

Providence School Board

RESOLUTION BY THE PROVIDENCE SCHOOL BOARD SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 7414 AND SENATE BILL 2526 ENDING THE EXTENSION UNTIL OCTOBER 15, 2027 OF STATE CONTROL OF PROVIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

- WHEREAS,** On August 29, 2024, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education voted unanimously to support the Commissioner’s recommendation to extend state intervention in and control over Providence Public School Department until October 15, 2027;
- WHEREAS,** By letter dated September 25, 2024, and February 18, 2025, the Governor and Commissioner set forth various steps and benchmarks, which “if met could lead to an earlier return of PPSD to local control on June 30, 2026”;
- WHEREAS,** Since late 2024, the Board, through representatives, has participated with fidelity in meetings of the Collaborative Stakeholder Working Group convened by the Commissioner;
- WHEREAS,** At recent meetings of the Working Group, it has been indicated that the Commissioner shall be presenting a plan for return to local control by the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year;
- WHEREAS,** Since February 2025, the Board has participated actively in training and professional development through the Council of Great City Schools to strengthen its capacity to govern in a way that supports student outcomes;
- WHEREAS,** In April 2025, the City issued *Providence’s Plan for Our Schools: Building a Brighter Future*, which sets forth an action plan for return to local control; and
- WHEREAS,** In January 2026, the Board adopted Goals and Guardrails, after extensive community listening session in July through September 2025, to receive input and feedback on the community’s vision and values to inform those Goals and Guardrails;
- WHEREAS,** The City has committed to funding adequately the District through fiscal year 2027 through a settlement agreement executed in November 2024;
- WHEREAS,** The House and Senate have introduced companion bills to end the state intervention in Providence;

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NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD HEREBY ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING
RESOLUTION:

- Section 1.** The Board is able, ready and willing to assume all governance responsibilities as set forth in Title 16 of the Rhode Island General Laws and in the Home Rule Charter, and to continue to work collaboratively with the Mayor, the City Council, and the Commissioner to ensure that the transition to local control advances student achievement, strengthens fiscal accountability, and reflects the voice of the Providence community.
- Section 2.** The Board supports the legislation to amend R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-7.1 as set forth in **House Bill 7414**, and **Senate Bill 2526** attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**, so that the state intervention in the Providence Public School District ends effective July 1, 2026.
- Section 3.** This Resolution shall take effect upon adoption by the Board and shall be formally transmitted to the Rhode Island General Assembly.



Ty'Relle Stephens, President
Providence School Board