



## Smithfield School Department

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### Smithfield School Committee Resolution Expressing Support for funding of RIDE Transportation Offset ESSA

**WHEREAS:** The Education Funding Formula in Rhode Island includes a categorical fund to reimburse its school districts who utilize the statewide transportation program for the cost of transportation for non-public school students, and;

**WHEREAS:** School districts statewide have incurred costs under ESSA that are unpredictable in both numbers of students transported and the locations to which they are transported across the state as well as the costs for this transportation, and;

**WHEREAS:** There is no state reimbursement, in full or in part, for transportation provided for students transported across the state under the requirements of the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, and;

**WHEREAS:** The *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, includes a provision for negotiation with DCYF to share a portion of this cost; and;

**WHEREAS:** These unpredictable costs are having a significant impact on local school district budgets and forcing districts to move funds from other areas of their operating budgets to cover these increased transportation costs causing undue burden and inequity across the district.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Smithfield School Committee respectfully requests the Rhode Island General Assembly to support the inclusion of ESSA transportation, provided by both the Statewide Transportation Program and local School Districts, under the Non-Public Transportation categorical fund and increase the level of funding for this categorical fund commensurate with these costs.

**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