



East Providence School Department



1998 PAWTUCKET AVENUE
EAST PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02914

SANDRA J. FORAND, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Chairwoman Murray
Honorable Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Senate Lounge
State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for S3066 and S3065 – Children’s Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS)

Good Afternoon Chairwoman Murray and members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of S3066 and S3065, as these bills are critical to ensuring that students and families have access to timely and effective behavioral health crisis support.

In schools, we regularly see students in behavioral health crisis, and too often, our only options are emergency services or the emergency room. These responses are not always appropriate and can disrupt a child’s education.

Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) provide a better solution—offering immediate, community-based support that helps stabilize students and keep them engaged in school.

S3066 is critical because it ensures these services are available to all students, regardless of insurance. Schools don’t see coverage—we see children who need help. S3065 strengthens the system so we can rely on consistent, timely support.

Without access to MRSS, crises escalate, impacting not only the student but the entire school environment. These bills are essential to supporting student well-being, school stability, and long-term success.

When behavioral health crises are not addressed promptly, the impact extends beyond the individual student—it affects classroom environments, school safety, staff capacity, and overall school climate. Investing in MRSS is not only an investment in children’s behavioral health, but also in their education and long-term success.

I respectfully urge you to support S3066 and S3065 to ensure that Rhode Island’s children, families, and schools have access to a reliable, equitable, and effective crisis response system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra J. Forand

Sandra J. Forand Ed.D.
Superintendent

The East Providence School Department, in partnership with families and the community, is committed to provide a comprehensive, inclusive program of academic excellence in a safe, nurturing environment preparing all students to become responsible, life-long learners able to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Telephone 401-383-2224 x 30002 • Fax 401-435-7854 • E-mail: sforand@epschoolsri.com • TTY 800-745-5555 • Voice 800-745-6575

The East Providence School Department does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, national origin, color or handicap in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.