



Rhode Island Association of School Business Officials
610 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02903

March 1, 2007

Senator Joseph Montalbano
Representative William Murphy
Senator M. Teresa Paiva-Weed
Representative Gordon Fox
Senator Stephen Alves
Representative Steven Costantino

Honorable Senators and Representatives:

The RI Association of School Business Officials (RIASBO) recognizes the numerous challenges facing Rhode Islanders and the enormity of the needs to be met by our public education system. The passage of S-3050 has been a catalyst to increase cooperative efforts to strengthen efficiencies at all levels. While we support this dialogue and the creativity that will emerge, we are very concerned about the impact on our current educational system in the short term.

The lack of an appropriate education funding formula and limited education aid coupled with this cap on local funding to support education will have the immediate effect of impacting the delivery of services to our students. A district's future ability to work within the cap through changes in contracts, benefits, delivery models and a host of other options is not immediately within reach until contracts are open and time to plan is allowed.

The members of RIASBO urge you to consider a moratorium on the implementation of S-3050 until an education funding formula is in place and Section 4 of R.I.G.L. 44-45-2 has been fully implemented. Notwithstanding this recommendation, we have had discussions about opportunities that exist to control costs and want to share these

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recommendations with you. Some of these recommendations require legislative action while others require action at the state or local level. We have offered suggestions for changes both on an immediate and long-term level and ask that you consider these carefully along with our request for a moratorium on S-3050.

RIASBO members support the implementation of a Uniform Chart of Accounts knowing that this will bring not only greater transparency, accountability and uniformity to the financial components of a school district but also greater opportunities to analyze the impacts of funding on many levels. We ask for the continued support of the legislature in order to implement this initiative in difficult financial times. Ultimately, the uniform method of accounting will assist in future initiatives by providing accurate and comparable data from district to district and school to school.

On behalf of RIASBO, I would like to thank you for taking the time to review our suggestions and recommendations. Know that I and the members of my Executive Board would be happy to meet with you to discuss our proposals. Please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Sincerely,

Cynthia S. Brown, President
RI Association of School Business Officials

Attachment: Proposal List

Cc: P. McWalters
D. Abbott
C. Dias
A. Andrade
Superintendents of Schools