



THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC EDUCATION, 2015: SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOL FUNDING

A RI-CAN REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

In 2010, the Rhode Island General Assembly created a new formula for disbursing state education aid to school districts. Under this student-centered funding formula, districts receive a basic per-pupil funding amount for each enrolled student and an additional 40 percent of that amount for each low-income student. Of the total designated funding amount for each district, the state covers a portion with state revenues and the district covers a portion with local revenues; higher-wealth districts are responsible for a greater share of their total funding than lower-wealth districts. The state also offers a limited amount of additional funding to districts to cover expenses such as extraordinary special education costs, career and technical education programs and early childhood programs.¹

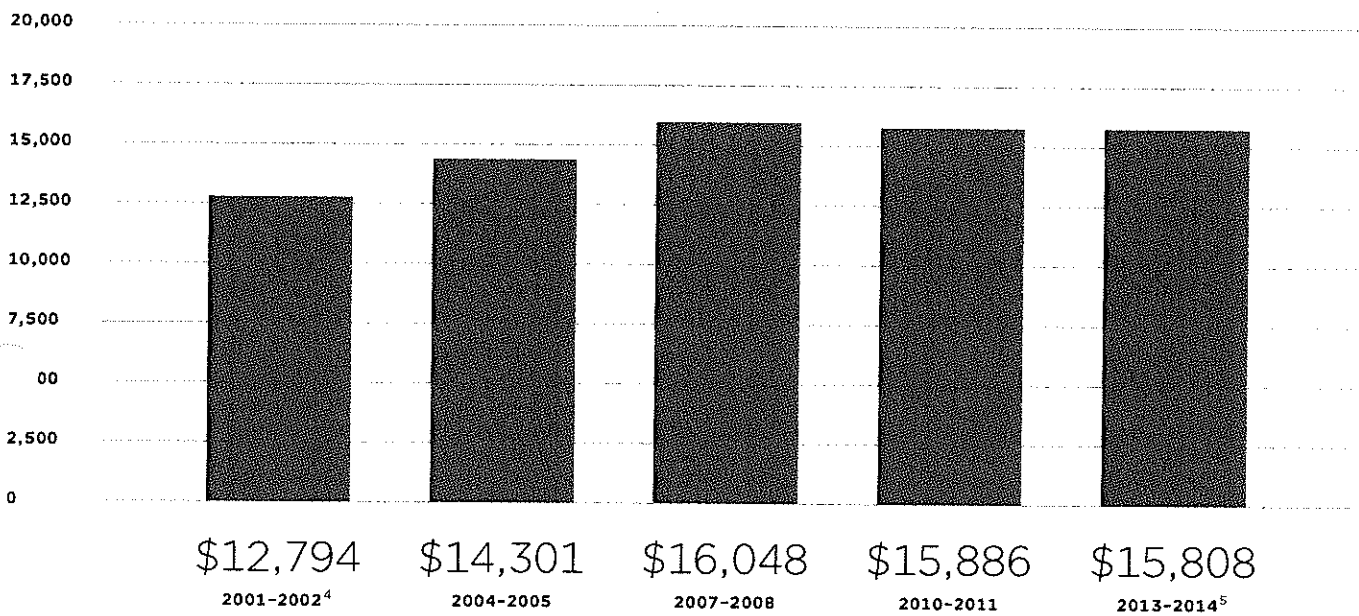
The funding formula will not be fully phased in until 2020. However, the Rhode Island House of Representatives recently revisited the formula through a special commission, which released its final report in May 2015.² In response, Governor Raimondo has created a working group of stakeholders from across the state to examine the report's findings and to determine if any adjustments are needed to the funding formula.

With the spotlight cast on school funding in Rhode Island, RI-CAN believes it is important that the public has access to the most recent data on school funding (from 2012–2013 and 2013–2014) all in one place. We hope these data will help inform parents, district officials, lawmakers and other interested community members as conversations around the funding formula unfold.

STATE-LEVEL DATA

Like many states, per-pupil expenditures in Rhode Island have been growing over time (in real dollars). This trend has abated since the economic downturn in 2008, however. Since that time, per-pupil expenditures have remained essentially flat.

CURRENT EXPENDITURES³ PER PUPIL FOR PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN RHODE ISLAND (CONSTANT 2013-2014 DOLLARS)



Notes:

2013-2014 data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), while data for years 2001-2002, 2004-2005, 2007-2008 and 2010-2011 are from the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE). It was necessary to use two data sources due to data limitations on the RIDE website and because only the USDOE presents data in constant 2013-2014 dollars (i.e., only the USDOE adjusts for inflation over time). As a result of using two data sources, there may be discrepancies between 2013-2014 and earlier years based on differences in data classification and data collection methodology.

1. Both RIDE data and USDOE data exclude capital outlays and debt service expenditures and include public charter school expenditures.
2. RIDE data excludes expenditures funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.
3. USDOE per-pupil expenditures are calculated using fall enrollment, while RIDE per-pupil expenditures are calculated using average daily membership (enrollment averaged over the course of the school year). Average daily membership is calculated by dividing the aggregate days of student membership (enrollment) by total school days.⁶

Rhode Island's per-pupil spending in 2011–2012 placed it above the national average and in the top ten states nationwide. Rhode Island has company in its regional peers; each of the six New England states place in the top 15 in per-pupil spending nationally. Other northeastern states such as New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania also top the national spending charts.

CURRENT EXPENDITURES PER PUPIL FOR PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, 2011–2012 (REPORTED IN 2013–2014 DOLLARS)⁷

STATES	CURRENT EXPENDITURES	STATES	CURRENT EXPENDITURES	STATES	CURRENT EXPENDITURES
1. NEW YORK	\$20,027	18. OHIO	\$11,691	34. KENTUCKY	\$9,630
2. NEW JERSEY	\$18,567	19. NORTH DAKOTA	\$11,611	35. GEORGIA	\$9,574
3. ALASKA	\$18,044	20. WISCONSIN	\$11,599	36. SOUTH CAROLINA	\$9,372
4. CONNECTICUT	\$17,403	21. MINNESOTA	\$11,131	37. NEW MEXICO	\$9,306
5. VERMONT	\$17,193	22. LOUISIANA	\$11,075	38. COLORADO	\$8,874
6. WYOMING	\$16,508	UNITED STATES	\$11,014	39. SOUTH DAKOTA	\$8,874
7. RHODE ISLAND	\$15,666	23. VIRGINIA	\$11,002	40. ALABAMA	\$8,856
8. MASSACHUSETTS	\$15,327	24. MONTANA	\$10,913	41. FLORIDA	\$8,797
9. MARYLAND	\$14,322	25. MICHIGAN	\$10,817	42. TENNESSEE	\$8,625
10. NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$14,222	26. IOWA	\$10,353	43. TEXAS	\$8,480
11. DELAWARE	\$14,022	27. KANSAS	\$10,347	44. NORTH CAROLINA	\$8,425
12. PENNSYLVANIA	\$13,517	28. WASHINGTON	\$9,930	45. NEVADA	\$8,394
13. MAINE	\$12,736	29. INDIANA	\$9,899	46. MISSISSIPPI	\$8,361
14. ILLINOIS	\$12,402	30. ARKANSAS	\$9,846	47. OKLAHOMA	\$8,015
15. HAWAII	\$12,362	31. MISSOURI	\$9,823	48. ARIZONA	\$7,622
16. NEBRASKA	\$12,018	32. OREGON	\$9,793	49. IDAHO	\$6,842
17. WEST VIRGINIA	\$11,955	33. CALIFORNIA	\$9,633	50. UTAH	\$6,650

Note: State disparities in current per-pupil expenditures may exist based on what states classify as current expenses (for example, states set different capitalization thresholds that determine which expenses qualify as capital outlays and which do not⁸).

STATE-LEVEL DATA

Several revenue streams support per-pupil spending. In 2011–2012, local funding generated the majority of Rhode Island’s education revenue. Only eight states saw a lower percentage of their education revenue generated at the state level than Rhode Island.

