



SENATE FISCAL OFFICE
REPORT

FY2024 BUDGET AS ENACTED: EDUCATION AID

2023-H-5200 SUBSTITUTE A

AUGUST 8, 2023

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Education Aid

The Education Adequacy Act (2010-S-2770, Substitute A as Amended) provided a new school funding formula that creates a single methodology for distributing state aid to all public schools. The core principle behind the formula is that state funding should follow the student; therefore, the distribution of state funds changes annually based on shifts in enrollment. This formula applies to all public schools, charter schools, the Davies Career and Technical School, and the Metropolitan Career and Technical Center. The Act does not change the funding methodology for the School for the Deaf, since it is an education program that already has a state, federal, and local share.

Beginning in FY2012, the formula established a per-pupil spending amount and allocated this funding based on student enrollment, adjusting for poverty (as measured by the number of families whose income is below 185.0 percent of the federal poverty guidelines). The formula also adjusts for local revenue generating capacity and overall poverty level, as well as the concentration of children living in poverty.

The Act included a multi-year transition plan to ease districts into the new formula, allowing time for school districts and municipal governments to adjust for gains or losses in education aid. The plan provided a transition period of ten years from the formula implementation in FY2012 for those districts projected to receive less school aid than they did in the previous year, and seven years for those districts projected to receive more. FY2021 was the final year of the transition plan. However, the FY2024 Budget as Enacted provides a Poverty Loss Stabilization Fund and a Transition Fund for enrollment loss.

In FY2024, the formula aid to the districts, charter schools, and state schools increases by \$24.5 million to fully fund the formula. The new Enrollment Transition and Poverty Loss Stabilization Funds provide an additional \$19.4 million and \$5.7 million, respectively. An additional increase of \$33.3 million is provided through categorical aid, including \$10.5 million for High-Cost Special Education and \$14.4 million for English Learners.

HOW THE FORMULA WORKS

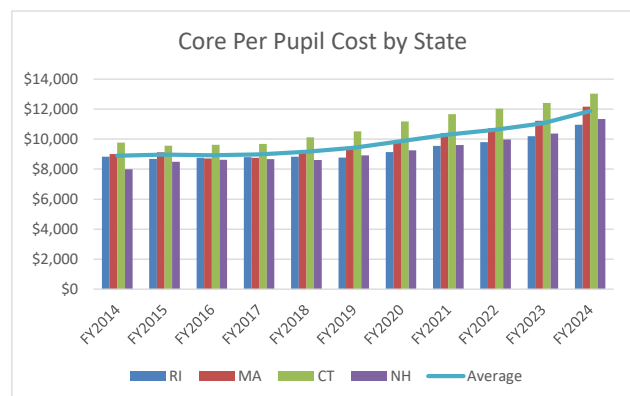
Step 1 - Student Enrollment: Student enrollment is based on resident average daily membership (RADM), which refers to the average number of students who are residents of the community and were enrolled in the school district during the prior school year. The Budget is based on enrollment data as of March 2023, adjusted for projected charter school enrollments.

Step 2 - Core Instruction Amount: The core instruction amount provides a base level of funding per pupil (\$11,876 in FY2024, a 7.5 percent increase from the FY2023 Budget as Enacted). It is derived from the average of northeast regional expenditure data from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire, as published by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

Step 3 - High Need Student Weight (40.0 percent):

The Act includes a single factor to adjust the core instruction amount to address the effects of poverty and other factors influencing educational need. The weight provides an additional \$4,750 ($\$11,876 \times 0.40 = \$4,750$) for each student whose family income is at or below one hundred eighty-five percent (185%) of federal poverty guidelines.

The statute requires that the weight be applied to each child whose family income is at or below 185.0 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. Traditionally, these students were tracked primarily through



eligibility for the federal free and reduced lunch program (FRLP); however, Article 10 of the FY2023 Budget as Enacted required the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) to submit, as part of its FY2024 budget request, a poverty measure that does not rely on the administration of the school lunch programs. The Governor recommended and the General Assembly agreed to using certification data from programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The counts from this data source are then multiplied by a factor of 1.6, as recommended by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of Education for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

According to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), “extensive research was conducted” to determine the new poverty measure, including the experiences of other states. Several criteria were considered including “comparable eligibility requirement to the FRLP, timeliness, and data quality. Furthermore, data sharing agreements with DHS [Department of Human Services] related to the use of direct certification were already in existence.” Based on the review, it was determined that “direct certification would result in a reliable calculation of education aid while minimizing administrative burden.”

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the “function of the 1.6 multiplier is to provide an estimate of the percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals in participating CEP schools, groups of schools, or LEAs that is comparable to the poverty percentage that would be obtained in a non-CEP school. The number of students directly certified is a subset of the total number of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Using only the number of identified students would result in lower poverty percentages for CEP schools or LEAs.” (see page 4 of Guidance for The Community Eligibility Provision). Communities participating in the CEP agree not to collect FRLP forms.

Step 4 - Total Foundation Budget: The total foundation budget for each school district is calculated by adding the product of the total core instruction amount and the total student success factor weight.

$$\text{Total Foundation Budget} = (\$11,876 \times \text{RADM}) + (0.4 \times \$11,876 \times \text{students in poverty})$$

Step 5 - State Share Ratio: The Education Adequacy Act creates a share ratio by adding a wealth measure, based on the concentration of children living in poverty, to the single State Share Ratio for the Community (SSRC) previously used to determine a district’s ability to pay for the cost of education. In FY2024, the Governor uses the direct certification data discussed under the SSF above to measure the percentage of Pre-Kindergarten through sixth grade students living in poverty, instead of the free and reduced-lunch data used traditionally.

The total foundation budget equals the student enrollment and the high-need student weight of the district multiplied by the core instruction amount. The State’s share of the total foundation budget is the state share ratio calculated as follows:

$$\text{State Share Ratio (SSR)} = \sqrt{\frac{\text{SSRC}^2 + \%PK - 6\text{poverty}^2}{2}}$$

Pursuant to the FY2024 Budget as Enacted, however, if a district has PK through 6 poverty rate greater than 50.0 percent and the SSR calculation results in a ratio less than the SSRC, then the SSRC will be used. In FY2024, this adjustment impacts Pawtucket, West Warwick, and Central Falls, as highlighted in the table.

By squaring each factor, the formula amplifies the greater of the two variables. Consequently, school districts with less capacity to raise revenue than the State as a whole and a higher concentration of child poverty look relatively poorer, while districts with a higher capacity to raise revenue and lower

concentrations of poverty look relatively wealthier. Those poorer districts with the higher SSR will receive a greater portion of the calculated education costs as state aid than the wealthier districts.

