

2024 -- S 2964

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$750,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR
PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION OVER THREE FISCAL YEARS

Introduced By: Senators Mack, Bissaillon, and Cano

Date Introduced: April 05, 2024

Referred To: Senate Finance

1 WHEREAS, There is an urgent need to diversify the teaching profession in Rhode Island
2 and nationally to address the large and growing gap between the percentage of students of color
3 and the percentage of teachers of color. Currently, fewer than five percent of teachers in Rhode
4 Island identify as people of color; and

5 WHEREAS, Teachers from a similar background as their students are uniquely
6 positioned to explain new material in a culturally relevant way. Although more teachers of color
7 are being recruited across the nation, the pace of increase is slow and attrition rates are high,
8 leaving growing gaps between the demand for such teachers and the supply; and

9 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island School for Progressive Education (RISPE) has the
10 express mission to recruit more teachers of color to RI's public schools as a means of correcting
11 centuries of injustice in the educational field. All the data shows that having teachers of color in
12 the classroom improves outcomes of all kinds, academic and otherwise, for all our children; and

13 WHEREAS, RISPE trains aspiring educators of color in high-quality teacher preparation
14 programming that is accessible, affordable, and designed specifically for the needs of Rhode
15 Island's public school children. RISPE will train a critical mass of educators who can contribute
16 to a school culture shift in Rhode Island's public schools for the benefit of all the children who
17 attend these schools; and

18 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island School for Progressive Education's highest aim is to
19 ensure a strong educational system for a strong democracy and is committed to building a

1 powerful educational workforce that reflects the strengths and diversity of our State's
2 communities; and

3 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island School for Progressive Education alone cannot create
4 opportunity for the many aspiring educators of color across our state without the financial
5 contributions that support their program; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not
7 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2024-2025, the sum of seven hundred fifty thousand
8 dollars (\$750,000), from which the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) shall be
9 appropriated to the RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner for the Rhode Island School for
10 Progressive Education during the 2024-2025 fiscal year, and two hundred fifty thousand dollars
11 (\$250,000) to be appropriated to the RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner for the Rhode
12 Island School for Progressive Education in the fiscal year 2025-2026, and an additional
13 appropriation of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) shall be appropriated to the RI
14 office of the Postsecondary Commissioner for the Rhode Island School for Progressive Education
15 in the fiscal year 2026-2027, for a total appropriation of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars
16 (\$750,000), to be disbursed over the three consecutive fiscal years. The state controller is hereby
17 authorized and directed to draw orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of said sum,
18 upon receipt of properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$750,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR
PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION OVER THREE FISCAL YEARS

- 1 This joint resolution would authorize the appropriation of the total sum of seven hundred
- 2 fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) to the Rhode Island School of Progressive Education, for a
- 3 period of three (3) fiscal years, to be distributed in three (3) equal installments.

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