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# *The* SMITH HILL REPORT



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## **Governor's Budget Highlights**

Governor McKee has proposed a budget for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2026. His proposal makes several adjustments to education funding. Among the items he highlighted in his budget presentation are:

- Providing \$2.5 million for Learn365RI municipal grants million to support high-quality, out-of-school-time programming, with an emphasis on critical skill development. This investment complements a \$5 million investment in the FY 2025 budget.
- Increasing K-12 education aid by \$43.4 million, including raising per-pupil funding to \$13,322 – an increase of \$705 from the enacted FY 2025 level.
- Launching Ready to Build, a signature, pre-apprenticeship pathway to the building trades at the Community College of Rhode Island with an investment of \$800,000 in general revenue.
- Developing a Culinary Hospitality Hub at the Community College of Rhode Island's Newport Campus to train the next generation of culinary and hospitality workers.
- Investing \$6 million in general revenue and Jobs Development Funds to create 1,000 new work-based learning opportunities, allowing youth to gain work experience through programs such as Real Skills for Youth and the PrepareRI High School Internship.
- Allocating \$2.9 million for the dual and concurrent enrollment programs, supported by resources from the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority. This level of support would sufficiently meet demand and make it possible for high school students to take postsecondary courses at an institution of higher education or at their high school.
- Providing an additional \$10.6 million, or a 4 percent increase, across the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the Community College of Rhode Island, of which \$1.7 million supports services related to career readiness, career placement, and internships.

To view a summary of K-12 Education Aid use this link to [Appendix E](#). In this summary, will see that education aid is increasing by \$44 million. Since Rhode Island uses an education funding formula based on enrollment, school districts and charter schools are both experiencing increases and decreases based on enrollment. Formula Aid for school districts is slated for a \$23.2 million increase and charter school expansion is funded with an additional \$16 million. The remainder of the Governor's proposed education increase is in state school funding and categorical education funding.

The following chart shows total education aid (both funding formula and additional categorical funding such as transportation funding) for school districts and charter schools as proposed by Governor McKee. The final column of the chart shows changes in proposed FY 26 funding compared to the FY 25 enacted budget.

Appendix E also contains information on state funding for teacher retirement, which is relatively level compared to the current year. The budget increases school construction aid by \$13.7 million to accommodate school construction projects supported by bonds in recent years. The McKee budget contains several education aid reductions, including funding for Career and Technology Education categorical funding, Early Childhood Education, Telecommunications Access and Private School Textbook aid.

## Education Aid to Local Units of Government

	FY 2026 Formula Recommend	FY 2026 Total Aid Recommend*	Change from FY 2025 Enacted
<b>LEA Aid</b>			
Barrington	\$11,082,454	\$11,638,820	(\$473,736)
Bristol/Warren	\$11,199,480	\$14,758,146	(\$74,704)
Burrillville	\$13,578,004	\$13,974,531	\$19,467
Central Falls (1)	\$53,688,083	\$53,870,631	(\$494,863)
Chariho**		\$3,426,558	(\$28,885)
Charlestown	\$1,552,647	\$1,552,647	\$4,573
Coventry	\$28,615,956	\$29,209,276	\$1,326,555
Cranston	\$79,454,052	\$81,740,418	\$2,194,874
Cumberland	\$28,259,253	\$28,455,687	\$1,918,492
East Greenwich	\$5,595,651	\$6,252,606	(\$820,609)
East Providence	\$39,161,568	\$40,425,446	\$1,339,501
Exeter/W Greenwich	\$7,168,197	\$9,486,892	\$1,813,241
Foster	\$1,238,694	\$1,259,044	(\$46,354)
Foster/Glocester	\$5,741,951	\$6,746,505	\$36,391
Glocester	\$3,047,719	\$3,147,438	\$36,074
Hopkinton	\$7,314,044	\$7,314,044	\$526,518
Jamestown	\$384,930	\$560,046	(\$149,853)
Johnston	\$24,450,079	\$25,282,938	\$532,010
Lincoln	\$20,999,299	\$21,311,010	\$2,527,075
Little Compton	\$334,798	\$335,081	(\$8,572)
Middletown	\$6,773,782	\$6,935,782	(\$461,215)
Narragansett	\$1,808,452	\$1,914,691	(\$291,656)
New Shoreham	\$99,435	\$99,435	\$8,551
Newport	\$15,391,776	\$15,448,185	(\$277,517)
North Kingstown	\$13,266,261	\$13,348,112	(\$146,680)
North Providence	\$30,144,038	\$30,907,391	\$455,705
North Smithfield	\$9,337,854	\$9,535,355	\$1,500,939
Pawtucket	\$111,088,897	\$112,190,511	\$627,256
Portsmouth	\$2,921,987	\$3,612,266	\$23,422
Providence	\$292,993,381	\$298,067,651	\$3,751,117
Richmond	\$6,499,644	\$6,499,644	\$129,277
Scituate	\$4,307,151	\$4,440,208	\$749,904
Smithfield	\$10,575,507	\$10,786,218	\$660,048
South Kingstown	\$5,194,949	\$5,842,120	(\$166,400)
Tiverton	\$5,532,535	\$5,911,858	\$61,077
Warwick	\$48,338,091	\$49,298,965	\$2,511,807
West Warwick	\$41,964,100	\$42,018,926	\$1,913,988
Westerly	\$8,339,965	\$8,695,881	(\$89,427)
Woonsocket	\$88,381,040	\$88,864,653	\$3,782,027
Subtotal District Aid (1) (2)	\$ 1,045,825,704	\$ 1,075,165,616	\$ 24,919,418

