



# TOWN OF EXETER, RI

---

**TOWN COUNCIL**

Daniel W. Patterson, President  
Raymond A. Morrissey, Jr., Vice President  
Diane Bampton Allen  
Olivia DeFrancesco  
Calvin A. Ellis

675 Ten Rod Road  
Exeter, R.I. 02822  
Ph: (401) 294-3891  
Fax: (401) 295-1248  
clerk@exeterri.gov

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
TOWN OF EXETER**

**RESOLUTION  
NO. 2025-04**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AMENDMENTS TO RIGL 16-21.1-1  
ET SEQ. REGARDING FUNDING OF STUDENT TRANSPORTATION**

**WHEREAS:** Rhode Island General Laws ("RIGL") 16-21.1-1(5) and 16-2.1-2 currently require State and Local Education Agencies to provide and fund private school transportation; and

**WHEREAS:** Transportation of private school students is not a federal requirement; and

**WHEREAS:** Rhode Island provides significant subsidies for private schools, some charging tuition exceeding \$40,000 annually, while districts face rising costs in other areas, such as homeless student transportation; and

**WHEREAS:** The growing transportation costs for homeless students and other vulnerable populations are underfunded, requiring districts to divert resources from other critical educational priorities; and

**WHEREAS:** The Exeter Town Council believes that amending RIGL 16-21.1-1 (5) to require non-public non-profit schools to share in transportation costs with sending school districts would ensure equitable resource allocation.

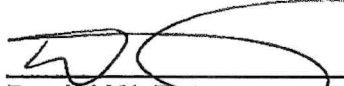
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Town of Exeter Town Council respectfully requests that the Rhode Island General Assembly amend RIGL 16-21.1-1 et seq. to prioritize funding for homeless student transportation and require private schools to share in transportation costs. Proposed amendments to the statute include:

- 1. Shared Cost Model:** Non-public non-profit schools benefiting from statewide transportation should share transportation costs with sending districts.
- 2. State Funding Priority:** Full funding of transportation costs for McKinney-Vento (homeless) students to ensure equity and compliance with federal mandates.

3. **Policy Alignment:** Re-evaluation of transportation policies to prioritize public education needs and vulnerable student populations over private school subsidies.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Town Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Rhode Island Governor Daniel McKee, the President of the Rhode Island State Senate, the Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, the State Senator and Representatives of the Town of Exeter, and all City and Town Councils and School Committees of Rhode Island.

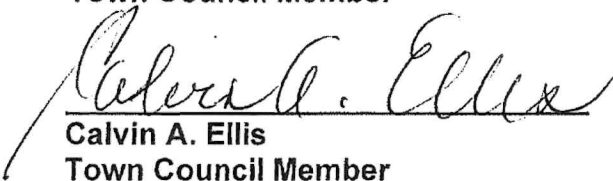
Approved by vote of the Exeter Town Council on this 5<sup>TH</sup> day of May, 2025.

  
Daniel W. Patterson  
Town Council President

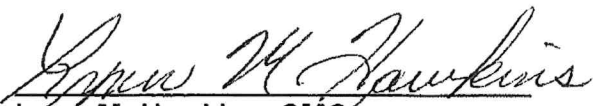
  
Raymond A. Morrissey  
Town Council Vice President

  
Diane Bampton Allen  
Town Council Member

  
Olivia DeFrancesco  
Town Council Member

  
Calvin A. Ellis  
Town Council Member

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereby set my hand and the Official Seal of The Town of Exeter this 5<sup>TH</sup> day of May, 2025.

  
Lynn M. Hawkins, CMC  
Town Clerk

Introduced by:

COUNCIL MEMBER  
CALVIN A. ELLIS

Introduced on:

5/5/2025

Approved on:

5/5/2025