RHODE ISLAND KIDS COUNT
ONE UNION STATION
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903
401/351-9400 • 401/351-1758 (FAX)

Testimony Re: Senate Bill 214 Re: Curriculum-Basic Education Program
Senate Education Committee
April 7, 2021
Paige Clausius-Parks, Senior Policy Analyst

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT would like to voice its support for Senate Bill 214 which would establish a minimum standard for Rhode Island public education (Basic Education Program) **including a minimum standard for Multilingual Learners/English Learners (MLL/EL)** and would require a biennial review and fiscal analysis of the BEP.

In recent years, Rhode Island has taken a number of steps to ensure that all children have access to the kind of high-quality education they need to succeed in school, career, and life. These key steps included instituting an education funding formula that is based on five key principles – equity, adequacy, predictability, accountability, and efficiency and later improving this funding formula to provide additional funds to support the additional needs of MLL/EL students, although more support is needed in this area. Another key step was developing a Basic Education Plan (BEP) that outlines the rights of every student in the Rhode Island public education system and sets basic standards to help ensure that high-quality education is available to all public school students, regardless of where they live or go to school.

Education Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
3rd Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Reading	57%	33%	33%	58%	23%	48%
3rd Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Math	45%	21%	24%	52%	16%	36%
Four-Year High School Graduation Rates	88%	76%	81%	88%	70%	84%
Immediate College Enrollment Rates	72%	56%	61%	76%	59%	67%

Sources: Third Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Reading and Math data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS), 2019. Four-Year High School Graduation Rates data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2019. Immediate College Enrollment Rates data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2018. Adult Educational Attainment data are

Even after these important steps, we know that there are still inequities. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT supports efforts to regularly evaluate, update, and provide fiscal analysis of the costs of providing high-quality public education in Rhode Island, especially for those identified as high-need students, including MLL/EL students. We support budgetary investments needed to close unacceptable and persistent gaps in academic outcomes by race, ethnicity, income, language status and disability.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment today.

rikids@rikidscount.org
www.rikidscount.org