## Education Aid to Local Units of Government

	FY 2026 Formula Recommend	FY 2026 Total Aid Recommend*	Change from FY 2025 Enacted
<b>LEA Aid- Charter Schools</b>			
Achievement First	\$47,067,703	\$47,067,703	\$3,510,087
Apprenticeship Exploration School (AES)	\$1,971,278	\$1,971,278	\$160,864
Beacon Charter School	\$4,867,863	\$4,867,863	\$206,756
Blackstone Academy	\$5,181,111	\$5,181,111	\$458,333
Blackstone Valley Prep	\$28,073,603	\$28,104,598	\$1,109,807
Charette	\$2,623,803	\$2,623,803	\$183,946
Compass School	\$935,655	\$935,655	\$87,070
Excel Academy	\$7,734,664	\$7,734,664	\$3,419,905
Greene School	\$1,677,795	\$1,677,795	\$37,272
Highlander	\$8,333,254	\$8,333,254	\$349,687
Hope Academy	\$4,657,996	\$4,660,285	\$205,321
International Charter School	\$4,662,210	\$4,662,210	\$104,727
Kingston Hill Academy	\$1,165,399	\$1,165,399	\$13,410
Learning Community	\$9,224,744	\$9,225,512	\$215,819
Med Prep Academy	\$2,371,696	\$2,371,696	-
Nuestro Mundo	\$5,181,769	\$5,181,769	(\$211,849)
Nurses Institute	\$6,608,107	\$6,608,107	(\$79,934)
Paul Cuffee Charter School	\$11,288,430	\$11,288,430	(\$104,287)
Providence Prep	\$3,418,193	\$3,418,193	\$113,789
RISE Mayoral Academy	\$10,136,862	\$10,136,862	\$1,960,951
Segue Institute for Learning	\$7,822,964	\$7,822,964	\$691,072
Southside Elementary	\$2,111,650	\$2,111,650	\$63,790
Times 2 Academy	\$10,111,298	\$10,111,298	\$435,869
Trinity Academy	\$3,907,651	\$3,907,651	\$270,696
Village Green	\$2,934,003	\$2,934,003	\$63,521
Subtotal Charter Aid	\$194,069,701	\$194,103,753	\$15,638,318
	FY 2026 Formula Recommend	FY 2026 Total Aid Recommend*	Change from FY 2025 Enacted
Davies C&T (1)	\$18,772,462	\$18,772,462	\$641,073
Met Center (1)	\$12,977,328	\$12,977,328	\$1,846,186
Nowell Academy: R.I.G.L. 16-114-7	\$2,802,638	\$2,802,638	\$490,880
Urban Collaborative: R.I.G.L. 16-3.1-11	\$2,262,135	\$2,262,135	\$150,521
Youth Build Academy: R.I.G.L. 16-3.1-21	\$1,825,270	\$1,825,270	(\$312,620)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,278,535,238</b>	<b>\$1,307,909,202</b>	<b>\$43,373,776</b>

\*FY 2026 Total Aid includes: Group Home, High-Cost Special Education, Regional Transportation and Non-Public Transportation.

\*\*Aid to the Chariho school district is paid directly to member towns (Charlestown, Hopkinton, Richmond).

