



April 8, 2025

The Honorable Joseph M. McNamara, Chair
House Education Committee
Rhode Island House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: BILL NUMBER H-5843 – AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

Chair McNamara and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 5843, which would improve communication and fiscal coordination between sending and receiving school districts when students pursue Career and Technical Education (CTE) or pathways programs outside of their home districts.

Rhode Island's cities and towns are committed to supporting equitable access to high-quality educational opportunities, including CTE and career pathway programs that help prepare students for success in the modern workforce. However, the current structure for managing inter-district enrollment in these programs presents ongoing challenges—particularly around timely communication and financial planning.

House Bill 5843 would address these concerns by establishing clearer expectations and protocols for information-sharing between districts. Enhanced communication will allow sending districts to better understand the timing, scope, and costs associated with their students' participation in programs hosted elsewhere. This is especially important as municipalities work to develop accurate education budgets and manage local tax dollars responsibly.

Moreover, this legislation would also make needed adjustments to the financial arrangements between sending and receiving districts, including transportation and tuition-related costs. Providing more transparent and consistent procedures will support long-term planning and improve oversight of public funds.

The League supports this legislation because it strikes an important balance expanding student access to meaningful educational opportunities while also ensuring cities and towns can plan appropriately for the associated financial responsibilities.

We respectfully urge passage of H-5843 and appreciate the General Assembly's ongoing efforts to strengthen collaboration between school districts and municipalities for the benefit of all Rhode Island students.

Thank you for your consideration of our perspective on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Education Committee