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State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street

Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Ken Wagner, Ph.D.
 Commissioner

July 7, 2016

Thomas A. Mullaney

State Budget Officer

Department of Administration

One Capitol Hill

Providence, RI 02908

Dear Mr. Mullaney:

The board of Education’s Capital Budget request for RIDE is comprised of $20M in spending from FY 2017 – FY 2022 for ten projects. Including money already spent, the ten projects total $53M. Seven of the nine projects are continuations of projects that were approved by the Board of Education, the Governor, and the General Assembly in previous years’ submissions.

**State-Owned Career and Technical Centers**

The Board’s request includes two projects for the state-owned, locally-operated career and technical centers that total $6.3M. Both districts have agreed to take ownership of their career and technology center buildings in FY 2017. For Warwick this request includes $3.1M for roof, HVAC, and fire safety repairs as part of the agreement to take the building back. For Woonsocket, the request includes $3.2M for roof and mechanical system work. Upon final payments in August 2016 all the locally-operated career-and-technical education centers will have been returned to local ownership.

**Statewide**

The Board’s request includes the final year of funding for two projects that apply to schools statewide: the LEA Technology Infrastructure program and the Comprehensive Education Information System (CEIS) program. For LEA Technology, $19.8M is included in Certificates of Participation (COPS) funding for the Wireless Classroom Initiative to allow LEAs to access the comprehensive data systems being developed by RIDE. The second statewide project is the continued implementation of the $7.6M Comprehensive Education Information System at RIDE.

**Metropolitan Career and Technical Center**

The Board’s request includes funding for three projects for the Met School. For existing projects, the request includes $6.4M through FY 2017 to replace the HVAC system at the Providence campuses (Public Street and Peace Street) and $250,000 per year for an ongoing asset protection plan to pay for repairs and upgrades at all three campuses (Public Street, Peace Street, and East Bay). New in this year’s capital budget is $0.9M for ADA walkway and paving improvements for the East Bay campus.

**Davies Career and Tech**

The Board’s request includes funding for two existing projects for the Davies Career and Technical School: $5.1M for the continuation of its HVAC project through FY 2018 and $150,000 per year for an ongoing asset protection plan. New in this year’s capital budget is $1.3M spread over two years for upgrades needed for the Welding program that will help Davies establish a partnership with Electric Boat.

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In summary, the Board’s request includes funding only for projects that will greatly enhance the operation, maintenance and continued success of our state’s primary and secondary education institutions. The request is consistent with the department’s goal of providing high-quality learning environments for our students and ensuring the health and safety of all students and staff.

Sincerely,

Ken Wagner, Ph.D.

Commissioner

cc: Rep. Marvin L. Abney, Chair, House Finance Committee

 Sen. Daniel DaPonte, Chair, Senate Finance Committee

 Mark Dunham, Director of Finance