## FAIRNESS FOR TOWNS IN RHODE ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

I am Joanne DeVoe and am speaking to you as a taxpayer of Warren. I am here to request that the state provide education formula funds fairly to all regional school districts.

RI has four regional districts. The definitions section of R.I.G.L. Chapter 16-7 Foundation Level School Support, states, "Community' means any city, town, or regional school district established pursuant to law ... provided, however, that the member towns of Chariho ... shall constitute separate and individual communities for the purpose of determining and distributing the foundation level school support ... [16-7-16(5)]. This section was in place before the formula changes in 2010 and has not been altered since. The Chariho towns, Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton, have very different tax bases per pupil. The towns in the other regional school districts have varying tax bases too; Bristol's tax base is much larger than Warren's.

I am requesting that the Fair Funding Formula Working Group recommend that section 16-7-16(5) be amended so that all of the regional school districts are treated the same as Chariho. My understanding is that the formula funds go directly to Chariho's three towns. These towns in turn give all formula funds to Chariho as part of their local education appropriation.

Warren went to court because the data for Warren and Bristol were being lumped together to calculate the formula, costing Warren around \$2 million a year; see the chart for FY 2014. After RI Superior Court ruled in Warren's favor this spring, RIDE calculated the formula for each town separately and directed the school district to place the funds in separate accounts; see the chart for FY 2016. But since Bristol is twice the size of Warren, its six school committee members outvoted Warren's three and directed Warren to pay the amount approved for FY 2016 by the Joint Finance Committee before the court ruling was announced. Warren is paying the lesser amount that the court requires. Bristol is appealing the court ruling.

This issue can be settled fairly for all RI towns in regional school districts by having formula funds sent to each town and requiring that the towns send all formula funds to the regional school districts along with their local share. Thank you.

## Rhode Island General Laws, Title 16 Education, Chapter 16-7 Foundation Level School Support, Section 16-7-16:

- § 16-7-16 **Definitions.** The following words and phrases used in §§ 16-7-15 to 16-7-34 have the following meanings:
- (1) "Adjusted equalized weighted assessed valuation" means the equalized weighted assessed valuation of a community as determined by the department of revenue or as apportioned by the commissioner pursuant to the provisions of § 16-7-21;
- (2) "Average daily membership" means the average number of pupils in a community during a school year as determined pursuant to the provisions of § 16-7-22, less any students who are served in a program operated by the state and funded through the permanent foundation education aid formula pursuant to chapter 16-7.2;
- (3) "Basic education program" means the cost of education of resident pupils in grades twelve (12) and below in average daily membership for the reference year as determined by the mandated minimum program level;
- (4) "Certified personnel" means all persons who are required to hold certificates issued by or under the authority of the board of regents for elementary and secondary education;
- (5) "Community" means any city, town, or regional school district established pursuant to law andr the department of children, youth, and families; provided, however, that the department of children, youth, and families shall not have those administrative responsibilities and obligations as set forth in chapter 2 of this title; provided, however, that the member towns of the Chariho regional high school district, created by P.L. 1958, chapter 55 as amended, shall constitute separate and individual communities for the purpose of determining and distributing the foundation level school support including state aid for noncapital excess expenses for the special education of children with disabilities provided for in § 16-24-6 for all grades financed in whole or in part by the towns irrespective of any regionalization and any school operated by the state department of elementary and secondary education;
- (6) "Department of children, youth, and families" means that department created pursuant to chapter 72 of title 42. For purposes of this section, §§ 16-7-20, 16-24-2, and 42-72-5(b)(22), "children" means those children who are placed, assigned, or otherwise accommodated for residence by the department of children, youth, and families in a state operated or supported community residence licensed by a state agency and the residence operates an educational program approved by the department of elementary and secondary education;
- (7) "Equalized weighted assessed valuation" means the equalized weighted assessed valuation for a community as determined by the division of property valuation pursuant to the provisions of § 16-7-21;
- (8) "Full time equivalency students" means the time spent in a particular activity divided by the amount of time in a normal school day;
  - (9) "Incentive entitlement" means the sum payable to a local school district under the formula used;
- (10) "Mandated minimum program level" means the amount that shall be spent by a community for every pupil in average daily membership as determined pursuant to the provisions of § 16-7-18;
- (11) "Reference year" means the next year prior to the school year immediately preceding that in which the aid is to be paid. For the purposes of calculating the permanent foundation education formula aid as described in § 16-7.2-3, the reference date shall be one year prior to the year in which aid is paid; and
- (12) "Regularly employed" and "service" as applied to certified personnel have the same meaning as defined in chapter 16 of this title.

Note: In (5), bold is added by Joanne DeVoe

CURRENT RHODE ISLAND EDUCAT	HODE IS	LAND EL		ON FOUNDATION FORMULA CALCULATED BOTH FOR BRISTOL AND WARREN	IULA CALCULA	ATED BOT	H FOR	RISTOL	AND WARREN	
		TOGETHER ANI		D FOR EACH TOWN SEPARATELY, FY 2014	ARATELY, FY 2	014				
	PK-12	FRPL	CIA	SSF=0.4CIA	Total	%FRPL			State	State
Towns	RADM	RADM	\$8,897/Pupil	=\$3,559	Foundation	PK-6	SSRC	SSR	Share	Share/Pupil
	<b>B</b>	ပ	D=Bx\$8,897	E=Cx\$3,559	F = D + E	ပ	; I		J≂FxI	K=J/B
Bristol	2,236	999	\$19,893,692	\$2,370,294	\$22,263,986	29.1%	22.2%	25.9%	\$5,766,372	\$2,579
Warren	1,268	568	\$11,281,396	\$2,021,512	\$13,302,908	42.9%	52.1%	47.7%	\$6,345,487	\$5,004
Bristol/Warren RSD	3,429	1,288	\$30,507,813	\$4,583,734	\$35,091,547	34.2%	33.0%	33.6%	\$11,792,640	\$3,439
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The RI education funding formula is intended to provide higher percentage state shares to cities and towns with lower property tax	nding fo	rmula is		ed to provide higher percentage state shares to cities and towns with lower property tax of noor children. The current formula distributes state education formula funds directly to	centage state :	snares to	state ed	o towns i	with lower profounds	directly to
three of the four regional school districts, including the Bristol Warren Regional School District. If the state funds were distributed	or Jenoi	hool dist	ricts, including	the Bristol War	ren Regional S	chool Dis	trict. If t	he state	funds were dis	stributed
directly to the towns instead. Warren would gain significantly and Bristol would lose because Warren has a lower property tax base	sinstead	J. Warren	would gain sig	inificantly and E	3ristol would Ic	se becau	se Warre	n has a l	ower property	tax base
per pupil and a higher percentage of poor children than Bristol:	er perce	entage of	poor children	han Bristol:						
For Warren, the	e State	Share fun	ds would incre	For Warren, the State Share funds would increase by \$1,565 per pupil x 1,268 pupils = \$1,984,420;	er pupil x 1,268	= slidnd 8	\$1,984,4	20;		
For Bristol, the	State S	hare fun	ds would decre	For Bristol, the State Share funds would decrease by \$860 per pupil x 2,236 pupils = \$1,922,960	- pupil x 2,236 p	\$ = \$lidnc	1,922,960	).		
For the State, the cost would be \$5,76	he cost	would be	e \$5,766,372 + \$	6,372 + \$6,345,487 = \$12,111,859 which is \$319,219 more than \$11,792,640	,111,859 which	is \$319,2	19 more	than \$11,	792,640.	
The fourth regional school district, Chariho, does have its formula funds distributed directly to its three towns, Charlestown,	school	district, C	Charibo, does h	ave its formula	funds distribut	ed directl	y to its tl	ree town	ns, Charlestow	'n,
Hopkinton and Richmond.	mond.									
Notes:									17.	
Data for Towns in Columns B, C, G and H ar	olumns	B, C, Gal	nd H are from an	e from an Email from Kristen Cole, RIDE, to Joanne DeVoe dated November 15,	ten Cole, RIDE,	to Joanne	Devoe d	ated Nov	ember 15, 2013.	
Data for Bristol Warren Regional School Dist	ren Reg	ional Schi	ool District is from	trict is from, "FY 2014 Final Formula Calculations", RIDE.	al Formula Calcu	Jiations", F	IIDE.			
Current formula for Bristol & Warren is being	Bristol &	warren I	s peing phased i	phased in over a 10 year period beginning in 11 2012.	period beginning	07   L   Z	.5]			
Col. B. PR-12 KADM Is Resident Avelage Daily Methoership, glades Fren-12.	M IS KES	M in the f	ederal free and I	free and reduced price lunch program.	ich program.					
-Col D. Core Instructional Amount of \$8,897	tional Ar	nount of §	\$8,897 per pupil	per pupil is multiplied by PK-12 Resident Average Daily Membership.	'K-12 Resident	Average Da	aily Memi	ership.		
Col. E: Student Success Factor of 40% of C	cess Fa	ctor of 40	% of CIA or \$3,5	A or \$3,559 is multiplied by Free & Reduced Price Lunch RADM.	y Free & Reduc	ed Price L	unch RA	DM.		
Col. F: Total Foundation = (CIA x PK-12 RADM) + (0.4CIA x FRPL RADM). Column F	ation = ((	SIA × PK-	12 RADM) + (0.4	ICIA X FRPL RAI	OM). Column F	= Column D + Column E	D + Colui	nn E.		
Col. G: % FRPL PK-6 is percentage of RADM in grades PreK-6 that are in the federal free and reduced price lunch program.	-6 is per	centage c	of RADM in grade	es PreK-6 that ar	e in the federal	free and re	d peonpa	ice lunch	program.	
Col. H: SSRC is the State Share for the Community calculated according to R.I.G.L.	State S	hare for t	he Community ca	alculated accordi	ing to R.I.G.L. 1	16-7-20 and 21	21.			
Col. I: % of PK-6 FRPL and SSRC are com	RPL and	SSRC a	re combined in a	bined in a quadratic mean calculation resulting in the State Share Ratio,	calculation resu	Ilfing in the	State St	are Ratio	, in accordance	
with R.I.G.L. 16-7.2-4.	16-7.2-4									
-Col. J. State Share is the State Share Ratio	is the S	tate Shar	e Ratio mutiplied		undation. Column J = Column I x Column I x Column B	n J = Colui	nn I x Co	lumn F.		
	10 L	ni equais	State State div			8	5	Joann	Joanne DeVoe. November, 2015	mber, 2015
	_							J.		

