



Angélica Infante-Green  
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island  
**DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**  
Shepard Building  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

April 7, 2026

Senator Hanna M. Gallo  
Chair, Senate Committee on Education  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street, Room 313  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: Oppose S2208 – Cooperative Service Among School Districts**

Dear Chair Gallo and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I am writing to express the Rhode Island Department of Education's **opposition to Senate Bill S2208: An Act Relating to Education – Cooperative Service Among School Districts.**

This legislation, if passed, would compel the Providence Public School District (PPSD) to remain the sole member of the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (UCAP), a collaborative originally formed by the school committees of the cities of Providence, Pawtucket, East Providence and Central Falls, and later joined by Cranston. To date, all other districts have exited the collaborative, leaving Providence as the only remaining member for at least the past two school years.

In December 2025, PPSD Superintendent Dr. Javier Montañez provided formal written notice to UCAP in advance of the statutorily required deadline. Dr. Montañez's decision is intended to improve student outcomes, expand opportunities, and increase attendance. This comes at a time when PPSD has significantly improved outcomes and increased opportunities for the students they serve.

Forcing PPSD to remain the sole member for a collaborative that no longer enjoys broad regional support is both inequitable and counterproductive to the mission of serving Providence's students.

PPSD has repeatedly flagged serious concerns to UCAP leadership about governance, specifically noting that the Board composition, which since the other cities' departure, has consisted of only a single member – Providence's Superintendent Montañez – fails to meet statutory requirements for a multi-district collaborative governance structure.

Superintendent Montañez has provided a compelling rationale for this withdrawal, backed by a clear plan to integrate the approximately 30 students, and to reinvest the dollars budgeted for UCAP directly toward the needs of students.

Sincerely,



Drew Echelson

Deputy Commissioner of System Transformation

CC: Members of the Rhode Island Senate Committee on Education  
Senator Samuel W. Bell  
Kristen Silvia, Director of Legislation and Deputy Chief of Staff  
Ms. Debbie Hayden, Committee Clerk