



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Shepard Building  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

David V. Abbott  
Acting Commissioner

June 22, 2015

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 \$23M in spending from FY 2016 – FY 2021 for 9 projects. Including money already spent, the 9 projects total \$51M. All projects are continuations or extensions 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. One district, Warwick, has agreed to take ownership of their career and technology center building in FY 2017. This request includes \$3.1M for roof, HVAC, and fire safety repairs as part of the agreement to take the building back. For the Woonsocket school district, which has not yet agreed to take ownership of its building, the request includes \$3.2M for roof and mechanical system work. A tentative agreement has been reached, but the work will not occur until the agreement to transfer the building has been finalized.

### **Statewide**

The Board's request includes continued 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. Because of RIDE's ability to leverage Race-to-the-Top funds for CEIS infrastructure purchases, the CEIS funds will result in even greater capacity for RIDE's systems.

### **Metropolitan Career and Technical Center**

The Board's request includes funding for two projects for the Met School. The request includes \$6.4M through FY 2016 to replace the HVAC system at the Providence campuses (Public Street and Peace Street) and there is an ongoing asset protection plan to pay for repairs and upgrades at all three campuses (Public Street, Peace Street, and East Bay).

### **Davies Career and Tech**

The Board's request includes funding for two projects for the Davies Career and Technical School: \$5.1M for the continuation of its HVAC project through FY 2018 and the continuation of its ongoing asset protection plan.

Telephone (401)222-4600 Fax (401)222-6178 TTY (800)745-5555 Voice (800)745-6575 Website: [www.ride.ri.gov](http://www.ride.ri.gov)

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## Vehicles

The RI Department of Education currently has 10 vehicles: 5 for the Rhode Island School for the Deaf and 5 for Davies Career & Technical High School. There are no plans to replace any in the next three years.

In summary, the Board's request includes funding only for continuing projects that are critical to 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,



David V. Abbott  
Acting Commissioner

cc: Rep. Raymond E. Gallison Jr., Chair, House Finance Committee  
Sen. Daniel DaPonte, Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
Mark Dunham, Director of Finance