

**2023 -- H 6125**

LC001995

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023**

**J O I N T   R E S O L U T I O N**

**MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$750,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR  
PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION OVER TREE FISCAL YEARS**

Introduced By: Representatives Morales, Cruz, Tanzi, and Giraldo

Date Introduced: March 03, 2023

Referred To: House Finance

1           WHEREAS, There is an urgent need to diversify the teaching profession in Rhode Island  
2 and nationally to address the large and growing gap between the percentage of students of color  
3 and the percentage of teachers of color. Currently, fewer than five percent of teachers in Rhode  
4 Island identify as people of color; and

5           WHEREAS, Teachers from a similar background as their students are uniquely  
6 positioned to explain new material in a culturally relevant way. Although more teachers of color  
7 are being recruited across the nation, the pace of increase is slow and attrition rates are high,  
8 leaving growing gaps between the demand for such teachers and the supply; and

9           WHEREAS, The Rhode Island School for Progressive Education (RISPE) has the  
10 express mission to recruit more teachers of color to RI's public schools as a means of correcting  
11 centuries of injustice in the educational field. All the data shows that having teachers of color in  
12 the classroom improves outcomes of all kinds, academic and otherwise, for all our children; and

13           WHEREAS, RISPE trains aspiring educators of color in high-quality teacher preparation  
14 programming that is accessible, affordable, and designed specifically for the needs of Rhode  
15 Island's public school children. RISPE will train a critical mass of educators who can contribute  
16 to a school culture shift in Rhode Island's public schools for the benefit of all the children who  
17 attend these schools; and

18           WHEREAS, The Rhode Island School for Progressive Education's highest aim is to  
19 ensure a strong educational system for a strong democracy and is committed to building a

1 powerful educational workforce that reflects the strengths and diversity of our State's  
2 communities; and

3 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island School for Progressive Education alone cannot create  
4 opportunity for the many aspiring educators of color across our state without the financial  
5 contributions that support their program; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not  
7 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2023-2024, the sum of two hundred fifty thousand  
8 dollars (\$250,000) to the RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner for the Rhode Island  
9 School for Progressive Education. Further, an additional appropriation of two hundred fifty  
10 thousand dollars (\$250,000) shall be appropriated to the RI Office of the Postsecondary  
11 Commissioner for the Rhode Island School for Progressive Education in the fiscal year 2024-  
12 2025, and a further additional appropriation of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000)  
13 shall be appropriated to the RI office of the Postsecondary Commissioner for the Rhode Island  
14 School for Progressive Education in the fiscal year 2025-2026, for a total appropriation of seven  
15 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000), to be disbursed over the next three fiscal years. The  
16 state controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw orders upon the general treasurer for the  
17 payment of said sum, upon receipt of properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
JOINT RESOLUTION  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$750,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR  
PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION OVER TREE FISCAL YEARS

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1           This joint resolution would authorize the appropriation of the total sum of seven hundred  
2 fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) to the Rhode Island School of Progressive Education, for a  
3 period of three (3) fiscal years, to be distributed in three (3) equal installments.

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