

From: [stefania mesiti](#)
To: [SLegislation](#)
Subject: reject S2934
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Dear Members of the Rhode Island Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed legislation that would allow a separate minimum salary schedule for Providence public school teachers and create new processes for teacher dismissal and demotion.

At a time when Rhode Island is already facing challenges with teacher recruitment and retention, this proposal sends a discouraging message to educators working in one of the state's most demanding districts. Providence teachers serve diverse student populations, including multilingual learners, students with disabilities, and children facing significant social and economic barriers. These educators deserve stability, respect, and equitable treatment — not policies that weaken professional protections or create unequal compensation structures.

Allowing a different salary schedule specifically for Providence teachers risks creating inequity among educators across the state and may make it even harder to attract and retain highly qualified teachers in Providence schools. Students benefit most when schools can maintain experienced, committed educators who feel supported in their profession.

I am also deeply concerned about the proposed changes regarding dismissal and demotion procedures. Teachers must be held to high standards, but due process protections are essential to ensuring fairness, professional integrity, and educational stability. Weakening these protections could negatively affect teacher morale, collaboration, and ultimately student learning.

Additionally, with the reconstitution and state control of Providence Public Schools scheduled to terminate on June 30, 2026, this legislation appears to extend instability rather than support a thoughtful transition back to local governance and community partnership.

Providence students deserve investment in resources, support services, smaller class sizes, and strong educator retention efforts — not policies that risk further destabilizing the workforce.

I respectfully urge you to oppose this legislation and instead work collaboratively with educators, families, and community members to strengthen public education in Providence and throughout Rhode Island.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stefania Mesiti