The SSRC calculation is based on each community’s total assessed property value and median family income, relative to districts across the State. The total community property value includes motor vehicles, personal property and State payments in lieu of taxes. These values are brought to full market value based on market experience and then adjusted by the median family income. The higher the EWAV share ratio, the less capacity the community has relative to the rest of the state for generating locally derived revenue to support schools and the more state aid the community will receive. While similar to the share ratio used in the school construction formula to determine the state’s share of debt service obligations, the Education Adequacy Act adjusted the SSRC calculation to increase the State share of the total education budget.

The distribution includes an update to the median family income (MFI) component of the EWAV based on the socio-economic data from the American Community Survey (ACS) provided by the United States Census Bureau. The index used to adjust for MFI is the ratio of the median family income of the municipality relative to the median family income statewide as reported in the American Community Survey (ACS) provided by the United States Census Bureau.

Step 6 - State Share of Foundation Budget: The State’s share of the total foundation budget equals the state share ratio, discussed above, times the total foundation budget. Unlike many foundation formulas, the statute neither requires a minimum nor sets a maximum local spending level beyond the limits in the maintenance of effort requirements found in RIGL 16-7-23 and 16-7-23.1. Nonetheless, a municipality is responsible, to some degree, for the difference between the state share and the total foundation amount.

Poverty Loss Stabilization Fund: The FY2024 Budget as Enacted establishes funding to reduce the impact of a reduction in the community state share ratio. If the share ratio decreases by more than 2.0 percent, relative to the prior year, the formula provides 50.0 percent of the resulting reduction in funding formula aid.

Enrollment Transition Fund: To address the significant enrollment declines seen across the State, the FY2024 Budget as Enacted establishes an Enrollment Transition Fund providing 40.0 percent of the funding formula aid lost as a result of enrollment declines, relative to the previous year, in year one and 25.0 percent in year two.

TABLE

The table on the following page provides a step-by-step calculation of each district’s formula distribution for FY2024.

FY2024 Education Aid Calculator - Enacted¹

Districts	PK-12 RADM	Direct Cert	Direct Cert x Factor (1.6) RADM	Core Instruction Funding (C = \$11,876)	Student Success Factor Funding (F = 0.4*\$11,876 = \$4,750)	Total Foundation	% Direct Cert (1.6 factor) PK6	EWAV	State Share Ratio	State Share Adjusted RIGL 16-7.2-4(a)	State Share of Foundation Budget	FY2023 Enacted (excludes group home and categoricals)	Change in State Funding
	A	B		A*C=D	B*F=G	D+G=H	P	W	I	IF P>0.5 and W<I, then = W	H*I=J	K	J-K=L
Barrington	3,379	124	198	\$40,129,004	\$942,479	\$41,071,483	6.7%	35.0%	25.2%	25.2%	\$10,346,999	\$8,549,881	\$1,797,118
Burrillville	2,057	319	510	24,428,932	2,424,604	26,853,536	32.5%	59.7%	48.1%	48.1%	12,904,573	14,202,416	(1,297,843)
Charlestown	707	77	123	8,396,332	585,249	8,981,581	21.2%	-	15.0%	15.0%	1,347,679	1,341,690	5,989
Coventry	4,229	609	974	50,223,604	4,628,790	54,852,394	24.2%	60.3%	45.9%	45.9%	25,200,762	24,970,883	229,879
Cranston	9,941	2,123	3,397	118,059,316	16,136,159	134,195,475	39.3%	64.7%	53.5%	53.5%	71,840,320	70,899,984	940,336
Cumberland	4,685	480	768	55,639,060	3,648,307	59,287,367	20.6%	53.5%	40.5%	40.5%	24,039,982	22,111,359	1,928,623
East Greenwich	2,543	117	187	30,200,668	889,275	31,089,943	7.9%	23.2%	17.3%	17.3%	5,386,895	4,603,416	783,479
East Providence	5,066	1,266	2,026	60,163,816	9,622,410	69,786,226	42.8%	58.7%	51.4%	51.4%	35,844,734	37,474,787	(1,630,053)
Foster	213	35	56	2,529,588	266,022	2,795,610	30.0%	48.5%	40.3%	40.3%	1,127,337	1,114,963	12,374
Glocester	576	49	78	6,840,576	372,431	7,213,007	12.3%	54.7%	39.6%	39.6%	2,859,443	2,525,892	333,551
Hopkinton	1,103	145	232	13,099,228	1,102,093	14,201,321	25.6%	56.9%	44.1%	44.1%	6,263,725	5,826,031	437,694
Jamestown	586	22	35	6,959,336	167,214	7,126,550	6.3%	-	4.5%	4.5%	319,561	303,378	16,183
Johnston	3,235	699	1,118	38,418,860	5,312,847	43,731,707	41.2%	55.2%	48.7%	48.7%	21,291,119	20,222,498	1,068,621
Lincoln	3,262	498	797	38,739,512	3,785,119	42,524,631	25.9%	49.1%	39.3%	39.3%	16,694,774	16,848,216	(153,442)
Little Compton	276	27	43	3,277,776	205,217	3,482,993	11.3%	-	8.0%	8.0%	279,472	448,877	(169,405)
Middletown	1,994	297	475	23,680,744	2,257,390	25,938,134	24.4%	28.2%	26.4%	26.4%	6,842,405	8,437,018	(1,594,613)
Narragansett	1,036	100	160	12,303,536	760,064	13,063,600	21.5%	-	15.2%	15.2%	1,983,316	2,263,400	(280,084)
Newport	1,845	735	1,176	21,911,220	5,586,470	27,497,690	72.4%	-	51.2%	51.2%	14,077,237	15,485,382	(1,408,145)
New Shoreham	132	3	5	1,567,632	22,802	1,590,434	8.4%	-	6.0%	6.0%	94,704	219,323	(124,619)
North Kingstown	3,555	530	848	42,219,180	4,028,339	46,247,519	27.1%	20.7%	24.1%	24.1%	11,142,827	11,488,078	(345,251)
North Providence	3,495	812	1,299	41,506,620	6,171,720	47,678,340	40.5%	70.3%	57.4%	57.4%	27,354,244	27,396,780	(42,536)
North Smithfield	1,603	167	267	19,037,228	1,269,307	20,306,535	20.6%	46.8%	36.2%	36.2%	7,343,688	6,430,600	913,088
Pawtucket	7,913	3,325	5,320	93,974,788	25,272,128	119,246,916	68.2%	84.9%	77.0%	84.9%	101,240,632	98,315,617	2,925,015
Portsmouth	2,075	174	278	24,642,700	1,322,511	25,965,211	14.1%	-	10.0%	10.0%	2,597,715	3,182,031	(584,316)
Providence	19,625	9,653	15,445	233,066,500	73,368,978	306,435,478	86.4%	84.8%	85.6%	85.6%	262,261,735	273,476,554	(11,214,819)
Richmond	1,090	130	208	12,944,840	988,083	13,932,923	22.5%	52.9%	40.7%	40.7%	5,664,511	5,414,854	249,657
Scituate	1,180	89	142	14,013,680	676,457	14,690,137	15.8%	28.8%	23.2%	23.2%	3,410,780	2,447,265	963,515
Smithfield	2,444	199	318	29,024,944	1,512,527	30,537,471	14.8%	37.5%	28.5%	28.5%	8,703,479	7,203,808	1,499,671
South Kingstown	2,580	312	499	30,640,080	2,371,400	33,011,480	21.7%	-	15.3%	15.3%	5,063,712	4,756,321	307,391
Tiverton	1,658	210	336	19,690,408	1,596,134	21,286,542	22.4%	28.6%	25.7%	25.7%	5,469,710	7,026,480	(1,556,770)
Warwick	8,097	1,478	2,365	96,159,972	11,233,746	107,393,718	33.8%	45.1%	39.8%	39.8%	42,784,774	40,874,590	1,910,184
Westerly	2,344	424	678	27,837,344	3,222,671	31,060,015	35.7%	-	25.3%	25.3%	7,847,731	8,313,966	(466,235)
West Warwick	3,495	1,139	1,822	41,506,620	8,657,129	50,163,749	58.4%	74.2%	66.8%	74.2%	37,221,502	32,061,919	5,159,583
Woonsocket	5,639	2,974	4,758	66,968,764	22,604,303	89,573,067	89.7%	88.9%	89.3%	89.3%	80,001,773	72,118,992	7,882,781
Bristol-Warren ²	2,914	452	723	34,606,664	3,435,489	38,042,153	-	-	-	-	11,040,792	11,768,674	(727,882)
Exeter-West Greenwich ²	1,536	129	206	18,241,536	980,483	19,222,019	-	-	-	-	4,853,740	4,498,794	354,946
Charlho	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Foster-Glocester ²	1,104	78	125	13,111,104	592,850	13,703,954	-	-	-	-	5,463,033	5,307,321	155,712
Central Falls	2,541	1,124	1,798	30,176,916	8,543,119	38,720,035	73.0%	97.2%	86.0%	97.2%	37,635,874	38,815,845	(1,179,971)
District Total	121,753	31,124	49,798	\$1,445,938,628	\$236,562,319	\$1,682,500,947					\$925,847,288	\$918,747,883	\$7,099,405
Charter School Total	12,988	4,948	7,917	154,245,488	37,607,967	191,853,455	-	-	-	-	153,888,559	137,747,584	16,140,975
Davies	902	221	354	10,712,152	1,679,741	12,391,893	-	-	-	-	9,945,832	8,930,775	1,015,057
Met School	795	297	475	9,441,420	2,257,390	11,698,810	-	-	-	-	8,597,594	8,708,054	(110,460)
Urban Collaborative	126	86	138	1,496,376	653,655	2,150,031	-	-	-	-	1,840,097	1,693,976	146,121
Youth Build Academy	135	80	128	1,603,260	608,051	2,211,311	-	-	-	-	1,892,543	1,727,458	165,085
Total	136,699	36,756	58,810	1,623,437,324	279,369,124	1,902,806,448					\$1,102,011,913	\$1,077,555,730	\$24,456,183

¹ Based on March 2023 enrollment updated for projected 2023-2024 charter school growth.² Calculations based on component district data as required by the Superior Court decision in Town of Warren v. Bristol Warren Regional School District, et. al.

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education

CHARTER AND STATE SCHOOLS

The education funding formula calculation for charter and state schools funds students as if they were still in the sending district, with the same core instruction amount, high-need student weight, and state share ratio. The aid, however, is distributed directly to the charter or state school. In FY2024, the Budget provides \$156.6 million in funding formula aid to charter schools, an increase of \$18.3 million. This increase is primarily driven by enrollment. In FY2024, charter school enrollment increases by 538 students, or 4.3 percent, relative to the FY2023 Budget as Enacted.

Sending District Tuition: Under the formula, the funding mechanism for charter and state schools changed significantly. Previously sending district tuition per-student was based on the per-pupil expenditure of the sending district, without deductions, the formula allowed sending districts to retain 5.0 percent of the per-pupil expenditure as indirect aid. The indirect aid was intended to cover residual costs from the transfer of

the student from the district to the charter school. Today, the sending district tuition is calculated by dividing the local appropriation to education from property taxes, net debt service and capital projects, by the district resident average daily membership (RADM), or enrollment: there is no indirect aid retained by the sending district.

$$\text{Tuition} = (\text{local appropriation to education} - \text{debt service} - \text{capital projects} / \text{District RADM}) - \text{local tuition reduction}$$

Local Charter and State School Tuition Reduction: Article 11 of the FY2017 Budget changed the above calculation to subtract a district-specific amount from the tuition paid for each student attending a charter or state school. The amount of the reduction is calculated based on differences in expenses between each district and charter schools. The expenditure data used for the calculation is the prior previous fiscal year; consequently, the calculation of unique costs for FY2023 is based on FY2021 data from the Uniform Chart of Accounts (UCOA). The reduction will be the greater of 7.0 percent of the district's per-pupil funding or the per-pupil value of each district's costs in the delineated expenditure categories. The categories include each district's costs for non-public textbooks, transportation for non-public students, retiree health benefits, out-of-district special education tuition and transportation, services for students age eighteen to twenty-one, pre-school screening and intervention, career and technical education tuition and transportation costs, debt service, and rental costs minus the average charter school expenses for the same categories. For districts using the reduction for costs categories, there is an additional reduction for tuition payments to mayoral academies, where teachers do not participate in the state's teacher retirement system, equivalent to the per-pupil, unfunded liability cost. The local tuition rate reductions pursuant to RIGL 16-7.2-5(c) were not available in time for the publication of this report.

