



Collaboration between School Districts and Public Charter Schools

House Bill 5976, Senate Bill 557

House Bill 5976 and Senate Bill 557 establish district-charter compacts between public charter schools and traditional public schools and would establish a compact fund in support of these collaboration efforts.

The legislation would:

Permit the creation of district-charter collaboration compacts or agreements.

- The legislation permits a school committee for any public school district, charter public school or network of charter public schools to be able to enter into a compact with one or more school committees of other districts, charter public schools or networks of charter public schools that, in whole or in part, draw students from the same district. The compact may cover areas of interest to the parties.

Create a compact fund to support these efforts and support the acceptance of contributions to this fund.

- The district-charter compact support fund would be designated to support district-charter collaboration efforts and compacts, and permits the Rhode Island General Assembly to annually appropriate implementation funds. The general treasurer may accept grants, gifts and bequests into the compact fund.

Allow school districts to create a competitive grant process.

- The Board of Education may establish competitive grant processes for school committees subscribing to district-charter compacts, and grant recipients may use the funds to carry out planning and implementation activities. Such activities may (but need not) include coordinating enrollment procedures, providing for common professional development activities for teachers, administrators, and staff, and developing efficient methods of reducing costs, such as providing transportation and serving special needs students.



Why does RI-CAN support these bills?

This legislation creates an important avenue to foster district-charter collaboration and bring opportunities to share information, practices, expertise and create efficiencies through resource sharing and additional collaborative efforts.

RI-CAN supports these bills because they:

- **ENSURE THOUGHTFUL AND DELIBERATE COLLABORATION** - Thoughtful and deliberate district-charter collaboration is an important step towards ensuring that all students have access to a great education.
- **SUPPORT A GREAT EDUCATION FOR ALL KIDS** - Recent research has confirmed the importance of creating these collaborative efforts in support of providing a great education for all kids, and has also identified tangible benefits for communities, school districts, charter schools and teachers and school leaders. Cities like Central Falls, Providence, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles and Denver have taken important steps to foster these partnerships, which continue to deepen, benefitting children and families from both types of schools.¹
- **DEVELOP LEARNING AND BEST PRACTICE SHARING OPPORTUNITIES** - When traditional public school districts and public charter schools work together and collaborate, it creates important learning and best practice sharing opportunities, strengthens the public education system and results in meaningful educational opportunities to Rhode Island students.

It is time for Rhode Island to bring charter-district collaborative opportunities to the state — for kids, families and communities throughout the state.

VOTE YES ON HB 5976 and SB 557

For more information please contact Bill Fischer, external relations director, RI-CAN, at bfischer@tnorthcomm.com or 401-281-9398.

¹ Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE), “Bridging the District-Charter Divide to Help More Students Succeed”, January 2017, <http://www.crpe.org/publications/bridging-district-charter-divide>.