

## rhode island league of charter schools



**challenge:** The initial 2004 Rhode Island state budget proposed \$5.7 million in increased funding for the state's 10 charter schools, while only level funding traditional public schools. This instantly created a public schools vs. charter schools dynamic, with powerful teacher union attacks that charter schools were "taking money away from the public school system."

**solution:** Facing a difficult public and legislative environment, the Rhode Island League of Charter Schools turned to Advocacy Solutions to mobilize the best resource charter schools have available . . . their parents, teachers, board members, and extended communities. To engage these supporters and persuade legislators that increased funding was necessary to support the growth of Rhode Island's charter schools, Advocacy Solutions:



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CHARTER SCHOOLS**

- ❑ Launched an electronic advocacy portal ([www.RICharterSchools.com](http://www.RICharterSchools.com)) to educate supporters about the issue and allow them to contact their lawmakers. Over the four month campaign, hundreds of supporters generate more than 2,100 letters, faxes, and emails to 79 state legislators and the governor.
- ❑ Helped place pro-charter school op-ed pieces in the Providence Journal and other local Rhode Island papers.
- ❑ Coordinated League testimony and directly lobbied key lawmakers.

**result:** The enacted state budget included the entire \$5.7 million increase for Rhode Island's charter schools.