



# TIMES<sup>2</sup> Academy

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May 8, 2024

Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chairman  
House Finance Committee

**RE: ELISHA Project Appropriation**

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the proposed \$2 Million appropriation to the ELISHA, a 501(c)(3) local food and furniture rescue non-profit. As an education leader and advocate for students, families and community well-being, I know that investing in an organization like the ELISHA project is crucial towards addressing food and basic needs insecurity in our state.

The ELISHA Project has proven itself to be a valued community partner with TIMES<sup>2</sup> Academy. They are dedicated to addressing the basic needs of our students and families, including food, furniture, hygiene products and household goods. Their commitment to helping those in need extends beyond traditional food assistance programs, and have become an integral part of our efforts to support our most vulnerable students and families.

One of the many ways the ELISHA Project supports our school community is through their assistance to students facing food insecurity. By providing fresh produce and protein in addition to shelf-stable and other essential household items, they ensure that our students can focus on their education without the burden of hunger or inadequate living conditions. This support not only benefits individual students but also contributes to creating a more equitable and inclusive learning environment in our schools.

Additionally, I am proud to note that the ELISHA Project has established a presence in our school through the EP bodega store and pop-up share markets on the TIMES<sup>2</sup> campus. These initiatives not only provide access to affordable, high-quality food but also foster a sense of community and connection among students, families, and the surrounding community. By hosting these events, we demonstrate our shared commitment to promoting food security and empowering individuals and families to live healthy lives.

The proposed \$2 million will enable the ELISHA Project to further expand their efforts to support students on their vulnerable populations in our community. With this funding, they will be able to enhance their programs, increase the availability of nutritious food, and provide essential resources to those in need. I urge you to prioritize funding for the ELISHA Project and appropriate their funding request. By doing so, you will not only support their vital work, you will also demonstrate our state commitment to ensuring that all Rhode Islanders have access to the resources they need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Keith A. Oliveira  
Executive Director

To Improve Mathematics, Engineering & Science Studies = TIMES<sup>2</sup> Academy