TOWNS PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL INTERPLEDIA SAPERING TOWN SEPARATELY, FY 2016    PK-12 FRPL   CIA   SSF=0.4CIA   Total   %FRPL   State   State   State   PK-12 FRPL   CIA   SSF=0.4CIA   Total   %FRPL   SSF=0.4CIA   Total   %FRPL   SSF=0.4CIA   SSF=0.4CIA   Total   %FRPL   SSF=0.4CIA   SSF=0.4CIA   Total   %FRPL   SSF=0.4CIA   SSF=0.4CIA	1ber, 2015	Joanne DeVoe, November, 2015	Joanne						t t		
SEPENDER				umn B.	nn J / Colu	olumn K = Colun	ded by RADM. Co	State Share divid	il equals	Per Pup	Col. K: State Share
STEPLE   CIA   SOF BACKET   CONTROL   STEPLE   State			ımn F.	ın I x Col	J = Colum	dation. Column	by the Total Foun	e Ratio mutiplied	tate Share		اب
TOGETHER AND FOR EACH TOWN SEPARATELY, FY 2016    Society   PK-12   FRPL   CIA   SSE-0.4CIA   Total   SSE-0.4CIA   Total   SSE-0.4CIA   SSE   Share   Share   Share   Share   Share   Share   SSE   CD-0.858.828   E=0.235.571   F= D.H. E   G   H   J=FM   S5.573   S5.531.571   F= D.H. E   G   H   J=FM   S5.531.571									•	16-7.2-4	with R.I.G.L.
State   Stat		in accordance	re Ratio, i	State Sha	ing in the	alculation resulti	quadratic mean c	re combined in a	SSRC ar	RPL and	Col. I: % of PK-6 FI
PK-12 FRPL CIA S9.28Pupil SSF-0.4CIA Total SPK-0. State Share Shar				21.	7-20 and :	g to R.I.G.L. 16-	lculated according	he Community ca	hare for the	State S	Col. H: SSRC is the
SSF=0.4CIA   Total   SFRPL   CIA   SSF=0.4CIA   Total   SFRPL   State   State   Share   Shar		rogram.	ce lunch p	duced pri	ee and rec	in the federal fro	s PreK-6 that are	of RADM in grade	centage c	-6 is per	Col. G: % FRPL PK
State   PK-12   FRPL   CIA   SSE=0.4CIA   Total   SFRPL   State   Share   Sh			Į.	) + Colum	Column D	VI). Column F =	CIA x FRPL RADI	12 RADM) + (0.4	CIA x PK-	ation = (C	Col. F: Total Founda
SSE=0.4CIA   Total   SSRC   SSRC   SSRC   Share   Sh			M.	nch RAD	d Price Lu	Free & Reduced	71 is multiplied by	% of CIA or \$3,5	ctor of 40°	cess Fa	
State   Stat			ership.	ily Memb	erage Dai	-12 Resident Av	s multiplied by PK	\$8,928 per pupil i	nount of \$	tional Ar	
State   Stat						h program.	educed price lunc	ederal free and r	M in the f	1 is RAD	O
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State   Stat	 	in G is from Kic	for colum	ther; data	ided togel	or the 2 towns ac	d F are the data to	ins B, C, D, E and	in colum	ren RSD	Data for Bristol/Wan
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PK-12   FRPL   CIA   SSF=0.4CIA   Total   WFRPL   State   St											
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State   Stat	stown,	towns, Charles	its three	rectly to	ributed di	rula funds disti	oes have its forn	icts, Chariho, d	ool distr	onal sch	One of the four region
