It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 16-2 of the General Laws entitled “School Committees and Superintendents [See Title 16 Chapter 97 - The Rhode Island Board of Education Act]” is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:


Notwithstanding any other law or rule, any two (2) or more school committees may establish joint purchasing agreements between and among themselves or with the Rhode Island Society of Technology Educators (“RISTE”), a domestic nonprofit corporation, for the purposes of establishing bids pursuant to chapter 55 of title 45, and jointly purchasing technology related goods and services. The RISTE, acting on behalf of any school committee(s) that are members of a joint purchasing agreement with RISTE, may establish specifications and bid on behalf of such member school districts. The RISTE shall comply with bidding requirements of chapter 55 of title 45. The RISTE and any consortia created pursuant to a joint purchase agreement under this chapter shall be entitled to all the rights and benefits set forth in §37-2-56. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this section permits any non-public school or non-public school district access to the master price agreement maintained by the department of administration, division of purchases.
SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.
EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION

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1 This act would allow school committees and the Rhode Island Society of Technology Educators ("RISTE") to enter into joint purchase agreements for the purchase of technology and IT infrastructure.

2 This act would take effect upon passage.

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