PERCENTAGE OF REVENUES FOR PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS BY SOURCE, 2011–2012 (REPORTED IN 2011–2012 DOLLARS)⁹

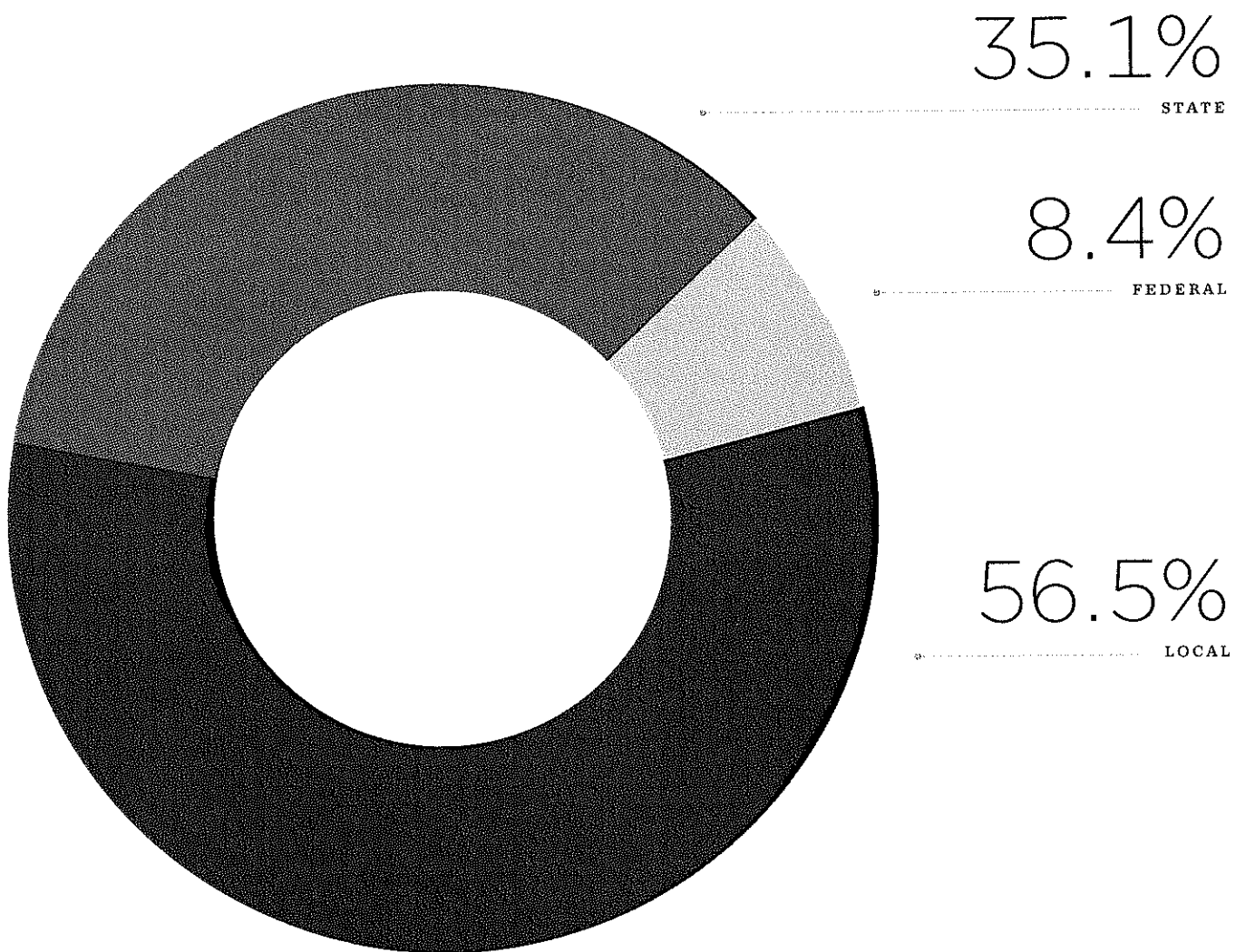
STATES	FEDERAL	STATE	LOCAL	STATES	FEDERAL	STATE	LOCAL	STATES	FEDERAL	STATE	LOCAL
1. VERMONT	8	88	4	18. ARKANSAS	13	52	35	34. TEXAS	13	41	46
2. HAWAII	13	85	2	19. WYOMING	9	51	40	35. ARIZONA	15	41	44
3. NEW MEXICO	15	68	17	20. NORTH DAKOTA	13	50	37	36. MAINE	9	40	51
4. ALASKA	14	65	21	21. MISSISSIPPI	18	49	33	37. NEW JERSEY	5	40	55
MINNESOTA	7	64	29	22. OREGON	10	49	41	38. NEW YORK	7	39	54
6. IDAHO	14	63	23	23. OKLAHOMA	14	49	37	39. MASSACHUSETTS	7	39	54
7. NORTH CAROLINA	14	60	26	24. MONTANA	14	48	39	40. CONNECTICUT	5	39	56
8. WASHINGTON	9	59	32	25. SOUTH CAROLINA	11	46	44	41. VIRGINIA	9	38	53
9. DELAWARE	13	59	29	26. TENNESSEE	14	45	41	42. RHODE ISLAND	10	37	53
10. WEST VIRGINIA	12	58	30	UNITED STATES	10	45	45	43. FLORIDA	13	36	51
11. MICHIGAN	11	57	32	27. IOWA	9	44	47	44. NEW HAMPSHIRE	7	36	57
12. CALIFORNIA	13	56	31	28. OHIO	10	44	46	45. PENNSYLVANIA	8	36	56
13. ALABAMA	12	55	33	29. WISCONSIN	9	44	47	46. NEVADA	10	33	57
14. KANSAS	8	55	36	30. MARYLAND	6	44	50	47. ILLINOIS	8	32	60
15. INDIANA	10	55	36	31. COLORADO	8	43	48	48. MISSOURI	10	32	58
16. KENTUCKY	14	54	32	32. LOUISIANA	17	43	40	49. NEBRASKA	10	31	60
17. UTAH	10	52	38	33. GEORGIA	11	43	46	50. SOUTH DAKOTA	17	31	53

Note: Data have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Therefore, percentages may not add to 100.

STATE-LEVEL DATA

Although more recent national data are not yet available from the U.S. Department of Education, we can look to more recent state data from the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) to see if the percentage of revenues coming from federal, state and local sources has changed significantly since 2011–2012. The table below shows that, according to RIDE, the majority of Rhode Island’s education revenue still derived from local sources in 2013–2014.

PERCENTAGE OF REVENUES FOR PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS BY SOURCE, RHODE ISLAND, 2013–2014 (REPORTED IN 2013–2014 DOLLARS)¹⁰



DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

Before digging into district funding, it is important to examine differences in student demographics. Rhode Island's funding formula provides additional funding for low-income students (those who are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch [FRL]), and it requires districts with more revenue-generating capacity and lower concentrations of low-income students to contribute more local revenue. The formula does not provide additional weighted funding for English-language learners or special education students, but the core instruction amount provided for in the formula funds the basic education program, which includes funding for English-language learners and special education students. The state also provides additional categorical funding to districts for extraordinary special education costs.

LEA DEMOGRAPHICS, 2013-2014¹¹

	ELIGIBLE FOR SUBSIDIZED LUNCH (FRL)	RECEIVING ESL/BILINGUAL EDUCATION SERVICES	RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES
STATEWIDE	47%	6%	15%
TRADITIONAL DISTRICTS			
BARRINGTON	6%	1%	11%
BRISTOL-WARREN	36%	3%	12%
BURRILLVILLE	35%	<1%	15%
CENTRAL FALLS	81%	17%	20%
CHARIHO	26%	<1%	12%
COVENTRY	29%	<1%	13%
CRANSTON	38%	5%	13%
CUMBERLAND	25%	2%	16%
EAST GREENWICH	7%	<1%	11%
EAST PROVIDENCE	52%	4%	17%
EXETER-WEST GREENWICH	15%	1%	12%
FOSTER	17%	0%	11%
FOSTER-GLOUCESTER	18%	0%	9%

DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

	ELIGIBLE FOR SUBSIDIZED LUNCH (FRL)	RECEIVING ESL/BILINGUAL EDUCATION SERVICES	RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES
GLOCESTER	18%	0%	11%
JAMESTOWN	10%	1%	13%
JOHNSTON	45%	2%	22%
LINCOLN	27%	1%	14%
LITTLE COMPTON	15%	0%	12%
MIDDLETOWN	29%	3%	16%
NARRAGANSETT	21%	<1%	18%
NEW SHOREHAM	11%	3%	18%
NEWPORT	63%	4%	18%
NORTH KINGSTOWN	20%	1%	11%
NORTH PROVIDENCE	46%	2%	18%
NORTH SMITHFIELD	16%	<1%	14%
PAWTUCKET	78%	11%	14%
PORTSMOUTH	15%	<1%	15
PROVIDENCE	80%	20%	16%
SCITUATE	17%	0%	10%
SMITHFIELD	16%	1%	10%
SOUTH KINGSTOWN	19%	<1%	12%
TIVERTON	27%	<1%	18%
WARWICK	34%	1%	18%
WEST WARWICK	52%	2%	17%
WESTERLY	36%	2%	16%
WOONSOCKET	75%	8%	21%
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS			
ACADEMY FOR CAREER EXPLORATION	78%	2%	14%
ACHIEVEMENT FIRST PROVIDENCE	86%	3%	7%
BEACON	46%	0%	16%
BLACKSTONE ACADEMY	83%	2%	17%
BLACKSTONE VALLEY PREP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 1	61%	9%	9%
BLACKSTONE VALLEY PREP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2	64%	20%	7%

DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

	ELIGIBLE FOR SUBSIDIZED LUNCH (FRL)	RECEIVING ESL/BILINGUAL EDUCATION SERVICES	RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES
BLACKSTONE VALLEY PREP MIDDLE SCHOOL	62%	15%	12%
COMPASS SCHOOL	6%	0%	18%
HIGHLANDER	78%	13%	11%
INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL	60%	38%	8%
KINGSTON HILL	21%	0%	14%
LEARNING COMMUNITY	87%	31%	14%
NEW ENGLAND LABORERS	44%	0%	31%
PAUL CUFFEE	68%	5%	19%
RI NURSES MIDDLE LEVEL COLLEGE	87%	<1%	6%
SEGUE INSTITUTE	93%	15%	16%
SKIP NOWELL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY I	62%	14%	12%
SKIP NOWELL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY II	32%	12%	17%
THE GREENE SCHOOL	25%	0%	15%
MES 2 ACADEMY	75%	8%	7%
TRINITY ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS	88%	1%	7%
VILLAGE GREEN VIRTUAL SCHOOL	89%	2%	5%
STATE OPERATED & OTHER SCHOOLS			
DAVIES CAREER & TECH	65%	2%	11%
MET CAREER & TECH	71%	<1%	16%
RI SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF	64%	0%	95%
UCAP	90%	0%	4%

DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

Despite the majority of Rhode Island education revenues originating from local sources, in many cases, the funding formula is working as intended by providing extra state support to low-income districts. For example, state dollars comprise the majority of revenues in low-income districts such as Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence and Woonsocket.

