



## BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Ana C. Riley  
Superintendent of Schools

Date: May 21, 2026

To: Honorable Chair DiPalma, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: Ana C. Riley, Superintendent, Bristol Warren Regional School District; President-Elect, Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association (RISSA)

Subject: **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF [Senate Bill 3015](#)**, The Rhode Island Education Funding And Accountability Act

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Dear Chair DiPalma and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of this bill. I am writing in my dual capacity as Superintendent of Bristol Warren Regional School District and President-Elect of RISSA.

Our public education system faces enormous fiscal pressures because the current, decade-old funding formula ignores rising, non-instructional costs like skyrocketing transportation and essential maintenance, forcing impossible choices between facility needs (like fixing a boiler) and essential programs (like an advanced placement course). This instability is unsustainable and has led to budget cuts in Bristol-Warren, compromising the safety and service we owe our students and families.

Creating a new funding formula is essential for the long-term sustainability of public education. This bill modernizes how we account for "foundational" costs, ensuring a safe learning environment and freeing the instructional core of the formula to focus on teaching and learning.

This legislation offers a path forward built on four interconnected shifts: (1) accounting for the full cost of education by including expenses like transportation and building maintenance; (2) tailoring instructional funding directly to student needs, including multilingual learners and those with disabilities; (3) ensuring greater predictability for municipalities based on ability to pay; and (4) requiring transparency through accountability measures that tie spending to educational outcomes.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build a fair, transparent, and effective school funding system that our students and communities cannot afford to delay. I respectfully urge the members of this committee to move Senate Bill 3015 forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

With our children in mind,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ana C. Riley".

Superintendent of Schools, Bristol Warren Regional School District  
President-Elect, Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association

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*Derek Swenson, Chief Operating Officer (Title IX Coordinator)*

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