

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026**

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**S E N A T E   R E S O L U T I O N**

**FORMALLY REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY  
EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT ALL PROVISIONS OF THE STATE FUNDING FORMULA  
FOR EDUCATION**

Introduced By: Senators Pearson, Mack, Acosta, Gallo, Tikoian, Lauria, Kallman, Euer,  
and Zurier

Date Introduced: March 04, 2026

Referred To: Senate Finance

1           WHEREAS, Pursuant to Article XII, Section 1 of the Constitution of the State of Rhode  
2 Island, it is the duty of the General Assembly to promote public schools, and adopt all means  
3 necessary and proper to secure the advantages and opportunities of education; and

4           WHEREAS, Pursuant to Article XII, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Rhode  
5 Island, the General Assembly is charged with making "all necessary provisions by law for  
6 carrying this article into effect" in order to promote public education; and

7           WHEREAS, Through statutory enactments, the General Assembly has established the  
8 state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Council on Elementary and  
9 Secondary Education, and the Board of Education, to implement statutory directives and  
10 mandates to oversee public education in Rhode Island at the Kindergarten through grade twelve  
11 (K-12) levels; and

12           WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes that the Department of Elementary and  
13 Secondary Education (hereinafter, the "Department") must address many challenges and execute  
14 many tasks and directives in furtherance of its educational mission; and

15           WHEREAS, The General Assembly has concern that there remains a significant gap  
16 between statutory directives within the funding formula and the implementation of those  
17 directives by the Department, which gap most impacts students with the greatest needs within our  
18 schools; and

19           WHEREAS, Some areas of the greatest concern are in the areas of and pertain to the

1 distribution of the permanent foundation education aid pursuant to §16-7.2-3;

2 WHEREAS, Areas that need to be addressed and implemented by the Department  
3 include, but are not limited to, multilingual learners funding based on actual costs and World  
4 Class Instructional Design and Assessment or WIDA assessment levels, more accurate measures  
5 of poverty indexes, and stronger communication to cities and towns regarding the amount and  
6 calculation of their local share and the district state-share ratio pursuant to §§ 16-7.2-3 and 16-  
7 7.2-4; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby respectfully requests  
9 the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to review the provisions of the State  
10 funding formula, and ensure that all aspects of education aid required by statute are being carried  
11 out to the full extent of the law; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
13 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the House, the Governor, the  
14 Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Chair of the Council on Elementary  
15 and Secondary Education, and the Chair of the Board of Education.

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