## Education Aid to Local Units of Government

### Aid by Category: Distributed, Non-Distributed, State Schools, and Other Aid

	FY 2025 Revised	FY 2026 Recommend	Difference
<b>Distributed Aid</b>			
Distributed LEA Aid (2)	\$1,024,468,048	\$1,047,728,866	\$23,260,818
Distributed LEA Aid - Charter/Other Schools	\$184,884,149	\$200,959,742	\$16,075,593
Subtotal	\$1,209,352,197	\$1,248,688,608	\$39,336,411
	FY 2025 Revised	FY 2026 Recommend	Difference
<b>Non-Distributed Aid</b>			
Textbook Expansion	\$240,000	\$60,000	(\$180,000)
School Breakfast	\$270,000	\$270,000	
Reduced Lunch and Breakfast Subsidy	\$812,952	\$812,952	
Telecommunications Access	\$400,000		(\$400,000)
Early Childhood Demonstration	\$29,884,568	\$28,884,568	(\$1,000,000)
Transportation Categorical	\$3,931,589	4,662,543	\$730,954
Regional District Transportation	\$7,295,110	\$7,808,259	\$513,149
High Cost Special Ed Categorical	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	
Career and Tech Categorical	\$6,500,000	\$4,500,000	(\$2,000,000)
Subtotal	\$64,334,219	\$61,998,322	(\$2,335,897)
	FY 2025 Revised	FY 2026 Recommend	Difference
<b>State Schools</b>			
Metropolitan School (1)	\$11,131,142	\$12,977,328	\$1,846,186
School for the Deaf	\$8,606,208	\$8,809,938	\$203,730
Davies School (1)	\$18,239,763	\$18,772,462	532,699
Subtotal (1)	\$37,977,113	\$40,559,728	\$2,582,615
<b>Other Aid</b>			
Teachers' Retirement	\$138,298,470	\$137,991,006	(\$307,464)
School Housing Aid (3)	\$106,198,555	\$119,887,755	\$13,689,200
Subtotal	\$244,497,025	\$257,878,761	\$13,381,736
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,556,160,554</b>	<b>\$1,609,125,419</b>	<b>\$52,964,865</b>

(1) Includes both Formula Aid and Stabilization funds in FY 2025 and FY 2026.

(2) Non-Charter LEAs include Group Home Aid within distributed aid totals.

(3) Includes the School Building Authority Capital Fund.

## Bill Introductions

### **State Employees - Organ-Donation Leave Act**

([H 5020](#), Edwards, House Finance)

This bill provides for paid leave for a state employee who donates an organ. The duration of the leave is dependent on the type of donation and notice should be provided to the employer at least thirty (30) days prior to the leave.

### **School Committee Agenda - Discussion Items**

([H 5034](#), Edwards, House State Government & Elections)

This bill allows school committees to add item(s) not appearing in published notice to their agendas for purposes of discussion only if the revised agenda is filed with the Secretary of State and posted on district website at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

### **Private School Parent Rights - Children with Disabilities**

([H 5044](#), Azzinaro, House Education)

This bill provides that parents and guardians of children with disabilities in private school have the same rights and remedies as parents/guardians of children in public school.

### **General Assembly Approval of Administrative Rules**

([H 5085](#), Corvese, House State Government & Elections)

This bill requires that all agencies' final rules, promulgated pursuant to the administrative procedures act, be approved by general assembly action, but in no case later than December 31 of the year it is promulgated before it can become effective.

### **Student Health Screenings - Cardiac Care**

([H 5087](#), Carson, House Education)

This bill establishes "The Children's Cardiac Safety Act" and provides for childhood cardiac screening based on modules that incorporate current best practices.

### **Computer Science Curriculum**

([H 5111](#), Lombardi, House Education)

This bill directs the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education to develop recommendations for a high school curriculum to prepare students for successful postsecondary education and careers in computer science.

### **School Mental Health Curriculum**

([H 5112](#), Lombardi, House Education)

This bill requires the Department of Education to develop and make available for use in all schools a mental health curriculum. School districts would be required to provide four (4) hours of mental health instruction to seventh grade students.

### **UCAP Board of Trustees**

([H 5114](#), Lombardi, House Education)

This bill amends the composition of the Urban Collaborative and provides that the collaborative be governed by a board of trustees.

### **Municipal Employee Binding Arbitration**

([H 5135](#), Bennett, House Labor)

This bill recognizes that municipal employees have the opportunity to utilize interest arbitration and would establish new factors for the arbitrators to consider. These factors include comparisons of wages/hourly conditions of employment in similarly skilled jobs.

### **School Report Cards - SurveyWorks Data**

([H 5162](#), McNamara, House Education)

This bill incorporates the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's SurveyWorks school climate indicators for evaluating the performance of LEAs and individual public schools.

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