support stormwater improvements to existing drainage systems. According to the University, current infrastructure frequently exceeds during major flooding events, resulting in erosion and flooding to the downstream landscapes and buildings. Total project costs are estimated for the project at $4.4 million.
- **URI - Campus Access Control (New Project):** The Budget recommends total RICAP funding of $1.6 million in FY2027 to convert multiple existing access control systems over to one centralized system. By combining these existing systems, the university will be able to more quickly and efficiently respond to campus incidents and better ensure safety on campus.
- **URI - Campus Accessibility:** The Budget includes total RICAP funding of $2.3 million in FY2026 and $1.7 million in FY2027 in RICAP funds to support campus accessibility for people with disabilities. Projects include restroom improvements, exterior pedestrian improvements, and discrete building improvements such as elevator modernizations. The project will focus on the adaptation of existing infrastructure to comply with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Total costs for the project are estimated to be $7.0 million.
- **URI - Building Envelope*:*** The Budget includes $3.0 million in RICAP funds annually in FY2026 and FY2027 to support projects addressing repairs to building envelope systems across the University's campuses. Roofs, windows, and exterior cladding would be repaired and improved to provide better interior air quality, enhanced energy efficiency, and improved appearances. The Budget provides a total of $15.0 million in RICAP funds through FY2030 to address the University's deteriorating infrastructure***.***
- **OPC - WEC Expansion – Annex Site:** The Budget includes total RICAP funding of $400,000 in FY2026 and $160,000 in FY2027 to expand the RI Education Center model to Northern RI. The Woonsocket Education Center, which opened August 2022, is designed to address gaps in education and workforce development training in Northern RI. According to the Office, the demand for use of the Center has increased significantly, requiring more classroom space to accommodate employers. Due to delays in construction and development, the funding for the Annex Site has shifted to FY2026, with an estimated completion date of FY2026.
- **RIC - Infrastructure Modernization:** The Budget provides total RICAP funding of $11.8 million in RICAP funding in FY2026 and $5.7 million in FY2027 to modernize and replace steam lines, water lines, and the electrical distribution system across the RIC campus. Improvements will address issues of water quality, limit power failures, and eliminate steam plumes throughout the campus.

- **RIC - Whipple, Fogarty, and Adams Library:** The Budget provides $500,000 in RICAP funding in FY2026 to support the renovation of Whipple Hall, Fogarty Hall, and Adams Library. Total projected costs are estimated at $233.5 million, which will be funded through a series of general obligation bonds, included on statewide referenda in 2024, 2026, and 2028. The State is expected to contribute a total of $500,000 in RICAP funds for Whipple Hall only. The following table illustrates expected expenditures for the Capital Improvement Project.

		Pre FY2026	FY2026 Budget	FY2027 Budget	FY2028 Budget	FY2029 Budget	FY2030 Budget	Post FY2030 Budget	Total
Whipple Hall									
	Bond	-	$1.5	$37.0	$34.5	-	-	-	
	RICAP		$0.5	-	-	-	-	-	
Total									**$73.0**
Adams Library									
	Bond	-	-	$0.5	$1.5	$41.8	$34.2		
Total									**$78.0**
Fogarty Life Sciences Building									
	Bond	-	-	-	-	$0.5	$1.5	$83.0	
Total									**$85.0**

 # in millions.

- **CCRI - Flanagan Campus Renewal (Lincoln):** The Budget provides total RICAP funding of $3.3 million in FY2026 and $3.6 million in FY2027 for the renewal of the Flanagan Campus in Lincoln. This $12.5 million project includes modernization and code compliance upgrades to all the science labs at the Lincoln campus, as well as the refurbishment of the exterior including heat resistance paint, window replacement, and light abatement.

- **CCRI - Data, Cabling, and Power Infrastructure:** The Budget provides total RICAP funding of $750,000 in FY2026 and $5.5 million in FY2027 to assess, design, and construct a modernized data cabling and power infrastructure across the four CCRI campuses. The project will upgrade network wiring infrastructure and deliver more capacity to support additional classroom technology, wireless devices, and security systems, including cameras, emergency alarm systems, and HVAC control systems.

- **CCRI - Renovation and Modernization Phase I:** The Budget includes total RICAP funding of $16.5 million in FY2026 and $13.5 million in FY2027 to modernize academic and student support spaces. The project is estimated to cost a total of $59.5 million with $12.0 million from general obligation bonds approved in March 2021, and $47.5 million in RICAP funds**.**

- **CCRI - Renovation and Modernization Phase II-IV:** The Budget includes total RICAP funding of $900,000 in RICAP funds in FY2026 and $2.2 million in FY2027. This phase, which is estimated to cost a total of $147.7 million in both RICAP and general obligations funds, will begin the construction processes of the project. Specifically, in FY2026 and FY2027, the project will focus on HVAC, electrical, and foundational repairs at the Warwick and Providence campuses.

- **CCRI - Accessibility Improvements:** The Budget includes total RICAP funding of $300,000 in FY2026 and $125,000 in FY2027 to support projects addressing ADA compliance issues. While there is a current project bid related to the Lincoln campus bathrooms, the College proposes addressing other ADA non-compliant areas across all four campuses. The project is estimated to cost a total of $1.9 million.