



May 19, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Murray
Chairman, Senate Education Committee
Rhode Island State Senate
State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
SLegislation@rilegislature.gov

Support S. 2934 – An Act Relating to Education – Foundation Level School Support

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

On behalf of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, I write in support of S. 2934, legislation intended to provide the Providence Public School District with greater flexibility and local control as it works to improve educational outcomes for students.

Providence's public schools play a critical role in the long-term economic future of our capital city and our state. Employers across Rhode Island depend on a strong educational system that prepares students with the skills, knowledge, and opportunities necessary to succeed in today's workforce. Creating a more effective and responsive school system is not only an educational priority, but an economic development priority as well.

This legislation recognizes that Providence faces unique challenges and should have the ability to implement modern management and personnel practices that support student achievement and accountability. The bill would provide flexibility for alternative compensation structures, allow greater emphasis on performance and qualifications in staffing decisions, and formally conclude the state's reconstitution and control of the Providence Public School District effective June 30, 2026.

We also appreciate the bill's emphasis on collaboration, strategic planning, and sustained municipal investment in public education. A stable and improving school system is essential to attracting families, supporting employers, and strengthening confidence in Providence as a place to live, work, and invest.

For these reasons, the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce respectfully supports S.2934 and urges the Committee to give the legislation favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive-like shape that starts with a horizontal line, curves upwards and to the right, then drops vertically and continues as a horizontal line to the right.

Laurie White
President
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce