



RHODE ISLAND
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS AND
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AFT
AFL - CIO

To: Senate Finance Committee
From: Jeremy Sencer, RIFTHP Field Representative
Date: May 19, 2026
Re: Review of Student Success Factor in the Education Funding Formula
Testimony in **Support of S 2821** (Murray, et al.)

On behalf of RIFTHP, I submit testimony in support of S 2821, legislation that requires a review of whether Rhode Island's current student success factor adequately supports students experiencing poverty and provides districts with sufficient resources to meet student needs.

Rhode Island educators continue to serve students facing increasing academic, behavioral, social-emotional, and economic challenges. Poverty significantly impacts educational outcomes and often requires additional supports including intervention services, mental health resources, attendance supports, multilingual services, and expanded family engagement efforts.

The student success factor was created to recognize these realities by providing additional funding for students experiencing poverty. However, as student needs evolve and districts face increasing demands, it is appropriate to evaluate whether the current weighting continues to reflect the actual resources required to support student success.

S 2821 does not mandate immediate changes to the education funding formula. Instead, it establishes a thoughtful review process to determine whether the current forty percent (40%) student success factor provides adequate support to local education agencies serving students with the highest levels of need.

Strong education funding systems should respond to changing student populations and evolving educational challenges. Periodic review of formula components is necessary to ensure funding remains aligned with student needs and advances educational equity across Rhode Island communities.

RIFTHP supports efforts to evaluate whether Rhode Island's education funding formula adequately reflects the realities educators and students experience in classrooms every day.

For these reasons, RIFTHP urges the Committee to support S 2821.

356 SMITH STREET PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02908-3761 (401) 273-9800 FAX (401) 331-8815

• **Maribeth K. Calabro**, President • **Maria Manzi**, Executive Assistant • **Bridget McDonough**, Administrative Assistant •
• **Michael J. Mullane**, Field Representative • **James A. Parisi**, Field Representative •
• **Christopher Lambert**, Field Representative • **Jeremy Sencer**, Field Representative •
• **Sean Doyle**, Field Representative •