



**Charter Name: Rhode Island Cultural Academy  
Local Impact Analysis for New Charter Request  
Local Communities: Statewide  
2024 New Charter Seats Process**

**Proposal Overview**

Proposed Charter Overview			
Charter Type:	Independent	Year Opening:	2025-26
Location of School:	TBD	Grade Level (At-Scale):	K-12
Enrolling Communities:	Statewide	Enrollment (At-Scale):	936

Summary of Proposal
<p>The vision of Rhode Island Cultural Academy is to provide students with a rigorous, character-based education that ignites a passion for learning and inspires creativity through real-world and project-based experiences. They propose opening in SY2025-26 with 288 students in grades K-3 and will be at-scale at grades K-12 in SY2034-35 with 936 students. Approximately 75% of students will come from Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls. The remaining 25% of students will come from other Rhode Island districts.</p>

Charter Year	School Year	Grades	New Seats Requested	Total Student Enrollment
Year 1	2025-26	K-3	288	288
Year 2	2026-27	K-4	72	360
Year 3	2027-28	K-5	72	432
Year 4	2028-29	K-5	72	504
At-Scale	2034-35	K-12	432	936

**Fiscal Impact Analysis**

*Educational funding dollars follow each child to the school of their choice. The following analysis projects the total amount of funding that would follow students to the school of their choice, commensurate with the size of the requested expansion.*

Enrolling Community Student Funding Projections (actual sending communities may vary)			
	Central Falls	Pawtucket	Providence



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Local Share – Projected FY25 per-pupil funding for each resident student <sup>i</sup>	\$3,386 per-pupil	\$3,177 per-pupil	\$4,768 per-pupil
State Share – Projected FY25 per-pupil funding for each resident student <sup>ii</sup>	\$16,716 per-pupil	\$13,776 per-pupil	\$14,822 per-pupil
Federal Share – Projected FY25 per-pupil funding for each resident student <sup>iii</sup>	\$2,684 per-pupil	\$1,990 per-pupil	\$3,052 per-pupil
Projected FY25 total per-pupil funding for each resident Student	\$22,786 per-pupil	\$18,943 per-pupil	\$22,642 per-pupil
Less: 7% withheld from the local share of per pupil funding per pupil for “fixed or unique” costs <sup>iv</sup>	\$418 per-pupil	\$222 per-pupil	\$334 per-pupil
Local Share – Proj. FY25 per-pupil funding for each resident student, less the 7% withheld for “fixed or unique” costs	\$2,968 per-pupil	\$2,955 per-pupil	\$4,434 per-pupil
Projected FY25 total per-pupil funding for each resident Student (excluding funds withheld for “fixed or unique costs”)	\$22,368 per-pupil	\$18,721 per-pupil	\$22,308 per-pupil

	Warwick	West Warwick
Local Share – Projected FY25 per-pupil funding for each resident student <sup>i</sup>	\$16,327 per-pupil	\$9,225 per-pupil
State Share – Projected FY25 per-pupil funding for each resident student <sup>ii</sup>	\$5,624 per-pupil	\$11,128 per-pupil
Federal Share – Projected FY25 per-pupil funding for each resident student <sup>iii</sup>	\$1,073 per-pupil	\$1,424 per-pupil
Projected FY25 total per-pupil funding for each resident Student	\$23,024 per-pupil	\$21,777 per-pupil
Less: 7% withheld from the local share of per pupil funding per pupil for “fixed or unique” costs <sup>iv</sup>	\$1,143 per-pupil	\$646 per-pupil
Local Share – Proj. FY25 per-pupil funding for each resident student, less the 7% withheld for “fixed or unique” costs	\$15,184 per-pupil	\$8,579 per-pupil
Projected FY25 total per-pupil funding for each resident Student (excluding funds withheld for “fixed or unique costs”)	\$21,881 per-pupil	\$21,131 per-pupil

*Total Pupil Funding Projections, Commensurate with Expansion Proposal: Central Falls*



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Fiscal Year	Proposed Charter Projected Enrollment		Projected Total Local Share Pupil Funding commensurate with new charter proposal	Projected Total Local Share Per Pupil Funding as % of local FY23 Total Expenditures <sup>v</sup>	Projected Total Pupil Funding (Local+State+ Federal) commensurate with new charter proposal	Projected Total Withholding for Fixed or Unique Costs (to district)
	Total	Central Falls				
2025-26	288	29	\$86,072	0.12%	\$648,672	\$12,122
2026-27	360	36	\$106,848	0.14%	\$805,248	\$15,048
2027-28	432	43	\$127,624	0.17%	\$961,824	\$17,974
2028-29	504	50	\$148,400	0.20%	\$1,118,400	\$20,900
(at scale)	936	93	\$276,024	0.37%	\$2,147,328	\$40,128

**Key implication:** RIDE projects on an annual basis by FY 2035 (at-scale year) commensurate with the new school proposal reaching full enrollment at-scale, total funding of \$2,147,328 of which \$276,024 will be contributed through local share funding. This \$276,024 represents 0.37% of Central Falls’ total reported FY23 expenditures.

