

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 279

Approved June 12, 2025

WHEREAS, The Trump Administration issued an executive order on March 20 mandating the dismantling of the U.S. Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Congressional action is needed to officially close the Department, however, a new bill was introduced in the House proposing its elimination by the end of 2026; and

WHEREAS, These actions are harmful to the security of public education for the 83% of US students and 95% of students with disabilities who attend public schools and benefit from programs run by the Department of Education, as well as the 3.5 million educators of our public school system; and

WHEREAS, While officially closing the Department will be a lengthy and challenging process, stripping it of its key functions by transferring its responsibilities to other agencies and dramatically reducing staff sizes is disruptive, unnecessary, and dangerous; and

WHEREAS, Critical programs overseen by the Department of Education include Title I, which provides funding to economically disadvantaged schools, and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which helps millions of students afford higher education in this country; and

WHEREAS, In Providence, PPSD received \$34.6 million from the federal government for FY23, which was used to fund professional development for our educators, before-and-after-school programming for students, technology advancements, and supplemental curricula; and

WHEREAS, While local government certainly funds and controls most components of public school, the Department of Education is critical to funding education in Providence as well as enforcing federal statutes that impact our students and families, including prohibiting discrimination, ensuring equal access to education, and protecting the rights of students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Undermining the Department of Education will undermine these systems and protections that ensure our students can afford higher education, have after-school opportunities, access to school lunches, protection from discrimination, and more; and

WHEREAS, Instead of dismantling the Department, this country needs and deserves genuine leadership, particularly post-COVID, where the nation faces high rates of chronic absenteeism and has yet to recover to pre-COVID test score levels.



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Providence City Council denounces the federal action taken to weaken the Department of Education and will continue to ensure our students are not negatively impacted by these decisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to Superintendent Montañez, the members of the Providence School Board, and Rhode Island Department of Education Commissioner Infante-Green.

IN CITY COUNCIL.

JUN 05 2025

READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Mayor

Date: 6/12/25