The table below also shows that almost all state revenues are unrestricted. This is by design. The new system of state education aid includes only a limited number of categorical (restricted) state funding programs and instead provides most education aid through flexible per-pupil dollars that follow students.

PERCENTAGE OF LEA REVENUE BY SOURCE, 2013-2014¹²

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	APPROPRIATIONS*	DONATIONS	OTHER*
	FEDERAL		STATE			LOCAL	
STATEWIDE	1.4%	7.1%	34.3%	0.8%	52.9%	0.4%	3.2%
TRADITIONAL DISTRICTS							
BARRINGTON	0.8%	2.6%	8.3%	0.1%	86.9%	0.0%	1.3%
BRISTOL-WARREN	0.8%	5.0%	29.6%	3.3%	58.6%	0.2%	2.5%
BURRILLVILLE	1.0%	6.4%	40.1%	0.3%	49.1%	0.0%	2.9%
CENTRAL FALLS	1.0%	17.6%	79.6%	0.7%	0.0%	0.1%	1.0%
CHARIHO	0.7%	3.3%	22.1%	1.2%	66.2%	0.2%	6.3%
COVENTRY	1.0%	4.6%	29.3%	0.7%	61.5%	0.1%	2.8%
CRANSTON	1.1%	6.2%	28.9%	0.5%	61.6%	0.2%	1.6%
CUMBERLAND	0.8%	5.3%	24.9%	0.4%	65.8%	0.0%	2.8%
EAST GREENWICH	0.8%	2.5%	6.4%	0.0%	88.4%	0.0%	1.9%
EAST PROVIDENCE	2.2%	5.8%	35.0%	0.5%	52.8%	0.2%	3.5%
EXETER-WEST GREENWICH	0.8%	3.1%	20.0%	2.3%	71.6%	0.0%	2.2%

DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	APPROPRIATIONS*	DONATIONS	OTHER*
	FEDERAL		STATE		LOCAL		
FOSTER	1.5%	5.1%	25.7%	0.0%	66.7%	0.1%	1.0%
FOSTER-GLOCESTER	0.4%	2.9%	20.6%	14.0%	57.2%	0.1%	4.8%
GLOCESTER	1.1%	4.6%	27.5%	0.6%	65.1%	0.0%	1.0%
JAMESTOWN	1.3%	3.4%	3.0%	0.5%	90.4%	0.1%	1.4%
JOHNSTON	1.6%	4.5%	22.3%	0.4%	70.2%	0.1%	1.1%
LINCOLN	1.8%	3.8%	17.2%	0.2%	75.8%	0.0%	1.3%
LITTLE COMPTON	0.2%	3.3%	5.2%	0.7%	90.4%	0.0%	0.2%
MIDDLETOWN	3.6%	3.6%	24.4%	0.1%	65.7%	0.4%	2.2%
NARRAGANSETT	1.0%	3.2%	6.3%	1.5%	85.0%	0.8%	2.2%
NEW SHOREHAM	1.2%	1.9%	1.7%	0.0%	94.2%	0.1%	0.8%
NEWPORT	2.9%	7.5%	27.3%	0.7%	58.7%	0.8%	2.1%
NORTH KINGSTOWN	0.8%	3.6%	17.0%	0.9%	72.2%	0.2%	5.2%
NORTH PROVIDENCE	1.7%	5.4%	29.0%	1.1%	61.8%	0.2%	0.8%
NORTH SMITHFIELD	1.0%	3.5%	21.3%	0.2%	72.3%	0.0%	1.7%
PAWTUCKET	1.1%	12.7%	59.6%	0.7%	25.1%	0.0%	0.7%
PORTSMOUTH	1.2%	2.9%	13.0%	0.0%	76.7%	1.7%	4.5%
PROVIDENCE	1.8%	13.4%	52.4%	0.2%	31.8%	0.1%	0.4%
SCITUATE	0.7%	4.0%	15.9%	0.0%	77.9%	0.0%	1.5%
SMITHFIELD	0.6%	3.4%	14.2%	0.9%	79.5%	0.3%	1.2%
SOUTH KINGSTOWN	0.9%	3.0%	13.2%	0.7%	80.9%	0.0%	1.3%
TIVERTON	1.3%	3.5%	18.8%	0.5%	74.8%	0.0%	1.1%
WARWICK	1.1%	4.3%	20.4%	0.6%	71.4%	0.2%	2.1%
WEST WARWICK	0.8%	6.0%	36.5%	0.1%	55.2%	0.3%	1.1%
WESTERLY	1.9%	3.9%	12.6%	0.3%	79.8%	0.2%	1.3%
WOONSOCKET	1.7%	13.2%	62.2%	0.7%	20.9%	0.0%	1.3%
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS							
ACADEMY FOR CAREER EXPLORATION	4.4%	3.4%	72.0%	0.1%	0.0%	1.7%	18.3%

DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	APPROPRIATIONS*	DONATIONS	OTHER*
	FEDERAL		STATE		LOCAL		
ACHIEVEMENT FIRST PROVIDENCE	0.0%	4.7%	30.4%	0.0%	0.0%	51.5%	13.5%
BEACON	5.5%	6.2%	51.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	35.8%
BLACKSTONE ACADEMY	5.4%	9.3%	63.2%	0.8%	0.0%	4.8%	16.5%
BLACKSTONE VALLEY PREP	2.2%	4.6%	53.9%	0.4%	0.0%	7.3%	31.7%
COMPASS SCHOOL	0.3%	2.6%	21.5%	1.6%	0.0%	0.9%	73.1%
HIGHLANDER	4.8%	6.7%	53.5%	4.3%	0.0%	4.3%	26.4%
INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL	0.8%	10.5%	57.0%	1.3%	0.0%	2.0%	28.3%
KINGSTON HILL	2.1%	5.7%	21.7%	2.1%	0.0%	0.4%	68.0%
LEARNING COMMUNITY	4.1%	7.6%	63.9%	1.9%	0.0%	4.5%	18.0%
NEW ENGLAND LABORERS	0.0%	0.0%	49.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	50.5%
PAUL CUFFEE	0.5%	7.7%	63.6%	1.1%	0.0%	1.2%	25.9%
RI NURSES MIDDLE LEVEL COLLEGE	3.3%	4.5%	59.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	31.7%
SEGUE INSTITUTE	7.1%	7.5%	70.8%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	13.5%
SKIP NOWELL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY	0.0%	14.8%	63.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	22.1%
THE GREENE SCHOOL	1.0%	6.2%	36.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	55.1%
TIMES 2 ACADEMY	0.0%	0.0%	67.2%	8.4%	0.0%	0.0%	24.3%
TRINITY ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS	8.1%	7.0%	61.6%	0.1%	0.0%	1.2%	22.1%
VILLAGE GREEN VIRTUAL SCHOOL	3.8%	26.8%	47.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	22.3%
STATE OPERATED & OTHER SCHOOLS							
DAVIES CAREER & TECH	0.0%	6.9%	78.0%	2.4%	0.0%	0.1%	12.6%
MET CAREER & TECH	0.1%	3.8%	75.9%	1.4%	0.0%	1.6%	17.2%
RI SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF	1.7%	3.2%	89.5%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	4.9%
UCAP	7.1%	8.5%	11.5%	0.0%	0.0%	3.8%	69.1%

Note: *Local appropriations are sent to public charter schools and state operated schools in the form of “tuition” dollars from sending districts. RIDE places these “tuition” dollars in the “other” local revenue category for reporting purposes, but these dollars originate from local appropriations.

DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

The data also show that there are significant per-pupil revenue disparities between districts. Districts with high proportions of low-income students (for example, Pawtucket and Woonsocket) often bring in lower revenues than the state average, despite the fact that the new funding formula provides additional dollars for low-income students. These disparities also affect certain public charter schools; for example, Blackstone Valley Prep (a Mayoral Academy) receives well below the state average in revenues despite more than three in five students being eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. Still, other low-income districts are receiving substantial revenues that are, in some cases, higher than revenues in higher-income districts. As the funding formula continues to phase in, low-income districts should see higher levels of state education aid, a feature designed to level the playing field with higher-income districts.