In FY2011, the State paid the total tuition costs of students attending the Davies and Met Schools, while the local districts provided transportation. Pursuant to the new funding formula, however, the State payment to these state schools is calculated by the same method used to calculate school district and charter school payments. The formula requires local districts to pay state school tuition, but allows the districts to charge the state and charter schools for transportation costs. Local payments are made to the charter or state school on a quarterly basis. Failure to make a payment could result in the withholding of state education aid to the district of residence.

In FY2011, prior to the implementation of the current funding formula, charter school funding was based on the per-pupil expenditure of the sending district; however, the State paid 5.0 percent of the per-pupil expenditure as indirect aid to the sending district, and a portion of the remaining 95.0 percent based on the share ratio of the sending district. The expenditure was based on the reference year as defined in RIGL 16-7-16(11) providing a two-year lag. Each quarter, the charter school billed the sending district for the portion of the per-pupil expenditure not paid by the State.

Please see the following examples for further clarification of the charter school formula used in FY2011.

Calculation	District A	District B
Per Pupil Expenditure:	\$8,000	\$8,000
Share Ratio:	70.0%	30.0%
Indirect Aid to Sending District:	\$400 (5.0% of \$8,000)	\$400 (5.0% of \$8,000)
State Share to Charter School:	\$5,320 (70.0% of (\$8,000 minus 5.0%))	\$2,280 (30.0% of (\$8,000 minus 5.0%))
District Share to Charter School:	\$2,280 (30.0% of (\$8,000 minus 5.0%))	\$5,320 (70.0% of (\$8,000 minus 5.0%))

NON-FORMULA PROVISIONS

Group Homes: The Group Home aid category was created by the General Assembly in 2001 to provide state support to districts hosting group homes in exchange for relieving the resident sending district of financial responsibility for students placed in group homes. When enacted, the Act maintained the current funding for group homes as a categorical grant program; however, the FY2017 Budget as Enacted increased the per-bed funding amount. The Group Home aid category provides \$17,000 annually per bed, except for

group home beds associated with Bradley Hospital Children's Residential and Family Treatment (CRAFT) Program, which received \$26,000 per bed. The FY2024 Budget includes \$1.8 million to fund group home beds. This is \$446,611 less than the FY2023 Budget as Enacted. This adjustment represents the most recent update on the number of group home beds per district and the decrease required pursuant to RIGL 16-7-22(1)(ii) to reduce the average daily membership of a district by the number of group home beds used in the group home aid calculation.

Based on the final December 31, 2022, report from the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, the FY2023 Revised Budget increases by 7 beds and \$119,000.

FY2023 Enacted			Group Home Aid ¹ FY2024 Change from Enacted					FY2023		
District	Total Aid	Number of Beds	FY2024 Number of Beds	Change in Number of Beds	Aid change due to bed count	Aid change due to RIGL 16-7-22(1)(ii)	Total Change	FY2024 Total Aid	Revised Total Aid	Change from Enacted
Burrillville	\$0	0	-	-	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Coventry	79,629	8	8	-	-	(4,740)	(4,740)	74,889	79,629	-
East Providence	463,329	34	35	1	17,000	(22,257)	(5,257)	458,072	480,329	17,000
Lincoln	85,944	8	8	-	-	(2,155)	(2,155)	83,789	85,944	-
Newport	133,708	14	9	(5)	(85,000)	27,792	(57,208)	76,500	133,708	-
North Providence	127,813	16	16	-	-	(8,427)	(8,427)	119,386	127,813	-
North Smithfield	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pawtucket	92,961	20	19	(1)	(17,000)	3,782	(13,218)	79,743	92,961	-
Portsmouth	473,573	30	18	(12)	(204,000)	6,377	(197,623)	275,950	473,573	-
Providence	217,663	57	50	(7)	(119,000)	39,696	(79,304)	138,359	217,663	-
Smithfield	-	-	6	6	102,000	(28,438)	73,562	73,562	102,000	102,000
South Kingstown	121,823	8	-	(8)	(136,000)	14,177	(121,823)	-	121,823	-
Warwick	271,232	24	24	-	-	(22,257)	(22,257)	248,975	271,232	-
Woonsocket	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bristol-Warren	106,028	10	10	-	-	(5,107)	(5,107)	100,921	106,028	-
Exeter-West Greenwich	113,304	9	9	-	-	(3,054)	(3,054)	110,250	113,304	-
Total	\$2,287,007	238	212	(26)	(\$442,000)	(\$4,611)	(\$446,611)	\$1,840,396	\$2,406,007	\$119,000

¹ Based on final 12/31/2022 report from the Department of Children, Youth and Families. In the FY2023 Revised Budget, a total of 7 beds were added relative to the enacted level, including 1 in East Providence and 6 in Smithfield.

Categorical Programs: When the education funding formula was passed in 2010, five categorical funds were identified that would not be distributed according to the formula, but pursuant to other methodologies intended to address the priorities and funding needs of the districts. These categories include Transportation, High-Cost Special Education, Career & Technical Education, Early Childhood, and the Regionalization Bonus. Article 11 of the FY2017 Budget as Enacted added two new aid categories: English Learners and the Density Fund. The Density Fund support ended in FY2019 but was reestablished in FY2022. Article 9 of the FY2019 Budget as Enacted included a temporary aid category to support new Resource Officers at public middle and high schools, which expired after FY2021. (The Central Falls, Davies and Met School Stabilization Funds are addressed in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education section of this analysis.)

The FY2024 Budget includes funding for all of these categories, except the Regionalization Bonus, the School Resource Officer Support, and the Density Aid fund, which was replaced with the Enrollment Transition fund, which is included in the funding formula distribution.

- **Transportation:** This fund provides funding for transporting students to out-of-district, non-public schools and for 50.0 percent of the local costs associated with transporting students within regional school districts. The program provides for a pro-rata reduction in reimbursements to districts based on available funding. The Budget funds this category at \$10.6 million in FY2024, an increase of \$1.4 million over the FY2023 Budget as Enacted to fully fund the regional component of this category.

FY2024 Education Aid		
Categorical	Change from Enacted	Total Funding
Group Home Aid	(0.4)	1.8
Transportation	1.4	10.6
Early Childhood Education	8.0	22.9
High-Cost Special Education	10.5	15.0
Career & Tech. Schools	-	4.5
English Learners	14.4	19.4
School Choice Density Aid	(0.5)	-
Regionalization Bonus	-	-
School Resource Officer Support	-	-
Total	\$33.3	\$74.3
\$ in millions		

- **Early Childhood Education:** This fund is designed to increase access to voluntary, free, high-quality pre-kindergarten programs. The funds will be distributed through a request for proposals (RFP) process targeting communities in three tiers, with the first tier having the highest concentration of children at risk for poor educational outcomes. These funds are paid to providers through the RFP process and, consequently, are not included in the distribution tables. The Budget funds this category at \$22.9 million in FY2024, an increase of \$8.0 million in general revenue over the FY2023 Budget as Enacted. Of the total increase, \$1.3 million is to fund 35 new classrooms and \$6.7 million is to replace expiring federal funds.

