



Support Housing Aid Equity for Charter Public Schools!

Why is housing aid unfair for charter public schools?

Charter schools are public schools – they are open to the public, funded by the public and accountable to the public.

Rhode Island’s housing aid statute created a program that “guaranteed adequate housing for all public school children and prevent the cost of school housing from interfering with effective operation of schools”. However, the current housing aid reimbursement ratio for our charter public schools does not allow this.

Unfortunately, when it comes to school state housing aid reimbursement for facilities, independent charter public schools are being treated unfairly.

Independent charter public schools are reimbursed for facilities at a rate of

30%

while traditional public schools are reimbursed at a **minimum** of

35%

and in some cases, traditional public schools are reimbursed up to

90%

Passage of S-2208 Sub A and H-7433 Sub A can change this unfair law.

Passage of Senate Bill 2208 Sub A and House Bill 7433 Sub A will:

- Provide that housing aid share ratio for independent charter public schools would be determined by a “blended-rate” – the average share ratio of the cities/towns where a charter school draws its students from.
- Apply the “blended-rate” as long as it is not higher than the share ratio of the city/town where the charter is located.
- Certify that the independent charter school has attempted to utilize vacant school property within the municipality where the charter is located before it becomes eligible to access state housing aid reimbursement.

“Adequate facilities are a necessary part of a thorough and efficient education system.”

—RIDE Public Schoolhouse Assessment, 2013

The Rhode Island League of Charter Schools exists to expand the role of charter public schools in RI’s public education system. The League is guided by the directors of the 17 member charter public schools and provides a forum for advocacy, sharing of best practices and collaboration. For more information, visit www.richarterschools.com.