WHEREAS, The New England Secondary School Consortium – a multistate partnership forged to promote and advance higher educational aspirations, performance, and attainment among the adolescents of Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont – has been and will continue to be a force for enhancing the quality of Rhode Island's system of public secondary education; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island must transform – from its statehouse to its schoolhouses – educational policies, assessment practices, teaching strategies, professional development, and state and local leadership to ensure that the educational achievement of its students will not only be competitive with that of their peers from across New England and the globe, but will also enable every student to graduate prepared for success in the colleges, careers, and communities of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, Education and high levels of postsecondary-degree attainment are critical to workforce development, job creation, and sustainable, long-term economic prosperity in the 21st century. It is critical that Rhode Island strives to improve educational quality, opportunity, and efficacy for its citizens through regional collaboration, resource sharing, expertise exchange, and performance comparability; and

WHEREAS, The Consortium is developing internationally competitive learning models and programs at the secondary level that will redefine the traditional concept of the public high school to more effectively mirror the lives and learning needs of today's students. Its work also centers on creating learning standards that reflect the ways in which our youth will live, work,
learn, and lead in the 21st century. The Consortium strives to forge new state and local policies
designed to stimulate educational innovation and creativity. It prioritizes the development of
performance assessments that can more accurately measure the essential knowledge, skills, and
habits of mind that Rhode Island students will apply throughout their lives and across all
educational, career, and civic contexts; and

WHEREAS, The New England states share similar histories, educational systems,
demographic populations, social challenges, and interdependent economic prospects. The
independent and collective interests of our states can be more effectively served through strategic
partnerships that can improve the educational, career, and life outcomes of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, The Consortium is fostering a coordinated regional effort to build broad-
based support for its major initiatives among educators, policy makers, and business leaders,
while also engaging parents and community members in the educational process through school
involvement, positive messaging, community outreach, and cross-state networking; and

WHEREAS, Innovative regional collaborations have the potential to attract significant
public and private investments, create a high skilled workforce, attract new economic
opportunities, drive sustained economic growth, and improve the quality of life for all Rhode
Island residents; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence
Plantations hereby expresses our strong support and endorsement of the New England Secondary
School Consortium and its goals, strategies, and partnerships; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
transmit duly certified copies to the Governor of Rhode Island; the Commissioners of Elementary
and Secondary Education of Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island;
the executive director of the Great Schools Partnership; the president of the Nellie Mae Education
Foundation; and the director of education for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.