LEA REVENUE PER PUPIL, 2013-2014 (INCLUDES ALL FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL REVENUE, INCLUDING DONATIONS)¹³

	REVENUE PER PUPIL	PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR SUBSIDIZED LUNCH
STATEWIDE	\$16,444	47%
TRADITIONAL DISTRICTS		
BARRINGTON	\$14,718	6%
BRISTOL-WARREN	\$16,951	36%
BURRILLVILLE	\$13,670	35%
CENTRAL FALLS	\$17,926	81%
CHARIHO	\$18,071	26%
COVENTRY	\$14,541	29%
CRANSTON	\$14,940	38%
CUMBERLAND	\$13,093	25%
EAST GREENWICH	\$15,231	7%
EAST PROVIDENCE	\$15,218	52%
EXETER-WEST GREENWICH	\$20,747	15%
ROOSTER	\$16,442	17%

DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

	REVENUE PER PUPIL	PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ELIGIB FOR SUBSIDIZED LUN
FOSTER-GLOCESTER	\$21,197	18%
GLOCESTER	\$19,596	18%
JAMESTOWN	\$24,914	10%
JOHNSTON	\$17,695	45%
LINCOLN	\$16,914	27%
LITTLE COMPTON	\$27,249	15%
MIDDLETOWN	\$16,483	29%
NARRAGANSETT	\$20,963	21%
NEW SHOREHAM	\$40,743	11%
NEWPORT	\$19,607	63%
NORTH KINGSTOWN	\$16,057	20%
NORTH PROVIDENCE	\$14,927	46%
NORTH SMITHFIELD	\$14,622	16%
PAWTUCKET	\$13,696	78%
PORTSMOUTH	\$15,007	15%
PROVIDENCE	\$17,106	80%
SCITUATE	\$16,581	17%
SMITHFIELD	\$14,890	16%
SOUTH KINGSTOWN	\$18,417	19%
TIVERTON	\$17,094	27%
WARWICK	\$19,049	34%
WEST WARWICK	\$16,574	52%
WESTERLY	\$18,915	36%
WOONSOCKET	\$13,702	75%
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS		
ACADEMY FOR CAREER EXPLORATION	\$18,171	78%
ACHIEVEMENT FIRST PROVIDENCE	* \$32,065	86%

Note: *Achievement First Providence opened its first school in 2013–2014. Approximately half of its per-pupil revenues for 2013–2014 came from contributions and donations from private sources necessary to cover the start-up costs of opening the school. Per-pupil revenues are not anticipated to be as high in subsequent years.

DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

	REVENUE PER PUPIL	PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR SUBSIDIZED LUNCH
BEACON	\$14,371	46%
BLACKSTONE ACADEMY	\$15,359	83%
BLACKSTONE VALLEY PREP	\$14,731	(depending on school) 61-64%
COMPASS SCHOOL	\$16,074	6%
HIGHLANDER	\$17,686	78%
INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL	\$15,510	60%
KINGSTON HILL	\$16,418	21%
LEARNING COMMUNITY	\$17,225	87%
NEW ENGLAND LABORERS	\$12,467	44%
PAUL CUFFEE	\$16,199	68%
RI NURSES MIDDLE LEVEL COLLEGE	\$16,953	87%
SEGUE INSTITUTE	\$16,593	93%
SKIP NOWELL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY	\$16,070	(depending on school) 32-62%
THE GREENE SCHOOL	\$15,328	25%
WESLEYAN ACADEMY	\$16,139	75%
TRINITY ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS	\$17,736	88%
VILLAGE GREEN VIRTUAL SCHOOL	\$19,432	89%
STATE OPERATED & OTHER SCHOOLS		
DAVIES CAREER & TECH	\$19,782	65%
MET CAREER & TECH	\$17,727	71%
RI SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF	\$103,730	64%
UCAP	\$18,677	90%

DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

STATE AND LOCAL REVENUES PER PUPIL, 2012-2013¹⁴

RHODE ISLAND DISTRICT POVERTY LEVEL	REVENUES PER PUPIL
HIGHEST POVERTY	\$14,518
2ND QUARTILE	\$13,554
3RD QUARTILE	\$15,137
LOWEST POVERTY	\$14,865

As we might expect, per-pupil expenditures tend to closely track per-pupil revenues.

LEA CURRENT EXPENDITURES PER PUPIL, 2013-2014¹⁵
(EXCLUDES CAPITAL OUTLAYS AND DEBT SERVICE¹⁶)

	CURRENT EXPENDITURES PER PUPIL
STATEWIDE	\$15,808
TRADITIONAL DISTRICTS	
BARRINGTON	\$14,386
BRISTOL-WARREN	\$15,670
BURRILLVILLE	\$13,611
CENTRAL FALLS	\$17,259
CHARIHO	\$16,531
COVENTRY	\$14,081
CRANSTON	\$14,498
CUMBERLAND	\$12,796
EAST GREENWICH	\$14,955
EAST PROVIDENCE	\$14,383
EXETER-WEST GREENWICH	\$19,670
FOSTER	\$14,773
FOSTER-GLOUCESTER	\$16,403
GLOUCESTER	\$17,358

DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

CURRENT EXPENDITURES PER PUPIL

JAMESTOWN	\$24,196
JOHNSTON	\$17,185
LINCOLN	\$16,993
LITTLE COMPTON	\$28,768
MIDDLETOWN	\$16,300
NARRAGANSETT	\$19,586
NEW SHOREHAM	\$39,328
NEWPORT	\$19,725
NORTH KINGSTOWN	\$15,421
NORTH PROVIDENCE	\$14,687
NORTH SMITHFIELD	\$14,277
PAWTUCKET	\$13,497
PORTSMOUTH	\$14,664
PROVIDENCE	\$16,736
RHODE ISLAND STATE COLLEGE	\$15,497
SMITHFIELD	\$14,979
SOUTH KINGSTOWN	\$17,819
TIVERTON	\$16,372
WARWICK	\$17,944
WEST WARWICK	\$15,405
WESTERLY	\$18,805
WOONSOCKET	\$12,948
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS	
ACADEMY FOR CAREER EXPLORATION	\$18,675
ACHIEVEMENT FIRST PROVIDENCE	\$20,185
BEACON	\$12,947
BLACKSTONE ACADEMY	\$13,831
BLACKSTONE VALLEY PREP	\$12,665
COMPASS SCHOOL	\$14,842
HIGHLANDER	\$15,977
INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL	\$13,521

DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

	CURRENT EXPENDITURES PER PUPIL
KINGSTON HILL	\$15,193
LEARNING COMMUNITY	\$15,260
NEW ENGLAND LABORERS	\$16,238
PAUL CUFFEE	\$14,846
RI NURSES MIDDLE LEVEL COLLEGE	\$13,171
SEGUE INSTITUTE	\$15,408
SKIP NOWELL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY	\$12,386
THE GREENE SCHOOL	\$14,269
TIMES 2 ACADEMY	\$12,914
TRINITY ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS	\$17,840
VILLAGE GREEN VIRTUAL SCHOOL	\$14,190
STATE OPERATED & OTHER SCHOOLS	
DAVIES CAREER & TECH	\$19,902
MET CAREER & TECH	\$17,713
RI SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF	\$102,915
UCAP	\$17,816

DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

The table below shows the amount that local education agencies spent on each special education student, on average, in 2012–2013. The figures illustrate that districts spend significantly more per pupil on special education students than on students overall. The numbers also show that per-pupil special education spending varies significantly between local education agencies.

LEA SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENDITURES PER PUPIL, 2012–2013¹⁷

	TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENDITURES (EXCLUDING CAPITAL OUTLAYS AND DEBT SERVICE)	ADJUSTED PER PUPIL SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENDITURES BASED ON FTES
STATEWIDE	\$486,701,691	\$62,137
TRADITIONAL DISTRICTS		
BARRINGTON	\$10,656,446	\$72,027
BOSTON	\$10,045,262	\$52,897
BURRILLVILLE	\$7,409,805	\$54,831
CENTRAL FALLS	\$12,912,110	\$34,137
CHARIHO	\$9,901,286	\$50,882
COVENTRY	\$14,340,358	\$47,861
CRANSTON	\$36,318,693	\$55,362
CUMBERLAND	\$10,714,777	\$42,842
EAST GREENWICH	\$8,291,097	\$93,986
EAST PROVIDENCE	\$24,177,420	\$55,869
EXETER-WEST GREENWICH	\$7,860,767	\$78,592
FOSTER	\$885,011	\$83,300
FOSTER-GLOCESTER	\$2,251,220	\$49,985
GLOCESTER	\$1,665,948	\$58,392
JAMESTOWN	\$2,680,730	\$68,785
JOHNSTON	\$14,638,086	\$44,142
LINCOLN	\$12,911,626	\$70,693
LITTLE COMPTON	\$975,122	\$59,332

DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

	TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENDITURES (EXCLUDING CAPITAL OUTLAYS AND DEBT SERVICE)	ADJUSTED PER PUP. SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENDITURES BASED ON FTES
MIDDLETOWN	\$8,257,752	\$63,174
NARRAGANSETT	\$6,068,842	\$81,763
NEW SHOREHAM	\$916,060	\$93,963
NEWPORT	\$7,594,281	\$46,930
NORTH KINGSTOWN	\$11,515,760	\$54,848
NORTH PROVIDENCE	\$14,308,415	\$48,329
NORTH SMITHFIELD	\$5,690,431	\$51,295
PAWTUCKET	\$27,845,961	\$38,995
PORTSMOUTH	\$8,896,739	\$67,367
PROVIDENCE	\$81,367,638	\$32,230
SCITUATE	\$3,032,096	\$48,246
SMITHFIELD	\$7,730,998	\$65,585
SOUTH KINGSTOWN	\$13,619,522	\$85,039
TIVERTON	\$7,628,747	\$54,97
WEST WARWICK	\$12,593,964	\$29,614
WARWICK	\$34,853,699	\$46,311
WESTERLY	\$11,742,885	\$54,478
WOONSOCKET	\$20,043,707	\$25,636
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS		
ACADEMY FOR CAREER EXPLORATION	\$415,199	\$67,501
BEACON CHARTER	\$217,828	\$34,862
BLACKSTONE ACADEMY	\$289,256	\$38,754
BLACKSTONE VALLEY PREP	\$1,013,653	\$57,907
COMPASS	\$275,482	\$88,180
HIGHLANDER	\$595,317	\$89,204
INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL	\$304,083	\$119,689
KINGSTON HILL	\$315,436	\$128,460
LEARNING COMMUNITY	\$956,350	\$72,177
NEW ENGLAND LABORERS	\$115,114	\$20,367
PAUL CUFFEE	\$1,029,201	\$41,442

DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

	TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENDITURES (EXCLUDING CAPITAL OUTLAYS AND DEBT SERVICE)	ADJUSTED PER PUPIL SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENDITURES BASED ON FTES
RI NURSES MIDDLE LEVEL COLLEGE	\$152,249	\$125,245
SEGUE INSTITUTE	\$334,221	\$19,240
THE GREENE SCHOOL	\$162,855	\$26,741
TIMES 2 ACADEMY	\$290,168	\$65,219
TRINITY ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS	\$115,782	\$73,267
STATE OPERATED & OTHER SCHOOLS		
DAVIES CAREER & TECH	\$1,822,620	\$112,227
MET CAREER & TECH	\$1,090,415	\$114,708
RI SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF	\$4,860,402	\$59,677

DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

Just as there is variation in per-pupil special education expenditures, there is also substantial variation in the percentage of local education agency budgets dedicated to special education expenses. In general, traditional school districts spend a larger portion of their budgets on special education compared to public charter schools.

This table also shows that the percentage of expenses dedicated to special education does not always correlate with the percentage of students receiving special education services. For example, the first two districts listed below—Barrington and Bristol-Warren—spend 23 percent and 20 percent of their budgets on special education, while special education students comprise 11 percent and 12 percent of their respective student populations. The first two public charter schools listed below—Academy for Career Exploration and Achievement First Providence—spend roughly 9 and 8 percent of their budgets on special education, while special education students comprise 14 percent and 7 percent of their respective student populations.

LEA EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM
(EXCLUDING CAPITAL OUTLAYS AND DEBT SERVICE), 2013-2014¹⁸

	REGULAR ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY EDUCATION	SPECIAL EDUCATION	CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION	BILINGUAL/ESL EDUCATION	NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROGRAMS	ALL OTHER PROGRAMS	% OF STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES	% OF STUDENTS RECEIVING ESL/ BILINGUAL EDUCATION SERVICES
TRADITIONAL DISTRICTS								
BARRINGTON	71.8%	23.2%	0.2%	0.5%	0.6%	3.7%	11%	1%
BRISTOL-WARREN	69.6%	19.7%	0.3%	0.8%	0.9%	8.7%	12%	3%
BURRILLVILLE	73.4%	23.5%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%	2.4%	15%	<1%

DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

	REGULAR ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY EDUCATION	SPECIAL EDUCATION	CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION	BILINGUAL/ESL EDUCATION	NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROGRAMS	ALL OTHER PROGRAMS	% OF STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES	% OF STUDENTS RECEIVING ESL/ BILINGUAL EDUCATION SERVICES
CENTRAL FALLS	59.8%	28.1%	0.9%	8.2%	0.3%	2.8%	20%	17%
CHARIHO	74.9%	17.6%	4.5%	0.3%	1.0%	1.7%	12%	<1%
COVENTRY	71.5%	22.4%	3.2%	0.3%	0.6%	2.1%	13%	<1%
CRANSTON	66.8%	25.7%	1.9%	2.2%	0.5%	2.9%	13%	5%
CUMBERLAND	71.3%	20.5%	0.4%	1.1%	3.9%	2.8%	16%	2%
EAST GREENWICH	71.9%	24.9%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	2.2%	11%	<1%
EAST PROVIDENCE	63.5%	29.9%	2.6%	1.1%	0.7%	2.2%	17%	4%
FETER-WEST GREENWICH	69.7%	22.0%	2.5%	0.5%	0.5%	4.9%	12%	1%
FOSTER	77.2%	19.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	3.5%	11%	0%
FOSTER-GLOCESTER	82.8%	12.9%	0.1%	0.0%	0.3%	3.9%	9%	0%
GLOCESTER	79.3%	19.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%	11%	0%
JAMESTOWN	72.5%	22.7%	0.7%	0.4%	0.0%	3.6%	13%	1%
JOHNSTON	63.2%	29.1%	1.0%	1.2%	1.5%	4.1%	22%	2%
LINCOLN	72.4%	24.6%	0.0%	0.4%	0.5%	2.1%	14%	1%
LITTLE COMPTON	86.6%	11.8%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	12%	0%
MIDDLETOWN	71.7%	23.4%	0.8%	0.2%	0.0%	3.8%	16%	3%
NARRAGANSETT	74.9%	21.5%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%	2.8%	18%	<1%
NEW SHOREHAM	71.0%	22.7%	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%	4.6%	18%	3%
NEWPORT	64.1%	19.5%	3.3%	1.1%	0.3%	11.7%	18%	4%
NORTH KINGSTOWN	75.2%	21.2%	1.1%	0.6%	0.2%	1.7%	11%	1%
NORTH PROVIDENCE	65.5%	28.7%	1.0%	0.7%	0.9%	3.3%	18%	2%
NORTH SMITHFIELD	73.5%	23.9%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	2.1%	14%	<1%
PAWTUCKET	65.1%	23.7%	1.5%	4.6%	0.4%	4.7%	14%	11%
PORTSMOUTH	74.1%	22.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.5%	2.8%	15%	<1%

DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

	REGULAR ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY EDUCATION	SPECIAL EDUCATION	CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION	BILINGUAL/ESL EDUCATION	NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROGRAMS	ALL OTHER PROGRAMS	% OF STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES	% OF STUDENTS RECEIVING ESL/ BILINGUAL EDUCATION SERVICES
PROVIDENCE	70.7%	21.3%	1.1%	3.8%	0.2%	3.1%	16%	20%
SCITUATE	83.6%	14.2%	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%	1.4%	10%	0%
SMITHFIELD	73.4%	22.1%	1.1%	0.1%	0.4%	2.7%	10%	1%
SOUTH KINGSTOWN	73.0%	22.1%	0.7%	0.2%	0.9%	3.0%	12%	<1%
TIVERTON	70.8%	24.8%	0.3%	0.2%	0.5%	3.4%	18%	<1%
WARWICK	71.0%	22.3%	1.8%	0.4%	2.8%	1.7%	18%	1%
WEST WARWICK	69.5%	24.5%	2.1%	0.8%	0.3%	2.7%	17%	2%
WESTERLY	72.5%	20.3%	0.0%	1.0%	4.1%	2.1%	16%	2
WOONSOCKET	63.7%	28.1%	3.7%	2.8%	1.1%	0.7%	21%	8%
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS								
ACADEMY FOR CAREER EXPLORATION	85.2%	9.4%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%	14%	2%
ACHIEVEMENT FIRST PROVIDENCE	91.6%	7.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	7%	3%
BEACON	89.2%	9.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	16%	0%
BLACKSTONE ACADEMY	78.1%	15.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%	17%	2%
BLACKSTONE VALLEY PREP	87.6%	11.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.8%	*7-12%	*9-20%
COMPASS SCHOOL	80.3%	12.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.0%	18%	0%
HIGHLANDER	79.2%	12.1%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	7.7%	11%	13%
INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL	89.9%	6.6%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	3.0%	8%	38%
KINGSTON HILL	83.3%	14.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%	14%	0%
LEARNING COMMUNITY	82.2%	11.7%	0.0%	3.2%	0.0%	2.9%	14%	31%
NEW ENGLAND LABORERS	95.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	3.5%	31%	0%
PAUL CUFFEE	83.6%	10.0%	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%	4.7%	19%	5%
RI NURSES MIDDLE LEVEL COLLEGE	88.6%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	4.9%	2.3%	6%	<1%
SEGUE INSTITUTE	85.9%	11.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	16%	15%

DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

	REGULAR ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY EDUCATION	SPECIAL EDUCATION	CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION	BILINGUAL/ESL EDUCATION	NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROGRAMS	ALL OTHER PROGRAMS	% OF STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES	% OF STUDENTS RECEIVING ESL/ BILINGUAL EDUCATION SERVICES
SKIP NOWELL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY	92.2%	6.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	*12-17%	*12-14%
THE GREENE SCHOOL	88.5%	9.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	15%	0%
TIMES 2 ACADEMY	94.2%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	7%	8%
TRINITY ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS	81.1%	9.0%	8.1%	1.0%	0.0%	0.8%	7%	1%
VILLAGE GREEN VIRTUAL SCHOOL	98.3%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	5%	2%
STATE OPERATED & OTHER SCHOOLS								
DAVIES CAREER & TECH	58.2%	11.7%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.1%	11%	2%
MT CAREER & TECH	1.0%	7.7%	90.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	16%	<1%
RI SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF	20.9%	74.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.7%	95%	0%
UCAP	84.8%	10.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.4%	4%	0%

Note: * The percentage varies between individual schools, and the state does not report a network-wide percentage.

DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

The table below may shed some light on special education spending differences. Although many of the data are censored due to student privacy laws, one can see that some local education agencies have significant numbers of students with disabilities, such as autism, that may require additional interventions and, therefore, additional spending.

NUMBER OF SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS ENROLLED
IN EACH LEA, BY DISABILITY TYPE, JUNE 2014¹⁹

	AUT	DB	DD	EMN	HI	ID	MD	OHI	OI	SLD	SLI	TBI	VI	TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION ENROLLMENT	AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP (JUNE 2014)
STATEWIDE	2240	<11	2304	1854	164	803	412	3567	64	8114	4351	64	60	24004	139299
TRADITIONAL DISTRICTS															
BARRINGTON	51		24	47	<11	<11	<11	52	<11	99	99	<11	<11	400	32
BRISTOL-WARREN	62	<11	43	18		26	<11	37	<11	123	129		<11	453	3395
BURRILLVILLE	40	<11	39	27	<11	14	<11	44	<11	122	106	<11		405	2379
CENTRAL FALLS	26		68	38	<11	26	12	95		295	97	<11	<11	666	2692
CHARIHO	51		57	11	<11	17	11	49	<11	120	62	<11	<11	389	3383
COVENTRY	53		98	50		25	20	95	<11	295	74	<11	<11	717	4769
CRANSTON	192		126	122	<11	43	14	309	<11	505	162	<11	<11	1485	10035
CUMBERLAND	88		63	44	<11	28	12	125	<11	222	171	<11	<11	765	4490
EAST GREENWICH	50		37	15	<11	11	<11	53	<11	61	59	<11	<11	301	2360
EAST PROVIDENCE	102		81	85	<11	29	26	166	<11	301	165	<11	<11	965	5265
EXETER-W. GREENWICH	33		12	12	<11	11	<11	34		54	73	<11		237	1582
FOSTER	<11		<11			<11	<11	<11		<11	28		<11	43	284
FOSTER-GLOCESTER	16			<11		<11	<11	22		46	<11			106	1148
GLOCESTER	<11		<11	<11		<11	<11	11		<11	42			77	499
JAMESTOWN	14		<11	<11		<11		19	<11	22	26	<11	<11	94	492
JOHNSTON	63		71	33	<11	15	<11	133		329	84	<11	<11	746	2997
LINCOLN	49		72	36	<11	14	11	77		135	112		<11	514	3057

DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

	AUT	DB	DD	EMN	HI	ID	MD	OHI	OI	SLD	SLI	TBI	VI	TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION ENROLLMENT	AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP (JUNE 2014)
LITTLE COMPTON	<11		<11	<11		<11	<11	<11		26	<11	<11		48	257
MIDDLETOWN	39		13	45	<11	18	12	68	<11	131	81	<11		416	2267
NARRAGANSETT	22	<11	23	23	<11	<11	<11	54		85	50		<11	266	1366
NEW SHOREHAM	<11		<11			<11	<11	12			<11			28	117
NEWPORT	31		42	36	<11	19	<11	31	<11	140	99			407	1994
NORTH KINGSTOWN	54		71	37	<11	19	<11	51	<11	141	116	<11	<11	503	3948
NORTH PROVIDENCE	55		107	38	<11	12	<11	111	<11	190	121	<11	<11	655	3459
NORTH SMITHFIELD	23		26	16	<11	<11	<11	55		85	69			288	1724
PAWTUCKET	138		175	101	<11	59	<11	178	<11	563	274	<11	<11	1514	8750
RTSMOUTH	43		19	45	<11	<11	<11	86	<11	138	54	<11	<11	405	2628
PROVIDENCE	219	<11	401	426	21	169	79	427	<11	1674	971	<11	<11	4412	22979
SCITUATE	21		<11	<11			<11	23		59	56			173	1403
SMITHFIELD	30		40	19	<11	13	<11	35	<11	90	42			276	2343
SOUTH KINGSTOWN	57		53	36	<11	15	19	93	<11	97	78	<11	<11	456	3333
TIVERTON	46		22	34	<11	11	<11	30		150	65	<11	<11	372	1796
WARWICK	226		141	130	<11	41	31	305	<11	659	218	<11	<11	1769	9061
WEST WARWICK	87		100	83	<11	24	<11	76	<11	187	90			659	3348
WESTERLY	48		56	42	<11	18	12	98	<11	133	74	<11		493	3010
WOONSOCKET	139		178	91	<11	78	25	265	<11	351	257	<11	<11	1400	5649
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS															
ACHIEVEMENT FIRST PROVIDENCE			<11							<11	<11			13	179
BEACON	<11		<11					15		<11	<11		<11	38	226
BLACKSTONE ACADEMY	<11							<11		20				29	167
BLACKSTONE VALLEY PREP	<11		<11	11	<11		<11	18	<11	29	38			106	985
COMPASS SCHOOL	<11		<11					<11		12	<11			31	162

DISTRICT-LEVEL DATA

	AUT	DB	DD	EMN	HI	ID	MD	OHI	OI	SLD	SLI	TBI	VI	TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION ENROLLMENT	AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP (JUNE 2014)
HIGHLANDER	<11		<11		<11			<11		29	<11			44	352
INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL			<11		<11			<11		<11	18			37	324
KINGSTON HILL	<11		<11			<11		<11		<11	<11			22	183
LEARNING COMMUNITY	<11			<11		<11		23		33	13			79	556
PAUL CUFFEE	<11		<11	<11				21		77	36			153	772
RI NURSES MIDDLE LEVEL COLLEGE	<11			<11	<11			<11		14				18	246
SEGUE INSTITUTE						<11		<11		30	<11			36	221
SKIP NOWELL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY				<11				<11		12				29	1
THE GREENE SCHOOL	<11			<11				<11		15				33	158
TRINITY ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS	<11			<11			<11	<11		13				19	133
VILLAGE GREEN VIRTUAL SCHOOL	<11			<11				<11		<11				12	132
STATE OPERATED & OTHER SCHOOLS															
DAVIES CAREER & TECH	<11			<11				18		49				81	829
MET CAREER & TECH	<11			<11		<11		72		47				127	827
RI SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF				<11	57		<11							65	64
UCAP	<11							<11		22				25	138

Key:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| AUT AUTISM | ID INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES | SLI SPEECH/LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENT |
| DB DEAF/BLIND | MD MULTI-HANDICAPPED | TBI TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY |
| DD DEVELOPMENTALLY DELAYED | OHI OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENT | VI BLIND/VISUALLY IMPAIRED |
| EMN EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE | OI ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENT | |
| HI HEARING IMPAIRMENT | SLD SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY | |

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Capital outlays and debt service expenditures²¹ offer some insight into the differing costs faced by different types of local education agencies. Most traditional school districts face minimal debt service obligations, while many public charter schools incur significant debt service costs. Similarly, many public charter schools spend significant sums on capital projects (despite a school housing aid moratorium in place from 2011 through 2015) while few school districts do.

