



March 19, 2024

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to request that non-public schools be removed from the current law relating to education-
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO VERY YOUNG CHILDREN.

Wheeler School supports an increase in quality early learning programs for children in Rhode Island. In a state that historically has had a majority of pre-K offerings in the private sector, we have and continue to provide quality programs for families and children.

Non-public schools have never previously before been held to a publicly funded benchmark and rating scale process for our educational programs. Non-public schools need to continue to advocate for the high-quality programs we currently offer within the unique frameworks already in place at our schools. Our schools are accredited by established associations such as the New England Association of Schools and Colleges; we have active governance structures in place, as well as our own rigorous ongoing school improvement processes and plans in place. For this reason, while we support high quality programming, it should be optional for those non-public schools to participate in this program and to access the resources/public ratings offered.

Wheeler School and other non-public schools in Rhode Island continue to commit to ensuring quality educational programs for 3-5-year-olds and we want to be part of a diverse landscape of options that families have in Rhode Island. We are running pre-K programs of quality which are aligned to our unique school missions and are freely chosen by families.

Sincerely,

Allison Gaines Pell
Head of School
Wheeler School