



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

September 27, 2016

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Chair

**Council on Elementary and
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Chair

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The Honorable Thomas Izzo

Dr. Jeffery A. Williams

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Governor
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, R.I. 02903

Dear Governor Raimondo:

As the Chair of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, we are proud to submit our Fiscal Year 2017 Revised and Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Requests to support PK-12 and Adult Education in Rhode Island.

Through this submission, we offer a Revised Fiscal Year 2017 Budget, a Current Service Level Fiscal Year 2018 Budget, and a Constrained Fiscal Year 2018 Budget. Taken as a whole, this package reflects our commitment to building and sustaining a system of educational excellence and, at the same time, serving as responsible stewards of public resources. This budget package was approved by the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education on September 20, 2016 and we look forward to a final vote by the Board of Education on November 16, 2016.

Fiscal Year 2017 Revised Budget

The Fiscal Year 2017 Revised Budget submission contains an overall \$60,000 increase in general revenue when compared with the Fiscal Year 2017 Enacted Budget. This difference is due to several minor adjustments; \$13,000 to update the RIDE web site to meet federal standards for accessibility; and \$50,000 for unanticipated attorneys' fees.

Additionally, there are increases in the Federal Funds Budget of \$1.3M. and the Restricted Receipt Budget of \$143,000; these increases were anticipated and do not affect state dollars (general fund). There is also an increase to the RICAP (Rhode Island Capital) funds of \$3.5M., which reconciles the Fiscal Year 2017 Revised Budget with the Capital and Operating Budgets the Council approved in June. In total, the Fiscal Year 2017 Revised Budget stands at \$1,358,985,272.

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FY 2018 Current Service Level Budget Submission

The Department's Fiscal Year 2018 Current Service Level (CSL) Budget submission requests a total of \$1,403,429,784, including \$1,166,742,359 in General Revenue expenditures. It includes a \$53.4M. increase in General Revenue expenditures from the Fiscal Year 2017 Enacted Budget. The largest increase is \$48.6M. to fund Year 7 of the funding formula and its attendant categorical funds for early learning, career and technical education, transportation, high-cost special education, charter density aid, English Language Learners (ELLs), and other state aid. An increase of \$1.6M in teacher retirement is the second-largest increase.

Within the overall increase, the Fiscal Year 2018 CSL Budget contains approximately \$1.1M to advance instruction in Rhode Island schools through the creation of an instructional fellows program, educator excellence (leadership) fellows, career-readiness fellows, and a new leadership position to support ELL/World Language programs. An additional \$300,000 is requested to support high-quality early-learning experiences for Rhode Island students and \$1.8M to provide student access to advanced coursework and Advanced Placement tests.

Sincerely,



Daniel P. McConaghy
Chair
Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

Cc: Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair, House Finance Committee
Sen. Daniel DaPonte, Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Ken Wagner, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education