



Deborah A. Gist  
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Shepard Building  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

June 17, 2014

Thomas A. Mullaney  
State Budget Officer  
Department of Administration  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Mr. Mullaney:

The Board of Education Capital Budget request for RIDE for FY 2015 – FY 2020 is comprised of 11 projects costing \$94M, of which \$55M has already been spent and encumbered. The request includes \$39M in spending from 2015 to 2020. All projects are continuing projects that were previously approved by the Board of Education, the Governor, and the General Assembly in last year's submission.

### State-Owned Career and Technical Centers

The Board's request includes three projects for the state-owned, locally-operated career and technical centers that total \$9.6M. The three projects are requests for individual centers for the FY 2015-2020 period. One district, Cranston, will take ownership of their career and technology center building in Summer 2014. This request includes \$3.3M for roof, HVAC, and fire safety repairs as part of the agreement to take the building back.

For the two school districts that have not yet agreed to take ownership of their career and technology center buildings the request includes funding for necessary and required repairs, including \$3.2M for roof and mechanical system work at Woonsocket and \$3.1M for the replacement of the roof and other repairs at Warwick. In both cases, the work will not occur until an agreement to transfer the building has been reached.

### Statewide

The Board's request includes continued funding for two projects that apply to schools statewide: the LEA Technology Infrastructure program and the Comprehensive Education Information System (CEIS) program. For LEA Technology, \$20.0M is included in Certificates of Participation (COPS) funding for the Wireless Classroom Initiative to allow LEAs to access the comprehensive data systems being developed by RIDE. The second statewide project is the continued implementation of the Comprehensive Education Information System at RIDE (\$494K remaining), which was begun in FY 2007. Because of RIDE's ability to leverage Race-to-the-Top funds for CEIS infrastructure purchases, the CEIS funds will result in even greater capacity for RIDE's systems.

### Metropolitan Career and Technical Center

The Board's request includes funding for three projects for the Met School. There is \$9.1M for the construction of a new East Bay campus building in Newport which will accommodate the full student enrollment at the school; the building opened in January 2014 and final work is underway. The request includes \$6.4M through 2015 to replace the HVAC system at the Providence campuses (Public Street and Peace Street) and there is an asset protection plan to pay for repairs and upgrades at all three campuses (Public Street, Peace Street, and East Bay).

### **Davies Career and Tech**

The Board's request includes funding for two projects for the Davies Career and Technical School: \$5.1M for the continuation of its HVAC project through FY 2017 and the continuation of its asset protection plan.

### **RI School for the Deaf**

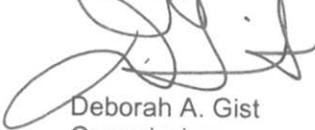
The Board requests the final year of funding for one project for the Rhode Island School for the Deaf: the construction of their new school building. Even though the Division of Capital Projects and Property Management in the Department of Administration oversees the work related to the construction of the new school, this project is included in the Board's Capital Budget. The total cost is \$30.9M, of which an estimated \$30.8M has already been spent. The new building opened on September 1, 2010 and serves pre-K to grade 12 students as well as serving as a center for the deaf community, housing a variety of testing, referral, cultural and support services for Rhode Island's deaf population.

### **Vehicles**

The RI Department of Education currently has 10 vehicles: 5 for the Rhode Island School for the Deaf, 4 for Davies Career & Technical High School, and 1 for RIDE's Office of Assessment. This Capital Budget request includes a plan for the School for the Deaf to replace their two 15 passenger vans, primarily because of safety concerns about that type of vehicle.

In summary, the Board's request includes funding only for continuing projects that are critical to the operation, maintenance and continued success of our state's primary and secondary education institutions. The request is consistent with the department's goal of providing high-quality learning environments for our students and ensuring the health and safety of all students and staff.

Sincerely,



Deborah A. Gist  
Commissioner

cc: Rep. Raymond E. Gallison Jr., Chair, House Finance Committee  
Sen. Daniel DaPonte, Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
Mark Dunham, Director of Finance