

TOWN OF FOSTER, RHODE ISLAND
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDING FOR EDUCATION

Resolution #2019-04

WHEREAS, education is the cornerstone of our society, the rights and liberties of all citizens, our various levels of government and the multitude social programs available to all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Constitution provides for, in relevant part, as Article XII, Section 1 that it is the duty of the General Assembly to promote public schools and to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities of education; and

WHEREAS, over time, the General Assembly and the Rhode Island Department of Education have passed an assortment of laws and regulations mandating minimum education curriculum requirements for all public schools without providing for associated funding from state revenues; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly and the Rhode Island Department of Education have provided less and less state revenue funds to assist regional and local community organized public school programs to meet the mandated educational curriculum requirements; and

WHEREAS, regional and local community organized public school programs have, by law, been required to cover the funding gap created by the insufficient state funding for mandated educational curriculum programs; and

WHEREAS, local governments have had to increase local property and tangible tax revenues to raise additional revenue to fulfill their legal obligations for minimum public education curriculum requirements imposed on them by the State; and

WHEREAS, the Foster community has been forced to unfairly and disproportionately tax their residents and businesses to make up the State funding shortfalls for State required public education programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Foster hereby requests that the General Assembly, the Office of the Governor and the Rhode Island Department of Education initiate a statewide dialogue to address the issue of public education curriculum requirements and state sponsored funding for these requirements to establish a fair, equitable and sustainable state funded program to support public education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a reduction in local tax burdens will reduce a regressive tax burden and provide local property owners with much needed tax relief.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is hereby instructed to submit a copy of this resolution to the Town of Foster's State Senator and State Representative in the Rhode Island General Assembly, all the Cities and Towns in the State of Rhode Island, all of the School Committees in the State of Rhode Island and all Superintendents of Schools in the State of Rhode Island in consideration of their support of additional State Funding for Education.

The RESOLUTION shall take effect upon passage.

By resolution of the Foster Town Council at a meeting held on March 28, 2019.

Attest:



Denise L. DiFranco
Town Council President



Susan M. Dillon
Town Clerk

