

Rhode Island's School

Funding Formula:

*Our Investment in ALL of Rhode  
Island's Public School Students*

# Reviewing RI's School Funding Formula

## **Grounding Principles**

- More fair and equitable
- Smart and small improvements
- Student-centered and data-driven

# Differences in Financial Obligations

- Under Rhode Island's School Funding Formula, the state and local per-pupil shares of educational funding follow each child to his/her public school.
- Charter public schools and district public schools have an array of similar and different expenses that they must satisfy from their per-pupil funding.
- A comparison of certain costs that charters and districts bear differently under the funding formula reveals that charter schools' unique costs account for a higher percentage of the per-pupil funding they receive.

NOTE: This in no way implies that districts (or charters) are "over-funded."

# Comparison: District/Charter Totals

	Traditional Districts	Charters	Difference (Charters - Districts)
TOTAL Per Pupil Spending, Disputed Categories (including Retiree Healthcare)	\$2245	\$2925	\$680
TOTAL Per Pupil Spending, Disputed Categories (excluding Retiree Healthcare)	\$1995	\$2925	\$930

# Comparison of District/Charter Expenses

Category	Total FY14 Statewide Spending (in millions)	Traditional District Per-Pupil Average	Charter Per-Pupil Average
Out-of-District CTE Tuition	\$6.9	\$52	0
Out-of-District CTE Transportation	\$1.2	\$9	0
Non-Public Textbooks	\$0.36	\$3	0
Transportation for Non-Public Students	\$3.3	\$25	0

# Comparison of District/Charter Expenses, cont'd

Category	Total FY14 Statewide Spending (in millions)	Traditional District Per-Pupil Average	Charter Per-Pupil Average
Early Intervention Screening Services (ages 3-5)	\$15.4	\$116	0
Out-of-District Services for 18-21 year-olds	\$14.1	\$108	0
In-District Services for 18-21 year-olds	\$24	\$169	\$46

# Comparison of District/Charter Expenses, cont'd

Category	Total FY14 Statewide Spending (in millions)	Traditional District Per-Pupil Average	Charter Per-Pupil Average
Out-of-District SPED Tuition (ages 5-18)	\$60.6	\$460	\$28
Out-of-District SPED Transportation (ages 5-18)	\$13.1	\$99	\$3
Retiree Healthcare	\$33.6	\$250	0

# Comparison of District/Charter Expenses, cont'd

Category	Total FY14 Statewide Spending (in millions)	Traditional District Per-Pupil Average	Charter Per-Pupil Average
In-District Transportation	\$82.5	\$592*	\$709
Debt Service	\$13.3	\$77	\$514
Land & Building Rental	\$3.26	\$5	\$433
Capital Projects	\$21.3	Urban: \$2 Suburban: \$143 Regional: \$280*	\$1,192



# Rhode Island's Education Sector

142,014 Public School Students

7,316 Public Charter School Students

8,000+ Students on waitlists

Rhode Island's Student Population Loss