



MAYOR BRETT P. SMILEY
CITY OF PROVIDENCE

RETURNING PPSD TO LOCAL MANAGEMENT

Support for H7414 and S2526

Mayor Brett P. Smiley

April 2026



Returning the Providence Public School District to local management is the most effective way to serve our students and families.

The City of Providence is ready to partner with the Providence Public School District, the Providence School Board and the Providence City Council to continue the progress made during the State intervention.



Providence Return to Local Control Cabinet

- Mayor convened city leaders in 2023
- Department directors, City Council staff and School Board members
- Identified strategies to support the PPSD Turnaround Action Plan
- Developed community engagement plan to inform the transition planning process



RIDE Commissioner Benchmarks

February 2025 letter established deliverables for a successful transition

- ✓ Governance
- ✓ Finances
- ✓ Facilities
- ✓ State legislation
- ✓ Transition Plan





Providence's Plan for Our Schools: Building a Brighter Future

April 2025



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Providence's Plan for Our Schools

- Engaged 1,200 community members to inform the plan
- Reviewed findings of Johns Hopkins and Schoolworks reports
- Addressed the priorities of the RIDE Commissioner and necessary operational tasks
- Established priority actions for community engagement, supporting learning, governance, funding, supporting talent, procurement, data management and facilities



PROVIDENCE'S PLAN FOR OUR SCHOOLS

Key Progress Updates to Community



Providence's Plan for Our Schools Community Engagement

- May 2025 Mayor's Community Conversation on Education
- Staffing and logistical support provided for School Board's 17 listening sessions to develop goals and guardrails



Providence's Plan for Our Schools

Data Management and IT

- City, PPSD and RIDE staff working group established to identify high priority operational needs such as cyber security and opportunities for alignment on IT policies and software procurement.
- Supported data sharing agreement between PPSD and Providence Afterschool Alliance to support data-informed decisionmaking for out of school learning opportunities.
- All future data sharing would be narrowly tailored within state and federal legal constraints including FERPA and avoid cybersecurity risks.



Providence's Plan for Our Schools Facilities

- Coordinated staff teams across PPSD, City and RIDE are tracking and implementing \$1 billion capital plan for all students to be in new or like-new school buildings by 2030.
- Construction on five new school buildings begins this winter and spring.
- Improved energy management is delivering cost-savings for the District so funds can be better spent on student supports and outcomes.



Providence's Plan for Our Schools

Funding and Finances

- Largest increase in City contribution to PPSD budget in 17 years.
- Maintaining commitment to RIDE settlement funding schedule.
- Committed to working with the Providence City Council in out years to advocate for State funding and support PPSD needs.



Providence's Plan for Our Schools Governance



- Delivered onboarding and professional development for full School Board.
- Active participation in RIDE Collaborative Working Group.
- New board appointment for School Board Region One.



Providence's Plan for Our Schools

Procurement

- City and PPSD staff participation in Bloomberg/Harvard Leading City Procurement Reform initiative.
- City, PPSD and RIDE staff level working group established to address issues identified in Johns Hopkins review and identify key operational challenges and opportunities with the resumption of local management.
- Committed to increasing frequency of purchasing approval meetings to ensure timely review of PPSD purchases.



Providence's Plan for Our Schools

Supporting Learning

- Achieved universal access to Pre-K for Providence families.
- Convened New England mayors to share best practices and identify strategies to improve quality and variety of programs.
- Partnered with PPSD and CCRI to secure \$1.5 million for teacher assistant workforce development to improve Pre-K quality.



Providence's Plan for Our Schools

Supporting Talent

- Convened City, PPSD and RIDE staff to identify pressing operational issues for human resources and opportunities for the resumption of local management.
- Teams are focused on services including benefits administration that could result in improved services for either or both organizations.
- This work is not intended to shift core personnel management.
- The City has continued to manage the pension and retirement benefits for applicable staff throughout the State's intervention.



**The City needs a clear timeline
for the end of the State intervention
in the Providence Public School District
to operationalize plans that are in place.**



THANK YOU

City of Providence

