



**North Smithfield**

**Public Schools**

*A community dedicated to excellence*

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**School Committee**

James J. Lombardi III, Esq., CPA, Chair

Jean B. Meo, Vice-Chair

William J. Connell, Esq., Secretary

Margaret Votta

Terri Bartomioli

**North Smithfield School Committee Resolution**

**Funding Formula**

**SECTION I**

**WHEREAS:** In 2011, Rhode Island implemented a Foundation-based Funding Formula. The new Formula followed years of arbitrary education funding. A key element of the Formula is the Core Instructional Amount (CIA). The CIA funds essential education costs required by Rhode Island's Basic Education Program. The CIA is calculated using average expenditure and enrollment data from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire. Under current law, the CIA will, in FY 2025, increase to \$12,617, a 6.2% increase. The Governor's proposed FY 2025 budget would index CIA funding to the Consumer Price Index and cap it to a 3.7% increase, or \$12,335. As a result, Local Education Agencies would realize a \$26 million reduction in formula aid, and Rhode Island's per pupil expenditure average would fall further behind the other New England states.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the North Smithfield School Committee urges the members of the General Assembly to maintain CIA funding at the existing level for FY 2025 and beyond.

**SECTION II**

**WHEREAS:** In FY2024, the Rhode Island General Assembly increased the categorical funding for Multi Language Learners (MLL) from 10% of the CIA to 15%, increasing funding to \$20 million, and also directed the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) to develop objective benchmarks consistent with the WIDA consortium for determining student English proficiency by October 1, 2023, and

**WHEREAS:** Heretofore, RIDE has yet to develop WIDA-compliant benchmarks.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the North Smithfield School Committee urges the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education to direct RIDE staff to develop English proficiency benchmarks as soon as possible.

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**SECTION III**

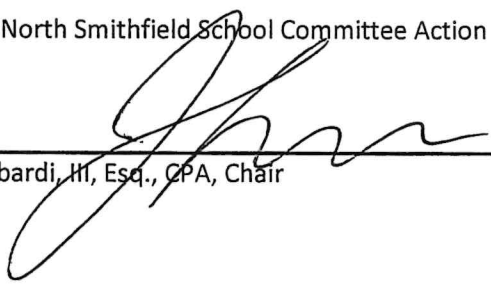
**WHEREAS:** The Rhode Island General Assembly increased the High-Cost Special Education categorical fund to \$15 million by lowering the reimbursement threshold from five times the CIA plus the student success factor to four times. And reducing it to 3% would provide an additional \$25 million to LEAs to meet this critical need.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the North Smithfield School Committee urges the members of the General Assembly to lower the High-Cost Special Education categorical fund to 3% and provide full funding in the future.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Daniel J. McKee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, the Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, the Honorable Dominick J. Ruggiero, President of the Rhode Island Senate, and the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education.

**WHERETO:** The following bear witness:

Approved by North Smithfield School Committee Action

  
James J. Lombardi, III, Esq., CPA, Chair

3/19/24  
Date