



November 3, 2015

Chairman Donald Sweitzer  
IGT Corporation, North America  
10 Memorial Blvd.  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Sweitzer,

Congratulations on your appointment to co-chair the working group that Governor Raimondo has established to review how we fund public education in Rhode Island. On behalf of the 18 exceptional independent and district charter public schools that comprise the Rhode Island League of Charter Schools, I thank you for the time and effort that you will be investing in this important endeavor.

I am eager to hear your ideas and I would be delighted to answer any questions you might have and share whatever insights I can offer. I am also happy to facilitate a tour of any of our member schools at your convenience, so that you may observe our students and teachers in action!

We are proud that Rhode Island's charter public schools rank among the best in the country. In fact, a national study conducted by Stanford University's Center for Research on Education Outcomes in 2013 revealed that our charter public schools in Rhode Island have a greater positive impact on student learning in math and reading than charters in any other state nationwide. According to the Stanford study, in a typical, 180-day school year, our charter school students receive the equivalent of 108 additional days of learning in math, and 86 additional days of learning in reading.

In short, Rhode Island's charter public schools deliver exactly the kind of return on investment that this state needs. The fact that charter public schools had 13,578 applications for just 1,871 openings last year demonstrates that Rhode Islanders value choice in public education. Maintaining an equitable, student-centered funding formula is essential to the continued improvement of *all* of Rhode Island's public schools. We look forward to working with you to achieve this goal in the months ahead.

Very truly yours,

Timothy J. Groves,  
Executive Director  
Rhode Island League of Charter Schools