*Total Pupil Funding Projections, Commensurate with Expansion Proposal: Pawtucket*

Fiscal Year	Proposed Charter Projected Enrollment		Projected Total Local Share Pupil Funding commensurate with new charter proposal	Projected Total Local Share Per Pupil Funding as % of local FY23 Total Expenditures <sup>vi</sup>	Projected Total Pupil Funding (Local+State+ Federal) commensurate with new charter proposal	Projected Total Withholding for Fixed or Unique Costs (to district)
	Total	Pawtucket				
2025-26	288	37	\$109,335	0.06%	\$692,677	\$8,214
2026-27	360	47	\$138,885	0.08%	\$879,887	\$10,434
2027-28	432	56	\$165,480	0.09%	\$1,048,376	\$12,432
2028-29	504	66	\$195,030	0.11%	\$1,235,586	\$14,652
(at scale)	936	123	\$363,465	0.20%	\$2,302,683	\$27,306

**Key implication:** RIDE projects on an annual basis by FY 2035 (at-scale year) commensurate with the new school proposal reaching full enrollment at-scale, total funding of \$2,302,683, of which \$363,465 will be contributed through local share funding. This \$363,465 represents 0.20% of Pawtucket’s total reported FY23 expenditures.

*Total Pupil Funding Projections, Commensurate with Expansion Proposal: Providence*



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	Total	Providence				
2025-26	288	144	\$638,496	0.11%	\$3,212,352	\$48,096
2026-27	360	180	\$798,120	0.14%	\$4,015,440	\$60,120
2027-28	432	217	\$962,178	0.17%	\$4,840,936	\$72,478
2028-29	504	252	\$1,117,368	0.20%	\$5,621,616	\$84,168
(at scale)	936	468	\$2,075,112	0.37%	\$10,440,144	\$156,312

**Key implication:** RIDE projects on an annual basis by FY 2035 (at-scale year) commensurate with the new school proposal reaching full enrollment at-scale, total funding of \$10,440,144, of which \$2,075,112 will be contributed through local share funding. This \$2,075,112 represents 0.37% of Providence’s total reported FY23 expenditures.

*Total Pupil Funding Projections, Commensurate with Expansion Proposal: Warwick*

Fiscal Year	Proposed Charter Projected Enrollment		Projected Total Local Share Pupil Funding commensurate with new charter proposal	Projected Total Local Share Per Pupil Funding as % of local FY23 Total Expenditures <sup>viii</sup>	Projected Total Pupil Funding (Local+State+ Federal) commensurate with new charter proposal	Projected Total Withholding for Fixed or Unique Costs (to district)
	Total	Warwick				
2025-26	288	29	\$440,336	0.22%	\$634,549	\$33,147
2026-27	360	36	\$546,624	0.28%	\$787,716	\$41,148
2027-28	432	43	\$652,912	0.33%	\$940,883	\$49,149
2028-29	504	50	\$759,200	0.39%	\$1,094,050	\$57,150
(at scale)	936	93	\$1,412,112	0.72%	\$2,034,933	\$106,299

**Key implication:** RIDE projects on an annual basis by FY 2035 (at-scale year) commensurate with the new school proposal reaching full enrollment at-scale, total funding of \$2,034,933, of which \$1,412,112 will be contributed through local share funding. This \$1,412,112 represents 0.72% of Warwick’s total reported FY23 expenditures.

*Total Pupil Funding Projections, Commensurate with Expansion Proposal: West Warwick*



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Fiscal Year	Proposed Charter Projected Enrollment		Projected Total Local Share Pupil Funding commensurate with new charter proposal	Projected Total Local Share Per Pupil Funding as % of local FY23 Total Expenditures <sup>ix</sup>	Projected Total Pupil Funding (Local+State+ Federal) commensurate with new charter proposal	Projected Total Withholding for Fixed or Unique Costs (to district)
	Total	West Warwick				
2025-26	288	49	\$420,371	0.52%	\$1,035,419	\$31,654
2026-27	360	61	\$523,319	0.65%	\$1,288,991	\$39,406
2027-28	432	73	\$626,267	0.77%	\$1,542,563	\$47,158
2028-29	504	86	\$737,794	0.91%	\$1,817,266	\$55,556
(at scale)	936	160	\$1,372,640	1.70%	\$3,380,960	\$103,360

**Key implication:** RIDE projects on an annual basis by FY 2035 (at-scale year) commensurate with the new school proposal reaching full enrollment at-scale, total funding of \$3,380,960, of which \$1,372,640 will be contributed through local share funding. This \$1,372,640 represents 1.70% of West Warwick’s total reported FY23 expenditures.

Sources:

- i. [State Education Aid/Funding Formula](#)
- ii. [School District Financial Data | RI Department of Education](#)

<sup>i</sup> Assumes constant local per-pupil funding, net of a constant withholding for fixed or unique costs.

<sup>ii</sup> Assumes constant state per-pupil funding.

<sup>iii</sup> Federal funding assumed constant and based off district averages.

<sup>iv</sup> Withholding for fixed or unique costs is the greater of either: 1) 7% of the per-pupil local share funding; or, 2) the per-pupil value of the districts’ fixed or unique costs district’s statutorily defined expenditure categories minus the average expenses incurred by all public schools of choice for those same categories of expenses. Assumed constant in projections.

<sup>v</sup> Total FY23 Central Falls expenditures: \$74,506,518 (all expenditures based on most recent, audited UCOA data)

<sup>vi</sup> Total FY23 Pawtucket expenditures: \$183,274,539 (all expenditures based on most recent, audited UCOA data)

<sup>vii</sup> Total FY 23 Providence expenditures: \$558,247,543 (all expenditures based on most recent, audited UCOA data)

<sup>viii</sup> Total FY 23 Warwick expenditures: \$196,319,045 (all expenditures based on most recent, audited UCOA data)

<sup>ix</sup> Total FY 23 West Warwick expenditures: \$80,972,417 (all expenditures based on most recent, audited UCOA data)