

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
THE TOWN OF NORTH SMITHFIELD**

**RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
URGING THE CONTINUED APPROPRIATION OF
STATE & LOCAL REVENUES TO SUPPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION**

WHEREAS: The COVID-19 Pandemic has posed an unparalleled health threat to all Rhode Islanders, Americans, and the entire international community; and

WHEREAS: As a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Gina Raimondo declared a state of emergency in Rhode Island on March 9, 2020; and the President of the United States declared a national state of emergency on March 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS: On March 13, 2020, Governor Raimondo directed Rhode Island's 139,000 public schools' students to stay at home and practice distance learning; and

WHEREAS: The Basic Education Program's "Authority, Purpose and Scope" is to determine educational standards for Rhode Island's public schools, and the maintenance of local municipal appropriations to support its implementation; and

WHEREAS: In addition to meeting the instructional requirements of the Basic Education Program, school districts provide students with a wide array of other services, including transportation, school breakfast & lunch meals, early childhood education, physical & mental health counseling, nutrition, physical education classes, services to students with special needs, enrichment programs, extracurricular activities, and other vital programs; and

WHEREAS: The COVID-19 Pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented economic downturn in the United States including Rhode Island by causing the layoff of millions of Americans and thousands of Rhode Islanders; and

WHEREAS: Education is the cornerstone to economic prosperity and will be vital to our complete recovery from the current worldwide Pandemic and accompanying economic downturn, and is essential to Rhode Island's future fiscal security; and

WHEREAS: A reduction in State and local aid due to the economic repercussions of the COVID-19 Pandemic could result in more significant financial and academic inequities, thus increasing achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS: A lack of resources will leave many school districts incapable of meeting the mandates articulated in the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Basic Education Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the North Smithfield Town Council respectfully requests, that in order to meet its moral and legal obligation to guarantee that all students receive an adequate, equitable and meaningful education, that the Rhode Island General Assembly enact Governor Raimondo's proposed appropriation for Education Aid, as it was initially presented to the Legislature and as currently articulated in House Bill 2020 -H 7171, introduced on January 16, 2020, by Representative Marvin Abney.

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

The undersigned the duly elected Town Council of the Town of North Smithfield have hereunto set their hands and caused this resolution to be adopted.

This resolution shall take effect upon passage.

Passed by the Town Council

on July 20, 2020

William Silva Scott
Town Clerk

Approved as to form:

David V. Igliozi
David V. Igliozi, Town Solicitor

NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Paul E. Vadenais
Paul Vadenais, President

Paul J. Zwolenski
Paul J. Zwolenski, Vice President

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Claire V. O'Hara

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Teresa Bartomoli

Approved by the Town Administrator

Gary Ezovski
Gary Ezovski