

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No.444

Approved June 23, 2000

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED , that His Honor, the Mayor, is hereby
authorized to execute "The Providence Compact For Excellence in Education"
in substantially the form as attached to this Resolution.

PROVIDENCE
CITY COUNCIL
JUN 22 2000
READ AND PASSED
PRES.
Michael R. Clement
CLERK

APPROVED
JUN 23 2000
Mayor Cameron
MAYOR

Council President Lombardi

THE PROVIDENCE COMPACT
FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Whereas, the Providence School Board with the support of the City of Providence, has appointed a Superintendent and with her assistance identified infrastructure and programming changes needed in its public schools and developed a specific plan to accomplish those changes; and,

Whereas, the Providence School Board with the support of the City of Providence has come forward to seek funding assistance in the nature of an additional investment in education from the State of Rhode Island to implement an aggressive program of reform of its public schools, including a comprehensive focus on literacy in all of its schools as part of a series of reform strategies that have been identified in the "Rekindling the Dream" plan for improving the Providence Public Schools; and,

Whereas, in order to improve the overall student performance results of the State of Rhode Island it is necessary to continue to improve the student performance of the Providence Public Schools students, and,

Now therefore in recognition of the need to address the above challenges and implement a plan of aggressive school reform and educational improvement it is resolved that the Providence School Board, the City of Providence, the Rhode Island Department

of Education and the Rhode Island General Assembly, consistent with the Fiscal Year 2000-2001 Budget legislation, agree to the following for the 2000-2001 school year:

1. The Superintendent, with the support of the Providence School Board, the City of Providence and the State of Rhode Island will maximize the fiscal and human resources of the Providence Public Schools to initiate the implementation of a comprehensive, aggressive reform of its public schools with a focus on high student standards with a concentration on literacy and numeracy program for all students. To the extent possible within the limits of the current resources and recognizing current operational expenses, the Superintendent and School Board shall redirect significant existing resources and expend the additional state aid resources to support this comprehensive reform and meet the goal of improving student performance.
2. The Superintendent and the Providence School Board, with the support of the City of Providence, shall begin the redesign and restructure its middle and high schools in a timely and effective manner.
3. The Superintendent and the Providence School Board, with the support of the City of Providence shall begin to assemble a management team to implement this aggressive program of reform. In selecting members of this management team the Superintendent shall, with the support of the School Board to conduct local and national searches and select the most highly qualified

candidates. This management team shall develop a human resource infrastructure to manage the human resource/personnel operations of a large urban school system. To the extent possible within the limits of current resources, this personnel infrastructure shall be capable of conducting successful recruitment into all positions and develop and maintain a database for all personnel that contains information on staff assignments, professional development, evaluation and other pertinent information helpful to developing a teaching and administrative force with the highest levels of expertise.

4. The Superintendent and the Providence School Board with the support of the City of Providence shall initiate the development, implementation and maintenance a management information system and shall maintain effective personnel, fiscal and student record systems necessary for the successful operation of a large urban school system. This information system will generate the necessary reports to permit the evaluation of the progress toward the successful implementation of the aggressive program of school reform including fiscal and student performance measures.

5. The Providence School Board with the support of the City of Providence will continue to progress to meet school and district student performance improvement goals and targets identified through the S.A.L.T. and strategic planning process within the timeframes specified in Chapter 7.1 of Title 16 of the General Laws of Rhode Island.

6. The Providence School Board recognizes that the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is accountable to the General Assembly in the implementation of the state education reform effort commonly known as Article 31 (found at Chapter 7.1 of Title 16 of the General Laws) and shall extend cooperation to the Department in carrying out its mandate.
7. The General Assembly directs the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education to conduct ongoing independent assessments and evaluations of the progress made toward the goals of this Compact.
8. The improvement of the Providence Public Schools will require that the best available faculty, staff, administrators and leadership be engaged in the implementation of a plan of school improvement. To this end the Superintendent and the Providence School Board, to the extent possible within the limits of current resources, shall obtain and develop the best faculty, staff, administrators and educational leadership available. In selecting faculty and staff the Superintendent shall, with the support of the School Board to conduct local and national searches and select the most highly qualified candidates.
9. The General Assembly further supports the efforts of the Superintendent, School Board and City of Providence in aggressively seeking additional

resources for the Providence Public Schools from foundation and other sources and the General Assembly will provide the support necessary to assist the Providence Public Schools in securing these additional resources.

10. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall meet regularly with representatives of the Providence School Board and the City of Providence and will report quarterly to the Chairs of the House and Senate Finance Committees on the implementation of this Compact.
11. Pursuant to R.I.G.L. §§ 16-1-5, 16-1-8 (authorizing and directing the Commissioner to inspect the schools and direct improvements in the administration of the school system) , 16-1-10, 16-1-11, 16-5-30 (withholding of aid by Commissioner with report to the General Assembly), 16-7-31 (withholding of state funds by General Treasurer), 16-7.1-5 (Article 31 authority to restructure “governance, budget, program, personnel and/or may include decisions regarding continued operation” and permitting Board of Regents control of district), 16-7.1-16 (authorizing the Commissioner to require a school district to reserve a portion of targeted aid for intervention remedies), 16-60-4, 16-60-6, 16-60-9 (power to investigate all transactions and matters relating to public elementary and secondary education including subpoena power) , and 45-13-1.1 the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education will enforce the requirements of this agreement. In the event that commitments made herein are not effectuated, the Commissioner will direct compliance utilizing his authority to direct state aid to the purpose

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under the authorities cited above in this paragraph. The Providence School Board and the City of Providence further reserve rights of judicial review. The Providence School Board retains the rights provided for in the Rhode Island General Laws for due process and appeal rights to the Board of Regents and the courts in the event of enforcement action under this agreement.

Agreed and subscribed to on this day of June, 2000.

Appropriate signatures