



# Smithfield School Department

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SMITHFIELD  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## Smithfield School Committee Resolution Expressing Support for funding of The Categorical Fund for High Cost Special Education

**WHEREAS:** School Committees place a high priority on ensuring that ALL students receive high quality education programs and instruction and;

**WHEREAS:** The Education Funding Formula in Rhode Island includes a categorical fund to reimburse its school districts for the cost of delivering these programs and instruction for students with disabilities whose costs exceed the established threshold for eligibility of five times the amount for the core and student success under the formula on an annual basis, and;

**WHEREAS:** The amount of funding provided by the General Assembly for this categorical fund, like the Education Funding Formula itself, was intended to increase over the 10-year period of transition for the implementation of the formula and;

**WHEREAS:** The high cost special education categorical fund was to have increased funding on an annual basis with a goal of achieving \$10M in funding at the end of the formula transition period and;

**WHEREAS:** The amount funding proposed for this categorical fund in FY21 is currently \$4.5M while expenses submitted statewide for FY19 were \$12.7M and;

**WHEREAS:** At the current funding level, these costs are being reimbursed at approximately 35% statewide rather than reimbursed at 100% and;

**WHEREAS:** Both the level of funding for this categorical fund and the threshold for eligibility are insufficient to appropriately reimburse districts for these high costs;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Smithfield School Committee respectfully requests the Rhode Island General Assembly support full funding of the high cost special education categorical fund and a reduction in the eligibility threshold from its current amount to two times the amount of the core and student success factor.

**RESOLVED:** That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to every Rhode Island Municipality, School Committee, State Senator, State Representative, and the Governor.

**WHERETO:** The following bear witness:

Approved by the Smithfield School Committee

Rose Marie Cipriano, Chair Rose Marie Cipriano Date: May 4, 2020