LEA CAPITAL OUTLAYS AND DEBT SERVICE PER PUPIL, 2013-2014²²

	CAPITAL OUTLAYS PER PUPIL	DEBT SERVICE PER PUPIL
STATEWIDE	\$153	\$114
TRADITIONAL DISTRICTS		
BARRINGTON	\$0	\$33
BOSTON	\$519	\$900
BURRILLVILLE	\$1	\$0
CENTRAL FALLS	\$0	\$0
CHARIHO	\$106	\$435
COVENTRY	\$12	\$0
CRANSTON	\$1	\$0
CUMBERLAND	\$121	\$0
EAST GREENWICH	\$101	\$0
EAST PROVIDENCE	\$72	\$0
EXETER-WEST GREENWICH	\$306	\$490
FOSTER	\$132	\$0
FOSTER-GLOCESTER	\$53	\$4,321
GLOCESTER	\$9	\$0
JAMESTOWN	\$396	\$0
JOHNSTON	\$6	\$0
LINCOLN	\$0	\$0
LITTLE COMPTON	\$0	\$0

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

	CAPITAL OUTLAYS PER PUPIL	DEBT SERVICE PER PUPIL
MIDDLETOWN	\$194	\$0
NARRAGANSETT	\$592	\$0
NEW SHOREHAM	\$224	\$120
NEWPORT	\$63	\$0
NORTH KINGSTOWN	\$69	\$0
NORTH PROVIDENCE	\$172	\$0
NORTH SMITHFIELD	\$96	\$0
PAWTUCKET	\$0	\$0
PORTSMOUTH	\$672	\$0
PROVIDENCE	\$0	\$4
SCITUATE	\$100	\$4
SMITHFIELD	\$198	\$0
SOUTH KINGSTOWN	\$75	\$0
TIVERTON	\$531	\$0
WARWICK	\$476	\$0
WEST WARWICK	\$1	\$0
WESTERLY	\$57	\$0
WOONSOCKET	\$11	\$0
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS		
ACADEMY FOR CAREER EXPLORATION	\$1	\$1,665
ACHIEVEMENT FIRST PROVIDENCE	\$30,161	\$620
BEACON	\$102	\$361
BLACKSTONE ACADEMY	\$0	\$443
BLACKSTONE VALLEY PREP	\$18	\$622
COMPASS SCHOOL	\$589	\$1,507
HIGHLANDER	\$281	\$433
INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL	\$0	\$710
KINGSTON HILL	\$20	\$1,348
LEARNING COMMUNITY	\$250	\$391
NEW ENGLAND LABORERS	\$0	\$1,539
PAUL CUFFEE	\$7	\$679

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

	CAPITAL OUTLAYS PER PUPIL	DEBT SERVICE PER PUPIL
RI NURSES MIDDLE LEVEL COLLEGE	\$606	\$1,774
SEGUE INSTITUTE	\$1,549	\$23
SKIP NOWELL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY	\$0	\$0
THE GREENE SCHOOL	\$142	\$790
TIMES 2 ACADEMY	\$400	\$2,509
TRINITY ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS	\$0	\$46
VILLAGE GREEN VIRTUAL SCHOOL	\$0	\$1,339
STATE OPERATED & OTHER SCHOOLS		
DAVIES CAREER & TECH	\$0	\$0
MET CAREER & TECH	\$74	\$119
RI SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF	\$0	\$0
UCAP	\$0	\$0

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

The table below shows school housing aid reimbursements in the two years leading up to the housing aid moratorium (the General Assembly lifted the moratorium in 2015). Although the previous table shows that public charter schools have significant capital outlays and debt service expenditures, the data below show that all public charter schools combined received less housing aid than many individual school districts in 2009–2010 and 2010–2011. According to state law, public charter schools that apply for reimbursement of construction costs are reimbursed at a flat rate of 30 percent.²³ Meanwhile, traditional districts are currently reimbursed at a rate no lower than 35 percent²⁴ and as high as 96.1 percent²⁵ (depending on local property values and family incomes²⁶).

STATE CONSTRUCTION AID (HOUSING AID) BY COMMUNITY²⁷

	2009-2010	2010-2011
TRADITIONAL DISTRICTS		
BARRINGTON	\$712,371	\$609,990
BRISTOL-WARREN	\$2,440,170	\$2,131,157
BURRILLVILLE	\$1,588,425	\$1,484,283
CENTRAL FALLS	\$1,935,543	\$1,599,030
CHARIHO	\$1,193,930	\$1,168,378
CHARLESTOWN	N/A	N/A
COVENTRY	\$1,626,572	\$1,458,782
CRANSTON	\$2,059,819	\$2,740,155
CUMBERLAND	\$1,831,329	\$1,943,330
EAST GREENWICH	\$285,674	\$395,581
EAST PROVIDENCE	\$1,156,449	\$818,408
EXETER-WEST GREENWICH	\$991,728	\$820,705
FOSTER	\$27,822	N/A
FOSTER-GLOCESTER	\$4,386,150	\$3,260,890
GLOCESTER	\$199,953	\$245,279
HOPKINTON	N/A	N/A

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

	2009-2010	2010-2011
JAMESTOWN	\$139,224	\$137,388
JOHNSTON	\$511,312	\$501,426
LINCOLN	\$1,363,574	\$1,312,036
LITTLE COMPTON	\$39,488	\$58,757
MIDDLETOWN	\$428,928	\$318,632
NARRAGANSETT	\$796,649	\$608,856
NEW SHOREHAM	\$236,030	\$219,444
NEWPORT	\$623,228	\$630,776
NORTH KINGSTOWN	\$1,267,081	\$1,217,606
NORTH PROVIDENCE	\$1,221,290	\$1,173,268
NORTH SMITHFIELD	\$1,133,701	\$1,013,702
PAWTUCKET	\$2,305,195	\$2,058,878
PORTSMOUTH	\$670,569	\$427,866
PROVIDENCE	\$17,797,981	\$25,879,243
CHMOND	N/A	N/A
SCITUATE	\$259,928	\$443,843
SMITHFIELD	\$293,343	\$324,572
SOUTH KINGSTOWN	\$1,042,384	\$942,636
TIVERTON	\$766,861	\$876,787
WARWICK	\$1,203,438	\$1,212,196
WEST WARWICK	\$1,251,818	\$948,292
WESTERLY	\$1,543,070	\$1,471,772
WOONSOCKET	\$1,762,910	\$5,973,275
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS		
ALL PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS ²⁸	\$1,205,178	\$1,549,295

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Although public charter schools often spend more than traditional districts on capital projects and debt service (and land and building rental, as seen below), districts incur other expenses that public charter schools do not. For example, districts face costs related to students placed out of district or in private schools, including out-of-district career and technical education tuition and transportation for non-public students.

COMPARISON OF TRADITIONAL DISTRICT AND PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL EXPENDITURES IN SELECT CATEGORIES, 2013-2014²⁹

EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	TRADITIONAL DISTRICT PER-PUPIL EXPENDITURE AVERAGE, 2013-2014	CHARTER SCHOOL PER-PUPIL EXPENDITURE AVERAGE, 2013-2014	
OUT-OF-DISTRICT CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION TUITION	\$52	\$0	
OUT-OF-DISTRICT CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION	\$9	\$0	
NON-PUBLIC TEXTBOOKS	\$3		
TRANSPORTATION FOR NON-PUBLIC STUDENTS	\$25	\$0	
EARLY INTERVENTION SCREENING SERVICES (AGES 3-5)	\$116	\$0	
OUT-OF-DISTRICT SERVICES FOR 18-21 YEAR-OLDS	\$108	\$0	
IN-DISTRICT SERVICES FOR 18-21 YEAR-OLDS	\$169	\$46	
OUT-OF-DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION TUITION (AGES 5-18)	\$460	\$28	
OUT-OF-DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION (AGES 5-18)	\$99	\$3	
RETIREE HEALTHCARE	\$250	\$0	
IN-DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION	\$592	\$709	
DEBT SERVICE	\$77	\$514	
LAND AND BUILDING RENTAL	\$5	\$433	
CAPITAL PROJECTS			
	URBAN	\$2	\$1,192
	SUBURBAN	\$143	
	REGIONAL	\$280	
TOTAL, ALL ABOVE CATEGORIES (USING REGIONAL FIGURE FOR TRADITIONAL DISTRICT CAPITAL PROJECTS)	\$2,245	\$2,925	

CONCLUSION

When the General Assembly passed legislation creating a funding formula in 2010,³⁰ our system of school finance took a giant leap forward. As we consider next steps, research—and common sense—tells us that there is room for refinements. But it also tells us that our current formula is a big step toward strong funding policy for our students. As discussions about improving the formula unfold, any recommendations to update the formula should adhere to four key principles:

1. The formula must remain student-centered.
2. Money must follow the student.
3. The formula must be equitable.
4. The formula must be simple and transparent—and thus predictable.

Although these data provide only a snapshot of the state of school funding in Rhode Island, we hope they prove useful to the public as well as to the lawmakers and other stakeholders who will be examining the funding formula in the weeks and months to come.