Analyst Note: The Budget also provides \$300,000 in general revenue in the Administration of the Comprehensive Education Strategy (ACES) program for a new lottery system.

- **High-Cost Special Education:** This fund reimburses districts for instructional and related services provided to a student pursuant to an Individual Education Plan (IEP). The State reimburses costs that exceed four times the combined core instruction and student success factor funding (currently \$66,506 for FY2024). The FY2024 Budget as Enacted lowered this threshold from five times. The program provides for a pro-rata reduction in reimbursements to districts based on available funding. The Budget fully funds this category at \$15.0 million in FY2024, an increase of \$10.5 million relative to the FY2023 Budget as Enacted.
- **Career and Technical Schools:** This fund contributes toward the initial investment needed to transform existing programs or create new programs and the costs associated with facilities, equipment maintenance and repair, and supplies associated with higher-cost programs at career and technical schools. The Budget level funds this category at \$4.5 million in FY2024.
- **English Learners:** Article 11 of the FY2017 Budget as Enacted established a categorical fund for English Learners (EL). The fund provides additional aid of 15.0 percent of the per-pupil core instruction amount for each qualified EL student. In FY2024, the per-pupil weight is \$1,781, to reflect 15.0 percent of the \$11,876 core instruction amount. The FY2024 Budget as Enacted increase this weight from 10.0 percent. This amount is then multiplied by the state share ratio. The formula is provided below.

(Per-pupil core instruction amount x number of EL students) x 15.0 percent x state share ratio = additional state support per EL student

Pursuant to the FY2024 Budget as Enacted, this support can no longer be ratably reduced based on the total amount appropriated.

The funds are restricted to providing new services to EL students and must be managed in accordance with requirements enumerated by the Commissioner. The Department is required to collect performance reports and approve the use of funds prior to expenditure to ensure the funded activities align to innovative and expansive activities. The Budget provides \$19.4 million in FY2024 to fully fund this category, an increase of \$14.4 million relative to the previous fiscal year.

Article 8 of the FY2024 Budget as Enacted requires the Department to report, as part of the FY2025 budget submission, the number of EL students whose family income is at or below 185 percent of federal poverty guidelines and segment the populations by proficiency. In addition, the Department is required to prepare an expense report for EL education and recommend a funding solution.

- **School Choice Density Aid:** Article 10 of the FY2022 Budget as Enacted reestablished density aid for districts where 5.0 percent or more of the average daily membership (ADM) are enrolled in a charter or state school and provided \$1.0 million in education aid for FY2022. The category provided one \$500 payment for each new resident student enrolled in a charter or state school. For FY2022, the aid was

calculated based on the number of new students attending a public school of choice since FY2019. FY2019 is the last year density aid was provided. In FY2023, the \$500 was paid for each new charter or state school student relative to the previous year. The FY2024 Budget eliminates this aid through Article 8, as the Enrollment Transition Fund includes this population.

- **Regionalization Bonus:** This fund provides a bonus to regionalized districts and those that may regionalize in the future. In the first year, the bonus is 2.0 percent of the State's share of the total foundation aid. In the second year, the bonus is 1.0 percent of the State's share and in the third year the bonus phases out. The program provides for a pro-rata reduction in reimbursements to districts based on available funding. This category has not been funded since FY2014, as no new regional districts have been formed.
- **School Resource Officer Support:** Article 9 of the FY2019 Budget as Enacted established an aid category to support new Resource Officers at public middle and high schools. The program provides support for districts to add Resource Officers but does not mandate their use. For FY2019 through FY2021, the State will reimburse one half the cost of salaries and benefits for qualifying positions created after July 1, 2018; however, for schools with fewer than 1,200 students, only one resource officer position is eligible for reimbursement. Schools with 1,200 or more students may receive reimbursement for up to 2 positions. Each resource officer can only be assigned to one school. The Budget does not fund this category since the program expired in FY2021.

The following table shows the education aid including the formula distribution, categorical aid, and group home aid.

