



Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

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Director of Administration

TAISABEL LOPEZ
District treasurer

RESOLUTION OF THE EXETER-WEST GREENWICH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WHEREAS: Rhode Island General Law (RIGL) § 16-21.1-1(5) and § 16-21.1-2 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 Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District, based on current year expenses, has budgeted \$239,877 for private school transportation for the 2025-2026 school year, representing a substantial financial burden on the district; and

WHEREAS: Based on current year expenses, the District has budgeted (for the 2025-26 school year) \$74,891 in transportation costs for McKinney-Vento (homeless) students, \$237,935 for students attending career and technical centers in other districts, \$651,266 for out-of-district placements, and \$85,714 under ESSA requirements, totaling \$1,049,806 in projected excess transportation expenses; 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

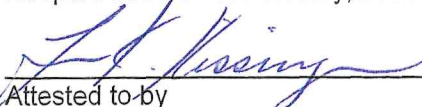
WHEREAS: The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee believes that amending RIGL §16-21.1-1 (5) to require nonpublic nonprofit schools to share in transportation costs with sending school districts would ensure equitable resource allocation;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee 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:** Nonpublic nonprofit 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:** Reevaluation of transportation policies to prioritize public education needs and vulnerable student populations over private school subsidies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to every Rhode Island Municipality, School Committee, State Senator, State Representative, and the Governor.

Adopted this 25th of February, 2025


Attested to by

Lee Kissinger, School Committee Chairperson



Our Mission: Empowering Students: Dream...Reach...Succeed.

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex or sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, religion, race, national origin, color, creed, political affiliation or disability in its employment policies.