



May 13, 2026

The Honorable Hanna M. Gallo, Chairwoman  
Senate Education Committee  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Senate Bill 2784, An Act Relating to Education – Establishment of Charter Public Schools

Dear Chairwoman Gallo:

On behalf of Rhode Island's Mayoral Academies and charter public schools, we write to share our concerns regarding Senate Bill 2784 and similar legislation that would limit the ability of high-performing public charter schools to responsibly grow and serve additional students and families.

For more than 25 years, Rhode Island charter public schools have provided families with high-quality public school options and have helped drive innovation, accountability, and strong academic outcomes for students across our state. Today, demand for charter public schools remains extraordinarily strong, particularly in urban core communities where many families are seeking additional public school choices for their children.

Rhode Island charter public schools disproportionately serve students from historically underserved communities, including high percentages of economically disadvantaged students and multilingual learners. Families choose our schools because they are looking for safe, rigorous, and supportive learning environments that prepare students for long-term success.

As leaders of public charter schools across Rhode Island, we believe strongly that public schools should be held accountable for delivering results for students. Charter public schools operate under performance contracts, face regular review and renewal, and can be closed if they fail to meet expectations. High-performing schools that are successfully serving students should be encouraged to responsibly replicate proven models and expand access for additional families.

We are particularly concerned that Senate Bill 2784 would unnecessarily restrict opportunities for future students and families by prohibiting the approval or expansion of certain charter school models, regardless of performance or community demand. The bill would limit educational opportunity and reduce the ability of successful public schools to share effective practices, operational efficiencies, and academic models that are benefiting Rhode Island students.

Across our schools, we are seeing strong academic growth, increasing family demand, and meaningful student success outcomes. We remain deeply committed to partnering with the State of Rhode Island, local communities, and families to expand access to excellent public education opportunities for all students.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of Rhode Island students and families.

Sincerely,



Sarah Anderson  
CEO, Blackstone Valley Prep



Tom McDermott  
Executive Director, Rhode Island Achievement First



Owen Stearns  
CEO, Excel Academy

cc: Senate Education Committee Members