FY2024 Enacted Education Aid ¹

District	FY2023 Enacted (excludes group home and categoricals)	FY2024 Formula Change	Enrollment Transition Fund	Poverty Loss Stabilization Fund	Transportation	High-cost Special Education (>\$66,506)	Group Home Aid ²	English Learners	Stabilization Funding	FY2024 Aid
Barrington	\$8,549,881	\$1,797,118	\$45,320	\$0	\$290,714	\$405,196	\$0	\$13,017	\$0	\$11,101,246
Burrillville	14,202,416	(1,297,843)	386,447	395,365	19,210	411,319	-	7,706	-	14,124,620
Charlestown	1,341,690	5,989	25,162	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,372,841
Coventry	24,970,883	229,879	650,727	-	48,226	389,170	74,889	12,277	-	26,376,051
Cranston	70,899,984	940,336	543,446	-	634,759	737,192	-	666,535	-	74,422,252
Cumberland	22,111,359	1,928,623	-	-	35,542	207,096	-	76,547	-	24,359,167
East Greenwich	4,603,416	783,479	24,573	-	111,409	557,507	-	4,631	-	6,085,015
East Providence	37,474,787	(1,630,053)	-	1,757,349	3,004	966,004	458,072	157,395	-	39,186,557
Foster	1,114,963	12,374	29,639	-	-	65,389	-	-	-	1,222,365
Glocester	2,525,892	333,551	-	-	-	31,062	-	-	-	2,890,505
Hopkinton	5,826,031	437,694	77,232	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,340,957
Jamestown	303,378	16,183	15,051	-	-	460,064	-	242	-	794,918
Johnston	20,222,498	1,068,621	131,630	-	167,003	692,350	-	146,632	-	22,428,734
Lincoln	16,848,216	(153,442)	-	710,359	-	201,833	83,789	30,767	-	17,721,522
Little Compton	448,877	(169,405)	27,542	55,312	-	-	-	-	-	362,326
Middletown	8,437,018	(1,594,613)	248,440	612,178	-	128,939	-	65,292	-	7,897,254
Narragansett	2,263,400	(280,084)	134,008	40,367	-	97,906	-	539	-	2,256,135
Newport	15,485,382	(1,408,145)	741,630	-	-	62,651	76,500	254,091	-	15,212,110
New Shoreham	219,323	(124,619)	4,592	51,255	-	-	-	1,441	-	151,991
North Kingstown	11,488,078	(345,251)	240,723	348,269	-	162,479	-	27,062	-	11,921,360
North Providence	27,396,780	(42,536)	37,568	507,184	164,940	617,462	119,386	245,272	-	29,046,056
North Smithfield	6,430,600	913,088	75,132	-	27,523	152,557	-	7,735	-	7,606,634
Pawtucket	98,315,617	2,925,015	3,239,496	-	243,621	525,509	79,743	1,845,138	-	107,174,138
Portsmouth	3,182,031	(584,316)	110,168	233,090	-	375,692	275,950	1,073	-	3,593,688
Providence	273,476,554	(11,214,819)	8,103,721	-	502,097	1,955,903	138,359	9,904,518	-	282,866,332
Richmond	5,414,854	249,657	106,015	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,770,526
Scituate	2,447,265	963,515	102,902	-	72,134	130,952	-	829	-	3,717,597
Smithfield	7,203,808	1,499,671	-	-	62,344	77,840	73,562	9,649	-	8,926,874
South Kingstown	4,756,321	307,391	265,354	-	105,682	482,243	-	6,014	-	5,923,005
Tiverton	7,026,480	(1,556,770)	131,959	788,068	-	567,498	-	4,118	-	6,961,353
Warwick	40,874,590	1,910,184	1,084,283	-	26,207	1,669,039	248,975	85,192	-	45,898,470
Westerly	8,313,966	(466,235)	453,990	-	-	459,590	-	19,786	-	8,781,097
West Warwick	32,061,919	5,159,583	477,117	-	47,924	130,042	-	107,066	-	37,983,651
Woonsocket	72,118,992	7,882,781	1,157,678	-	31,673	585,561	-	1,096,065	-	82,872,750
Bristol-Warren ³	11,768,674	(727,882)	413,475	174,223	2,348,584	521,073	100,921	20,385	-	14,619,453
Exeter-West Greenwich ³	4,498,794	354,946	122,224	56,130	1,749,593	374,226	110,250	3,499	-	7,269,662
Chariho	-	-	-	-	2,999,749	178,347	-	6,704	-	3,184,800
Foster-Glocester ³	5,307,321	155,712	91,895	-	877,546	226,783	-	-	-	6,659,257
Central Falls	38,815,845	(1,179,971)	651,703	-	61,119	223,980	-	1,944,498	11,126,174	51,643,349
District Total	\$918,747,883	\$7,099,405	\$19,950,838	\$5,729,149	\$10,630,603	\$14,830,454	\$1,840,396	\$16,771,714	\$11,126,174	\$1,006,726,616
Charter School Total	137,747,584	16,140,975	-	-	-	169,545	-	2,550,466	-	156,608,570
Davies	8,930,775	1,015,057	-	-	-	-	-	19,116	5,775,461	15,740,409
Met School	8,708,054	(110,460)	-	-	-	-	-	72,040	2,013,334	10,682,968
Urban Collaborative	1,693,976	146,121	-	-	-	-	-	24,606	-	1,864,703
Youth Build Academy	1,727,458	165,085	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,892,543
Total	\$1,077,555,730	\$24,456,183	\$19,950,838	\$5,729,149	\$10,630,603	\$15,000,000	\$1,840,396	\$19,437,942	\$18,914,969	\$1,193,515,810

¹ Based on March 2023 enrollment updated for projected charter school growth.² Based on final 12/31/2022 report from the Department of Children, Youth and Families. In the FY2023 Revised Budget, a total of 7 beds were added relative to the enacted level, including 1 in East Providence.³ Calculations based on component district data as required by the Superior Court decision in Town of Warren v. Bristol Warren Regional School District, et. al.

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education

The following table shows the difference in education aid relative to the FY2023 Budget as Enacted.