State   Stat			437,230.	han \$12,	48 more ti	which is \$81,64	)7 = \$12,518,878	1,571 + \$6,987,30	is \$5,531	he cost	For the State, t
PK-12 FRPL   CIA   SSF=0.4CIA   Total   %FRPL   State   Stat				692.	= \$2,120,1	x 2,047 pupils	\$1,036 per pupil	ds decrease by	hare fun	State S	For Bristol, the
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PK-12 FRPL   CIA   SSF=0.4CIA   Total   %FRPL   State   Stat	led the	stol has appear	- 1	chool dis	s at the sc	varate accounts	deposited in sep	these funds are	wn and t	each to	funds separately for
PK-12   FRPL   CIA   SSF=0.4CIA   Total   %FRPL   State   St	rmula	dculated the fo	e state ca		Warren's	rt judgment in	o a Superior Cou	6, in response to	r FY 201	iula. Fo	to calculate the form
TOGETHER AND FOR EACH TOWN SEPARATELY, FY 2016   State   Sta	arren	for Bristol & W	the data		e state cu	2012 to 2015, th	hildren. For FY	tages of poor c	er percen	nd highe	capacity per pupil ar
PK-12 FRPL   CIA   SSF=0.4CIA   Total   WFRPL   State   Stat	erty tax	ith lower prope	towns wi		nares to c	entage state sh	vide higher percu	intended to pro	rmula is	iding fo	The RI education fur
TOGETHER AND FOR EACH TOWN SEPARATELY, FY 2016    PK-12   FRPL   CIA   SSF=0.4CIA   Total   WFRPL   State   St											
TOGETHER AND FOR EACH TOWN SEPARATELY, FY 2016  PK-12 FRPL CIA SSF=0.4CIA Total %FRPL State State  RADM RADM \$8,928/Pupil =\$3,571 Foundation PK-6 SSRC SSR Share Share Share 2,047 637 \$18,275,616 \$2,274,854 \$20,550,470 34.4% 16.3% 26.9% \$5,531,571 1,280 587 \$11,427,840 \$2,096,294 \$13,524,134 49.0% 54.2% 51.7% \$6,987,307	\$3,738	\$12,437,231	36.5%	32.7%	40.0%	\$34,074,605	\$4,371,149	\$29,703,456		3,327	Bristol/Warren RSD
TOGETHER AND FOR EACH TOWN SEPARATELY, FY 2016  PK-12 FRPL CIA SSF=0.4CIA Total %FRPL State State  RADM RADM \$8,928/Pupil =\$3,571 Foundation PK-6 SSR Share Share  B C D=Bx\$8,928 E=Cx\$3,571 F = D + E G H I J=FxI K=J  2,047 637 \$18,275,616 \$2,274,854 \$20,550,470 34.4% 16.3% 26.9% \$5,531,571	\$5,459	\$6,987,307	51.7%	54.2%	49.0%	\$13,524,134	\$2,096,294	\$11,427,840		1,280	Warren
TOGETHER AND FOR EACH TOWN SEPARATELY, FY 2016	\$2,702	\$5,531,571	26.9%	16.3%	34,4%	\$20,550,470	\$2,274,854	\$18,275,616	637	2,047	Bristol
TOGETHER AND FOR EACH TOWN SEPARATELY, FY 2016  PK-12 FRPL CIA SSF=0.4CIA Total %FRPL State  RADM RADM \$8,928/Pupil =\$3,571 Foundation PK-6 SSR Share	XIIJ/B		-	I	G	F=D+E	E=Cx\$3,571	D=Bx\$8,928	ဂ	<b>w</b>	Α
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TOGETHER AND FOR EACH TOWN SEPARATELY, FY 2016	State				%FRPL	Total	SSF=0.4CIA	CIA	FRPL	PK-12	
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