

LWVRI EDUCATION FINANCE STUDY INTRODUCTION AND OUTLINE

At its 2009 Convention, the LWVRI decided the following : “The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island shall study the financing of elementary and secondary(k-12) education in Rhode Island to determine if it provides equality of opportunity for education through a system of taxation that is sufficient, equitable, flexible and coordinated among the different levels of government.”

The LWVUS Principles state that “every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all”. Further, LWVUS Principles state that “efficient and economical government requires...adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government” and that “government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation.” The LWVRI study seeks to find ways to achieve these goals within the RI Constitution, which states in Article XII, Section I:

It shall be the duty of the general assembly to promote public schools and public libraries, and to adopt all means which it may deem necessary and proper to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities of education and public library services.

The materials presented here are to facilitate discussion and the achievement of consensus among members of LWVRI. We hope to formulate a LWVRI position based on the answers to the consensus questions by March, 2011, in order to be able to testify before the Rhode Island Legislature during its current session.

The education study report is published on the LWVRI website www.lwvri.org and hard copies will be distributed by local leagues to members upon request. The chapters of the study are listed below together with internet links to individual reports. The Study Committee¹, in producing these materials, has made every attempt to provide an accurate view of what has happened and is happening pertaining to public education funding in Rhode Island.

I. Background

- A [History of Rhode Island State Education Aid Part I and Part II](#)
- B [How Rhode Island’s State, Local and Federal Education Funding Compares Regionally and Nationally](#)
- C [The Effect of the Rhode Island Legislature’s 2003 Amendment on the Separation of Powers on Education Funding](#)
- D [The Role of the Rhode Island Department of Education in determining State Aid to Each School District](#)
- E [Rhode Island School Funding Formula 1998-2011](#)
- F [Outline of Rhode Island State Education Aid Budgetary Process](#)
- G [Funding Our Future: An Approach to Fund Education In Rhode Island, April 2007](#)
- H [Report of the Foundation Aid Technical Advisory Group to the Joint Committee to Establish a Permanent Foundation Aid Formula for Rhode Island](#)

II Rhode Island Taxation Policies

- A Introduction to Taxation
 - A 1 [Tax Principles: Building Blocks of a Sound Tax System](#)
 - A 2 [ITEP Guide to Fair Taxes](#)
- B [Local Tax Effort for Public Education in RI Cities and Towns](#)
 - B 1 [Local Property Tax Effort for Public Education](#)
 - B 2 [Local Tax Effort for Public Education](#)
- C. [How Rhode Islanders Raise Revenue for Education](#)

III Rhode Island State Education Aid Formula

- A [Education Funding Formula Basics](#)
- B [The Educational Adequacy Act of 2010](#)
- C [Final Funding Formula Legislation passed 6/10/10](#)
- D. [Funding Formula Proposed](#)
- E [Rhode Island Department of Education Power Point Presentation on the New Funding Formula](#)

¹ The LWVRI Education Finance Study Committee, chaired by Mickie Bonneau, consists of Greta Abbott, Helen Abrams, Colleen Azzarro, Mary Chace, Holly Courage, Joanne DeVoe, Susan Escherich, Barbara Feldman, Marie Henney, Patty MacLeish, and Jane Rankin

F State Share Calculator

IV. Other State Funding Formulas

A State Education Funding Formulas and Grade Weighting , May 2005

V. Funding Charter Schools in Rhode Island

A Charter Schools in Rhode Island