FY2024 Enacted Education Aid - Change to FY2023 Budget as Enacted

Districts	FY2023 Enacted (includes group home and categoricals)	FY2024 Formula Change	Enrollment Transition Fund net FY2023 Density Aid	Poverty Loss Stabilization Fund	Transportation	High-cost Special Education (>\$66,506)	Group Home ¹	English Learners	Stabilization Funding	Total Change
Barrington	\$8,828,606	\$1,797,118	\$45,320	\$0	\$106,682	\$314,642	\$0	\$8,878	\$0	\$2,272,640
Burrillville	14,410,118	(1,297,843)	386,447	395,365	(18,575)	242,092	0	7,015	-	(285,498)
Charlestown	1,341,689	5,989	25,162	-	-	-	-	-	-	31,151
Coventry	25,098,897	229,879	650,727	-	26,449	366,329	(4,740)	8,509	-	1,277,153
Cranston	72,154,949	940,336	543,446	-	(174,439)	450,505	-	507,455	-	2,267,303
Cumberland	22,263,569	1,928,623	(6,000)	-	(81,233)	193,922	-	60,286	-	2,095,598
East Greenwich	4,841,875	783,479	24,573	-	(26,307)	458,527	-	2,868	-	1,243,139
East Providence	38,149,384	(1,630,053)	-	1,757,349	93	799,624	(5,257)	115,418	-	1,037,174
Foster	1,137,350	12,374	29,639	-	-	43,002	-	-	-	85,015
Glocester	2,551,793	333,551	-	-	-	5,161	-	-	-	338,712
Hopkinton	5,826,634	437,694	77,232	-	-	-	-	(603)	-	514,323
Jamestown	391,663	16,183	15,051	-	-	371,780	-	242	-	403,256
Johnston	20,720,127	1,068,621	131,630	-	(12,178)	409,647	-	110,888	-	1,708,608
Lincoln	17,055,188	(153,442)	(2,500)	710,359	-	90,980	(2,155)	23,091	-	666,333
Little Compton	448,878	(169,405)	27,542	55,312	-	-	-	-	-	(86,551)
Middleton	8,476,388	(1,594,613)	248,440	612,178	-	102,655	-	52,207	-	(579,134)
Narragansett	2,271,278	(280,084)	134,008	40,367	-	90,077	-	490	-	(15,143)
Newport	15,698,952	(1,408,145)	741,630	-	-	48,632	(57,208)	188,248	-	(486,843)
New Shoreham	240,792	(124,619)	4,592	51,255	-	(21,221)	-	1,193	-	(88,801)
North Kingstown	11,547,833	(345,251)	240,723	348,269	-	108,800	-	20,986	-	373,527
North Providence	28,223,849	(42,536)	23,068	507,184	(12,476)	165,398	(8,427)	189,998	-	822,208
North Smithfield	6,533,858	913,088	75,132	-	7,733	72,128	-	4,697	-	1,072,777
Pawtucket	99,145,207	2,925,015	3,219,996	0	27,344	498,656	(13,218)	1,371,139	-	8,028,931
Portsmouth	3,772,245	(584,316)	110,168	233,090	(17,886)	277,166	(197,623)	844	-	(178,558)
Providence	277,923,361	(11,214,819)	7,690,221	0	36,694	1,290,696	(79,304)	7,219,482	-	4,942,970
Richmond	5,415,636	249,657	106,015	-	-	-	-	(782)	-	354,890
Scituate	2,603,876	963,515	102,902	-	20,778	25,696	-	829	-	1,113,720
Smithfield	7,281,434	1,499,671	-	-	(1,431)	66,247	73,562	7,390	-	1,645,439
South Kingstown	5,140,323	307,391	265,354	-	(31,507)	358,591	(121,823)	4,676	-	782,683
Tiverton	7,236,769	(1,556,770)	131,959	788,068	-	357,936	-	3,391	-	(275,416)
Warwick	41,873,277	1,910,184	1,084,283	-	(5,461)	992,969	(22,257)	65,475	-	4,025,192
Westerly	8,379,537	(466,235)	453,990	-	-	399,094	-	14,711	-	401,560
West Warwick	32,123,086	5,159,583	477,117	-	11,327	130,042	-	82,497	-	5,860,566
Woonsocket	72,528,817	7,882,781	1,134,178	-	(5,410)	493,648	-	838,736	-	10,343,933
Bristol-Warren	14,008,318	(727,882)	413,475	174,223	314,896	427,563	(5,107)	13,968	-	611,135
Exeter-West Greenwich	6,213,654	354,946	122,224	56,130	328,442	194,367	(3,054)	2,953	-	1,056,008
Chariho	2,405,627	-	-	-	602,216	170,253	-	6,704	-	779,173
Foster-Glocester	5,961,182	155,712	91,895	-	272,025	178,806	-	(364)	-	698,074
Central Falls	49,633,418	(1,179,971)	610,703	-	(6,366)	173,236	-	1,431,647	980,680	2,009,930
District Total	\$949,859,438	\$7,099,405	\$19,430,338	\$5,729,149	\$1,361,409	\$10,347,646	(\$446,611)	\$12,365,161	\$980,680	\$56,867,178
Charter School Total	138,323,012	16,140,975	-	-	-	152,353	-	1,992,229	-	18,285,557
Davies	14,779,131	1,015,057	-	-	-	-	-	14,812	(68,591)	961,278
Met School	9,813,606	(110,460)	-	-	-	-	-	48,597	931,225	869,362
Urban Collaborative	1,701,440	146,121	-	-	-	-	-	17,143	-	163,264
Youth Build Academy	1,727,458	165,085	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	165,085
Total	\$1,116,204,084	\$24,456,183	\$19,430,338	\$5,729,149	\$1,361,409	\$10,500,000	(\$446,611)	\$14,437,943	\$1,843,314	\$77,311,724

¹ Based on final 1/3/2023 report from the Department of Children, Youth and Families.

² Based on March 2023 adjusted for 2023-24 PSOC.

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AID

In 1960, the school housing aid program was enacted by the General Assembly to guarantee adequate school facilities for all public-school children in the state, and to prevent the cost of constructing and repairing facilities from interfering with the effective operation of the schools. Applications for aid to support the construction and renovation of school buildings are submitted to and evaluated by the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE). State aid is provided for approved projects based on a percentage of cost. The percentage provided by the State to the school district is determined based on a share ratio designed to measure a community's need. For FY2024, the minimum state share is 35.0 percent and the maximum is 96.4 percent for Central Falls: the state share for charter schools is 30.0 percent.

The 2010 General Assembly passed legislation increasing the minimum share ratio for traditional school districts from 30.0 percent in FY2011 to 35.0 percent in FY2012 and to 40.0 percent in FY2013. The 2012 General Assembly froze the reimbursement rate at 35.0 percent, but provided that projects completed after June 30, 2010, that received approval from the Board of Regents by June 30, 2012, receive the 40.0 percent minimum.

The 2011 General Assembly enacted legislation that required RIDE to develop recommendations for cost containment strategies in the school housing aid program. The following recommendations were submitted on March 22, 2012:

- Establish capital reserve funds on the state and local level.
- Reduce the minimum share ratio.
- Limit costs associated with bonding by establishing a mechanism to allow districts with poor bond ratings to borrow at a lower interest rate, reduce the State's reimbursement rate on interest, and provide incentives for districts to refinance bonds.

Article 9 of the FY2019 Budget as Enacted provided temporary incentives to encourage districts to improve the condition of public-school buildings in Rhode Island, established a permanent incentive for school safety and security projects, and established school maintenance expenditure requirements.

While historically funded at \$80.0 million annually, for FY2024 based on current projections, the Budget provides \$104.2 million, an increase of \$15.6 million over the FY2023 Budget as Enacted. While the entire amount is expected to be used for housing aid entitlements, any surplus will be deposited into the School Building Authority Capital Fund. Based on May 2023 projections, housing aid entitlements are projected to increase to \$114.5 million in FY2025, \$130.6 million in FY2026, and \$145.9 million in FY2027.

School Building Authority Capital Fund: Article 9 of the FY2016 Budget as Enacted designated the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) as the State's School Building Authority (SBA) and charged the Department with implementing a system of state funding for school facilities, managing the school housing aid program, and developing a project priority system. The Authority oversees two distinct funding mechanisms for school facilities: the Foundation Program, as enumerated in RIGL 16-7-35 through 16-7-47, and the School Building Authority Capital Fund (Capital Fund), as created through the article. The FY2016 Budget added 1.0 FTE position to the Department for a new construction manager to assist in developing procedures for the proposed Capital Fund. In FY2016, the Department received a one-time, pass-through appropriation of \$20.0 million in new general revenue to capitalize the

Capital Fund, which is held in trust and administered by the Rhode Island Health and Education Building Corporation (RIHEBC).

The FY2019 Budget as Enacted required the SBA to provide technical assistance and guidance to school districts on the necessity of school construction application process; and provided that for FY2019 and FY2020 the amount transferred from the Foundation Program was to be used for this purpose. According to the SBA, each of the 38 LEA's that requested technical assistance in FY 2019 and FY 2020 were provided with an award for a total of \$3.7 million.

