



The Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center

Public Street Campus

325 Public Street – Providence, RI 02905

Peace Street Campus

362 Dexter Street- Providence, RI 02907

Paul Crowley Campus

115 Girard Avenue – Newport, RI

April 14, 2026

The Honorable Louis DiPalma
Senate Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for H7127 – Proposed CTE Capitol Bond

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed 2026 capital bond, particularly the \$50 million investment in Career and Technical Education programs across Rhode Island. This funding represents a critical opportunity to expand and strengthen a proven system that is already delivering meaningful results for students and the state's workforce.

As Director of Curriculum and Instruction at The Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center, I see every day the impact that high-quality CTE programming has on student success. Our students consistently demonstrate increased attendance, stronger academic performance, and higher levels of engagement when they are connected to real-world learning experiences. Through our work-based learning model, students participate in internships with hundreds of industry partners across Rhode Island, relationships we have sustained for over 30 years because they deliver value to both students and employers.

This bond would allow schools across the state to build and improve programs that connect students directly to high-demand industries, while also providing the facilities, equipment, and learning environments necessary for rigorous, hands-on education. It is an investment not only in school infrastructure, but in a workforce pipeline that Rhode Island urgently needs. It would allow programs to bolster work-based learning and other critical career connected learning opportunities that apply hands on and durable skills and help build networks across the state.

This proposal also reflects the strong, ongoing advocacy of educators, students, and families across the state. Recent efforts have generated more than 1,500 letters of support to legislators, underscoring the broad recognition that CTE programs are a proven and essential strategy for improving student outcomes and expanding economic opportunity.

By approving this bond, Rhode Island will take a significant step toward strengthening both educational equity and workforce development. I respectfully urge the committee to support this investment and help ensure that all students have access to high-quality, career-connected learning experiences.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Joe Battaglia

Director of Curriculum and Instruction