ENDNOTES

- 1** "Funding Formula Summary," Rhode Island Department of Education (2010), accessed November 13, 2015, <http://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Funding-and-Finance-Wise-Investments/Funding-Sources/State-Education-Aid-Funding-Formula/Funding-Formula-Summary-2-19-11-version.pdf>.
- 2** "Special Commission to Study and Assess Rhode Island's 'Fair Funding Formula': Final Report," Rhode Island House of Representatives (May 18, 2015), accessed November 13, 2015, <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/commissions/fundingformula/commdocs/Final%20Report%20-%20Fair%20Funding%20Formula%20Commission.pdf>.
- 3** Current expenditures exclude capital outlays and debt service. In Rhode Island, capital outlays include any land and buildings that are capitalized (regardless of the value and useful life); infrastructure and building improvements that are capitalized at a cost of \$1 million or more with a useful life of one year or more; and equipment that is capitalized at a cost of \$5,000 or more. The definition of capital outlays varies between states (See "Capital Budgeting in the States," National Association of State Budget Officers (2014), accessed November 24, 2015, <https://www.nasbo.org/sites/default/files/Capital%20Budgeting%20in%20the%20States.pdf>). Debt service includes payments on debt obligations, including principal and interest payments.
- 4** "Table 236.65: Current expenditure per pupil in fall enrollment in public elementary and secondary schools, by state or jurisdiction: Selected years, 1969-70 through 2011-12." U.S. Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics, accessed November 24, 2015, https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/d14/tables/dt14_236.65.asp?current=yes.
- 5** "RIDE's Uniform Chart of Accounts: Annual Per Pupil Expenditure Reports," Rhode Island Department of Education, accessed November 12, 2015, <http://www.ride.ri.gov/FundingFinance/SchoolDistrictFinancialData/UniformChartofAccounts.aspx#18211075-annual-per-pupil-expenditure-reports>.
- 6** "Superintendent Guidance for Year End Reports," Rhode Island Department of Education (2013), accessed November 24, 2015, http://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Information-and-Accountability-User-Friendly-Data/Data-Resources/Data-Collections/Superintendent_Guidance_for_Year-End_Reports.pdf.
- 7** "Table 236.65: Current expenditure per pupil in fall enrollment in public elementary and secondary schools, by state or jurisdiction: Selected years, 1969-70 through 2011-12." U.S. Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics, accessed November 24, 2015, https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/d14/tables/dt14_236.65.asp?current=yes.
- 8** See "Capital Budgeting in the States," National Association of State Budget Officers (2014), accessed November 24, 2015, <https://www.nasbo.org/sites/default/files/Capital%20Budgeting%20in%20the%20States.pdf>.
- 9** "Table 235.20: Revenues for public elementary and secondary schools, by source of funds and state or jurisdiction: 2011-12." U.S. Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics, accessed November 24, 2015, https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/d14/tables/dt14_235.20.asp?current=yes.
- 10** "RIDE's Uniform Chart of Accounts: FY 2014 Revenue Charts," Rhode Island Department of Education, accessed November 24, 2015, <http://www.ride.ri.gov/FundingFinance/SchoolDistrictFinancialData/UniformChartofAccounts.aspx#18211077-ucosa-segment-review-revenue-worksheets>.
- 11** "InfoWorks! Data Finder," Rhode Island Department of Education, accessed November 12, 2015, <http://infoworks.ride.ri.gov/search/data>.
- 12** "RIDE's Uniform Chart of Accounts: UCOA Segment Review Revenue Worksheets," Rhode Island Department of Education, accessed November 24, 2015, <http://www.ride.ri.gov/FundingFinance/SchoolDistrictFinancialData/UniformChartofAccounts.aspx#18211077-ucosa-segment-review-revenue-worksheets>.
- 13** "RIDE's Uniform Chart of Accounts: UCOA Segment Review Revenue Worksheets," Rhode Island Department of Education, accessed November 12, 2015, <http://www.ride.ri.gov/FundingFinance/SchoolDistrictFinancialData/UniformChartofAccounts.aspx#18211077-ucosa-segment-review-revenue-worksheets>.
- 14** "The State of Funding Equity Data Tool," Education Trust (2015), accessed November 12, 2015, <https://edtrust.org/map/>.
- 15** "RIDE's Uniform Chart of Accounts: Annual Per Pupil Expenditure Reports," Rhode Island Department of Education, accessed November 12, 2015, <http://www.ride.ri.gov/FundingFinance/SchoolDistrictFinancialData/UniformChartofAccounts.aspx#18211075-annual-per-pupil-expenditure-reports>.
- 16** In Rhode Island, capital outlays include any land and buildings that are capitalized (regardless of the value and useful life); infrastructure and building improvements that are capitalized at a cost of \$1 million or more with a useful life of one year or more; and equipment that is capitalized at a cost of \$5,000 or more. The definition of capital outlays varies between states (See "Capital Budgeting in the States," National Association of State Budget Officers (2014), accessed November 24, 2015, <https://www.nasbo.org/sites/default/files/Capital%20Budgeting%20in%20the%20States.pdf>). Debt service includes payments on debt obligations, including principal and interest payments.
- 17** "RIDE's Uniform Chart of Accounts: Annual Per Pupil Expenditure Reports," Rhode Island Department of Education, accessed November 12, 2015, <http://www.ride.ri.gov/FundingFinance/SchoolDistrictFinancialData/UniformChartofAccounts.aspx#18211075-annual-per-pupil-expenditure-reports>.
- 18** "RIDE's Uniform Chart of Accounts: 2013-2014 District Data Reports," Rhode Island Department of Education, accessed November 12, 2015, <http://www.ride.ri.gov/FundingFinance/SchoolDistrictFinancialData/UniformChartofAccounts.aspx#18211082-2013-2014-district-data-reports>.
- 19** "Special Commission to Study and Assess Rhode Island's 'Fair Funding Formula': Final Report," Rhode Island House of Representatives (May 18, 2015), p. 41, accessed November 13, 2015, <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/commissions/fundingformula/commdocs/Final%20Report%20-%20Fair%20Funding%20Formula%20Commission.pdf>.
- 20** "RIDE's Uniform Chart of Accounts: Annual Per Pupil Expenditure Reports," Rhode Island Department of Education, accessed November 24, 2015, <http://www.ride.ri.gov/FundingFinance/SchoolDistrictFinancialData/UniformChartofAccounts.aspx#18211075-annual-per-pupil-expenditure-reports>.
- 21** In Rhode Island, capital outlays include any land and buildings that are capitalized (regardless of the value and useful life); infrastructure and building improvements that are capitalized at a cost of \$1 million or more with a useful life of one year or more; and equipment that is capitalized at a cost of \$5,000 or more. The definition of capital outlays varies between states (See "Capital Budgeting in the States," National Association of State Budget Officers (2014), accessed November 24, 2015, <https://www.nasbo.org/sites/default/files/Capital%20Budgeting%20in%20the%20States.pdf>). Debt service includes payments on debt obligations, including principal and interest payments.
- 22** "RIDE's Uniform Chart of Accounts: Annual Per Pupil Expenditure Reports," Rhode Island Department of Education, accessed November 12, 2015, <http://www.ride.ri.gov/FundingFinance/SchoolDistrictFinancialData/UniformChartofAccounts.aspx#18211075-annual-per-pupil-expenditure-reports>.
- 23** R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-771-5, accessed November 18, 2015, <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE16/16-771/16-771-5.HTM>.
- 24** R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-7-39, accessed November 18, 2015, <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE16/16-7/16-7-39.HTM>.
- 25** "FY 2016 Housing Aid State Share Ratios," Rhode Island Department of Education, accessed November 18, 2015, <http://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Funding-and-Finance-Wise-Investments/School-Facilities/School-Construction-Program/FY16ShareRatios.pdf>.
- 26** R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-7-39. See also R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-7-21, accessed November 24, 2015, <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/title16/16-7/16-7-21.htm>.
- 27** "Rhode Island Education Aid," RI House Fiscal Advisory Staff (November 2011), p. 108, accessed November 24, 2015, [http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/HouseFinance/education%20aid%20history%20-%202011%20edition%20\(web\)%20\(2\).pdf](http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/HouseFinance/education%20aid%20history%20-%202011%20edition%20(web)%20(2).pdf).
- 28** Data are not available for individual charter schools.
- 29** "Rhode Island's School Funding Formula: Our Investment in ALL of Rhode Island's Public School Students," Rhode Island League of Charter Schools (2015), accessed November 24, 2015, http://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Funding-and-Finance-Wise-Investments/Funding-Sources/State-Education-Aid-Funding-Formula/Funding-FormulaWorkingGroup/Mtg2-Charter_Schools_presentation.pdf.
- 30** R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-72-3, accessed November 24, 2015, <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE16/16-72/16-72-3.HTM>.

About RI-CAN

We founded RI-CAN because all children deserve access to great public schools, regardless of their address, the color of their skin or how much their parents earn. This work has never been more critical in Rhode Island, as our kids face persistent opportunity gaps and our state struggles to redefine itself in a 21st century economy.

The time for change is now.

To bring that change to fruition, RI-CAN runs issue-based policy campaigns that seek to improve state education policy through a combination of top-notch research, policy analysis, advocacy and communications. We will work to bring Rhode Islanders information they can use to make better decisions for their children, advocate for change in their communities and ultimately transform public schools throughout our state.

www.ri-can.org



Spotlight on school funding

With the spotlight cast on school funding in Rhode Island, RI-CAN believes it is important that the public has access to the most recent data on school funding (from 2012-2013 and 2013-2014) all in one place. We hope these data will help inform parents, district officials, lawmakers and other interested community members as conversations around the funding formula unfold.

www.ri-can.org