

2026 -- H 8263

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING MARCH OF 2026 AS “ARTS IN THE SCHOOLS MONTH” IN THE STATE
OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Fellela,
Diaz, Tanzi, Fogarty, Ajello, and Felix

Date Introduced: March 10, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The arts enhance and enrich the lives of every Rhode Islander; and

2 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island has clear evidence that the arts contribute
3 significantly to our quality of life, the education of our citizens and the economy of our state; and

4 WHEREAS, Arts learning fosters school attendance and participation, as well as
5 teamwork and collaboration, critical thinking, problem-solving, public speaking, cultural
6 competency, and resiliency, all essential skills that employers require in a 21st century economy;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, With new regulations and policies in place, arts education in our schools can
9 be quantified to present a full picture of arts education in the Ocean State; and

10 WHEREAS, The R.I. State Council on the Arts went through a public process to
11 overhaul the Project Grants in Education application and evaluation criteria to better deliver
12 support and services to arts educators and teaching artists; and

13 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Education has published an Arts
14 Curriculum Framework to support high-quality, standards-based arts instruction for all students;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Arts education in the schools provides substantial, unique educational
17 benefits to all elementary, middle and secondary students, helping students stay engaged in
18 school and graduate with proficiency ready to enter the R.I. workforce; and

19 WHEREAS, The National Art Education Association, the American Alliance for Theatre

1 and Education, the Educational Theatre Association, the National Association for Music
2 Education, and the National Dance Education Organization designate the month of March as
3 “Youth Arts Month”; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
5 celebrates March of 2026 as “Arts in the Schools Month” and urges all the citizens of the State to
6 join us in the observance of this month, and to recognize and applaud the efforts of arts educators,
7 artists, and administrators, who work diligently to ensure that all young people have access to the
8 arts in their school throughout the school year; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

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