



Combat the Student Mental Health Crisis: Fund More School Social Workers

Pass
S-2245 (Sosnowski)
H-7456 (Shallcross Smith)

This bill increases access to school social workers by requiring **one** full-time social worker for every **250** students in K–12 public schools by 2030.



School Support Standard

The National Association of Social Workers recommends at least **one** school social worker for every **250** students to meet the needs of students.

56%

Stress Is Holding Students Back

In 2025, **56%** of students in grades 6-12 said that **stress interfered** with their ability to participate in school.

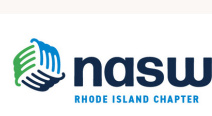


Lack of Support

More than **one-third** of high school students in Rhode Island said that they are “**rarely**” or “**never**” able to **receive support** when feeling sad, empty, **hopeless**, angry, or anxious,

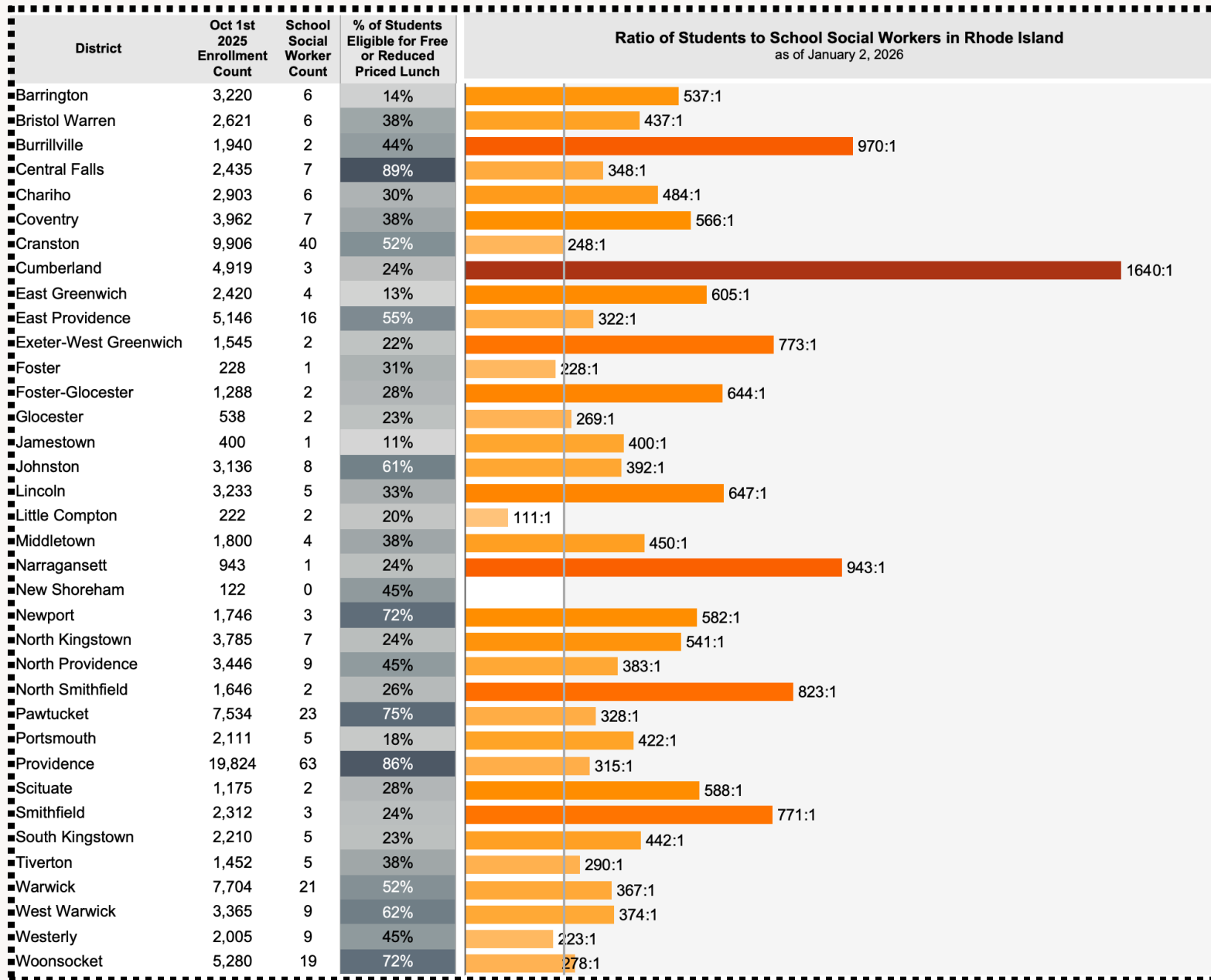
“When I was in the eighth grade, I missed over 80 days of school. I had panic attacks, was scared of school shootings, and didn’t feel safe. But my school social worker showed up for me every single day. She wasn’t just my counselor—she was like my second mom. She helped me navigate my feelings and showed me better ways to cope.”

Marcel Anderson,
Providence Student



"Having to split between multiple schools is challenging, and makes it so services may have to occur every other week (instead of weekly), in order to be able to service more students."

— S.S., Scituate Elementary Schools, Grades K-5



"I am the only [school] social worker for 1,400 high schoolers. I end up having to prioritize the highest level of mental health needs and services over other supportive interventions..."

-Lisa Parker, Cumberland School District, Grades 9-12