



# Town of East Greenwich State of Rhode Island

## RESOLUTION OF TOWN COUNCIL

NO. 2020.19

### SUPPORTING AN EMERGENCY EXEMPTION FOR ALL RHODE ISLAND MUNICIPALITIES IN THE COMPUTATION OF THE MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY RIGL 16-7-23

**WHEREAS:** The COVID-19 Pandemic has posed an unparalleled health threat to all Rhode Islanders, our Nation, and the entire world-wide 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 this was followed by the unprecedented action of municipal declarations of emergency in Cities and Towns across our state; and

**WHEREAS:** The COVID-19 Pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented economic downturn in the United States and further severely impacting Rhode Island's economy by causing the layoff of thousands of Rhode Islanders; and

**WHEREAS:** Education remains a critically important part of our economic prosperity and will be vital to Rhode Island's complete recovery from the current worldwide Pandemic and accompanying economic downturn, and is essential to the states future fiscal security; and

**WHEREAS:** The East Greenwich Town Council has made education a top community and budget priority and has adopted a budget that increased its local contribution for the East Greenwich School Department by 2.98 percent for the fiscal year 2021; and

**WHEREAS:** Any reduction in the total state aid to education from the amount of \$3,491,135 as forecast by the RI Department of Education in January 2020 will make the 2.98 percent increase of local funds for the East Greenwich School Department insufficient to prevent a significant financial impact and academic inequities, thus increasing achievement gaps for the students of East Greenwich in the event of a reduction in State aid due to the economic repercussions of the COVID-19 Pandemic; and with similar impacts to be felt across all Rhode Island Districts; and

**WHEREAS:** A reduction in State Aid and increasing costs stemming from COVID-19–related RIDE and State health and education mandates will therefore require the East Greenwich Town Council and all other similarly effected municipal governing bodies to appropriate additional local funds for schools in excess of their adopted budget for the fiscal year 2021 to ensure that East Greenwich and all other School Districts will meet the State mandates articulated in the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Basic Education Program.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That the East Greenwich 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 legislation that provides that the Town of East Greenwich and all other Rhode Island municipalities shall have an emergency exemption in the computation of the maintenance of effort requirements established by RIGL 16-7-23 for the fiscal year 2021 or any succeeding fiscal year thereafter as follows: *“Emergency Exemption from RIGL 16-7-23 for the Town of East Greenwich and all other Rhode Island Municipalities: To the extent that the East Greenwich Town Council and other Rhode Island Municipalities appropriates additional local funds to the their School Department that exceeds their adopted budget for the fiscal year 2021 to offset reductions in forecasted state aid to education and increased COVID -19 costs, the additional appropriation shall not be used in the computation of the maintenance of effort requirements established by RIGL 16-7-23 for the fiscal year 2021 or any succeeding fiscal year thereafter.”*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to every Rhode Island Municipality, State Senators, State Representative, and the Governor.

This resolution shall take effect upon passage.

ATTEST:



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Leigh A. Carney, CMC  
Town Clerk

Adopted on this 29th day of September, 2020 by the East Greenwich Town Council and voted 5 – 0