



# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No. 109*

**EFFECTIVE March 17, 2024**

WHEREAS, The Providence Public Schools District (PPSD), under the oversight of the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), has recently announced the closure of several schools due to concerns over the conditions of the buildings and declining enrollment; and

WHEREAS, The decisions to close schools were made without sufficient public notice, community involvement, clear methodology, or metrics, potentially leaving affected communities feeling unheard, marginalized, and lacking transparency and accountability in the process; and

WHEREAS, There is growing apprehension regarding the transfer of vacant school buildings to larger charter school entities, raising questions about the potential consequences for local education dynamics and community cohesion; and

WHEREAS, The rise in charter school presence in Providence has led to shifts in enrollment patterns and funding allocations, prompting a need for careful examination of its impact on the broader educational landscape; and

WHEREAS, The Providence Public School Department is facing annual losses nearing \$30 million to charter school tuition, there is an urgent need to assess the implications of charter school expansion on educational resources and equity within the community; and

WHEREAS, It is essential to approach these issues with a balanced perspective, recognizing the value of diverse educational options while ensuring equitable access and resource distribution across all educational institutions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

1. The Providence City Council insists that RIDE and PPSD make transparency and community involvement top priorities in future decisions concerning school closures. It is imperative to gather input from all relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to students, parents, teachers, and every member of the school board.
2. The Providence City Council expresses a desire for a thoughtful consideration of the implications of transferring vacant school buildings to charter schools, emphasizing the need to uphold the integrity of the local educational ecosystem and promote inclusive educational practices.
3. The Providence City Council acknowledges the complexities surrounding the role of charter schools in the Providence educational landscape and calls for a comprehensive fiscal impact study of their impact on enrollment trends and funding dynamics within the public school system. The Providence Council specifically requests that Deputy Superintendent of Operations of the Providence Public School District be tasked with conducting this study by June 1, 2024.

4. The Providence City Council affirms its commitment to fostering collaboration and dialogue among all educational stakeholders to ensure the equitable distribution of resources and opportunities for all students in Providence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAR 07 2024

READ AND PASSED, *As Amended*

*Richard B. Miller*  
RICHARD B. MILLER, PRESIDENT  
*Tina L. Mastroianni*  
CLERK

Effective without the  
Mayor's Signature

*Tina L. Mastroianni*  
Tina L. Mastroianni  
City Clerk