	Transfers to the Capital Fund		
	Foundation Program	Other General Revenue	Total
FY2016 Actual	\$0.0	\$20.0	\$20.0
FY2017 Actual	11.0	-	11.0
FY2018 Actual	10.9	-	10.9
FY2019 Actual	14.7	-	14.7
FY2020 Actual	1.0	-	1.0
FY2021 Actual	1.0	-	1.0
FY2022 Actual	9.0	-	9.0
FY2023 Projected	3.8	50.0	53.8
Total	\$51.4	\$70.0	\$79.5

Source: Budget databases. \$ in millions

In FY2022, the Budget as Enacted provided \$590,814 in general revenue from the surplus construction aid to the Capital Fund; however, the revised budget provided a total of \$9.0 million in surplus funds. The increase was due to construction delays, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and bond refinancing. Several communities refinanced to take advantage of the low interest rates, saving a total of \$8.5 million in total debt service payments that was shared between the municipalities and the State.

In FY2023, in addition to the \$250.0 million school building bond referendum in Article 5, the FY2023 Budget as Enacted provided \$50.0 million in general revenue to the School Building Authority to address high-priority projects including upgrades to lighting, heating, and ventilation systems to create facility equity among Rhode Island students.

School Construction Services (restricted receipts): Through Article 9, the FY2019 Budget as Enacted shifted the 3.0 FTE positions responsible for the administration of the school construction program from general revenue to a new school construction services restricted receipt account, and added 1.0 FTE Director of School Construction Services. The restricted receipt account, named "School Construction Services", is funded by the Rhode Island Health and Education Building Corporation (RIHEBC) from the School Building Authority Capital Fund, fees generated from the origination of municipal bonds and other financing vehicles used for school construction, and its own reserves. There is no limit on the amount or type of expenses that will be funded; however, Article 9 limited the fee that RIHEBC can impose on cities, towns and districts to one tenth of one percent (0.001) of the principal amount of the bond. The shortfall between the revenue and the transfer is funded from RIHEBC reserves. In addition to the transfers to the SBA, since 2006, RIHEBC has transferred \$14.3 million to the state general fund, including \$6.0 million in FY2018.

	School Construction Services		
	RIHEBC Bond Fee Revenue	Transferred to SBA	Difference
FY2019 Actual	\$681,447	(\$737,735)	(\$56,288)
FY2020 Actual	71,840	(770,946)	(699,106)
FY2021 Actual	303,180	(677,945)	(374,765)
FY2022 Actual	222,990	(257,613)	(34,623)
FY2023 Projected	85,000	(255,752)	(170,752)
Total	\$1,364,457	(\$2,699,991)	(\$1,335,534)

Source: RIHEBC July 14, 2023.

The FY2023 Revised Budget provides \$990,152 in total funding, including \$690,073 in general revenue and \$300,079 in restricted receipts from RIHBC. The increase from FY2022 to FY2023 was due to the addition of 2.0 new positions and increased contracted services cost to manage the increased volume of applications related to the bond initiative. In FY2024, the budget includes \$995,856 in total funding, including \$695,703 in general revenue and \$300,153 in restricted receipts from RIHBC.

Analyst Note: As of June 2023, RIHEBC is projecting bond fee revenue totaling \$85,000 in FY2023. The initial projection of \$335,845 assumed eight school districts would issue bonds during the fiscal year; however, only one district actually did, resulting in \$85,000 in revenue. Six deferred until FY2024 and the remaining \$100,000 reflects the Central Falls issuance which will not close until FY2024.

Facility Equity Initiative Pilot Program: At the January 11, 2022, meeting, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approved funding for the Facility Equity Initiative pilot program to provide pay-go funding for high priority projects in school districts with reimbursement rates over 65.0 percent, including Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick, and Woonsocket. This project would focus on high priority projects to improve the health and safety of students and promote equity across the State. The new Capital Fund will provide up-front funding instead of increasing the school construction allocation in the annual budget and reduce costs by eliminating interest payments on the funded projects.

The projects approved by the Council for FY2022 are supported with the \$9.0 million, from construction delays and bond refinancing, plus an additional \$3.0 million from prior year surpluses, and \$1.5 million in support from the Office of Energy Resources (OER) fund to the Facility Equity Initiative pilot program. The funding was distributed, in partnership with OER and the Division of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (DEDI). After evaluating 53 applications from 5 LEAs, the funds were awarded to 5 districts on a priority basis designed to have the greatest impact on facility gaps between districts.

**FY2022 SBA Capital Fund
Facility Equity Initiative
Pilot Program**

Central Falls	\$3.6
Pawtucket	4.4
Providence	4.5
West Warwick	0.5
Woonsocket	0.5
Total	\$13.4

While this program was only a pilot, with the approval of the \$250.0 million school construction bond in November 2022, Article 10 of the FY2023 Budget provided that \$50.0 million be transferred to the School Building Authority Capital Fund to address high-priority projects including upgrades to lighting, heating, and ventilation systems to create facility equity among Rhode Island students. The SBA expanded the pilot program to include the ten LEAs with a base reimbursement rate over 45.0 percent, thus doubling the number of eligible schools.

Of the \$50.0 million appropriated in FY2023, \$49.1 million was distributed as follows:

- \$26.0 million funded the Facility Equity Initiative, an additional \$4.0 million was contributed by the Office of Energy Resources.
- \$14.0 million (plus \$1.0 million from the career and technology school fund) was distributed through the 21st Century Technology and Equipment Funds to provide LEAs funds to ensure that learning spaces are equipped with technology, furniture, and equipment that support science technology, engineering, and math project-based learning.
- \$7.5 million was used for the Inside Out program to provide outdoor classrooms.
- \$1.6 million was awarded through the Menu for Success program providing students with the opportunity to design and operate food trucks.
- \$850,000 is being used toward the new W.E.L.L. Initiative to meet the holistic needs of student in the wake of the pandemic. Local education agencies will be eligible for up to \$150,000 depending on enrollment. LEAs will be provided with \$5,000 to conduct professional development to support the award. Additional funding for this initiative includes \$1.6 million in federal ESSER II funds and \$500,000 in Opioid Settlement funding.

**FY2023 SBA Capital Fund
Facility Equity Initiative
Program**

Burrillville	\$0.3
Central Falls	4.2
Coventry	3.2
Cranston	1.9
East Providence	2.2
North Providence	2.8
Pawtucket	2.8
Providence	9.3
West Warwick	0.6
Woonsocket	2.9
Total	\$30.2

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