



Smithfield School Department

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School Committee Resolution On Career and Technical Education in Comprehensive High Schools

WHEREAS: Current state law allows comprehensive public high schools to offer career and technical education (CTE) programs and career pathways; and

WHEREAS: The majority of comprehensive high schools across the state offer at least one CTE program and/or career pathways; and

WHEREAS: 90% of students in Rhode Island attend comprehensive public high schools;

WHEREAS: The CTE and pathway programs located within comprehensive high schools and CTE centers support the economic growth and development of high-wage career paths as defined by Governor Raimondo's Work Force Development Council; and

WHEREAS: No evidence exists to suggest that a study has been conducted to determine whether regional centers could support this level of new-enrollment; and

WHEREAS: No evidence exists that a study has been conducted to determine if requiring students to leave their comprehensive high schools to pursue would result in an overall decline in CTE and pathway enrollment and, thus, also decrease the number of students graduating prepared to enter high-yield, high-wage career fields; and

WHEREAS: The current regulations allow for local education agencies to determine programmatic needs rather than being directed by the discretion of regional CTE Centers, potentially leading to the dissolution of successful programs located within comprehensive high schools; and

WHEREAS: Current regulations do not include a mechanism to determine the quality of CTE programs and pathways; and

WHEREAS: Comprehensive high schools are required to pay the tuition and transportation costs for students attending CTE centers, similar to the requirement that districts fund the transportation and tuition for their students attending CTE programs in comprehensive high schools:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Smithfield School Committee respectfully requests the Rhode Island General Assembly to reject H-5266, allow current programs to continue; develop an evaluation metric to determine the quality of CTE and pathway programs, and encourage districts to come together to determine a solution that meets the needs of all students, rather than asserting that an economic solution is what Rhode Island needs.

WHERETO: The Following bear witness:

Rose Marie Cignano, School Committee Chair

Lisa Petrone, Clerk

4-22-19
Date Passed

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