



Chariho Regional School District Office of the Superintendent

455A Switch Road
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894

All Kids. All of the Time.

CRAIG F. LOUZON
School Committee Chairperson



BARRY J. RICCI
Superintendent of Schools

JANE L. DALY
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

November 12, 2015

Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Co-Chair
Executive Director, RI KIDS COUNT

Donald R. Sweitzer, Co-Chair
Chairman, IGT Corporation

Funding Formula Study Committee
Rhode Island Department of Education
255 Westminster St.
Providence, RI 02903-3400

Dear Co-Chairs Bryant and Sweitzer and Members of the Committee to Study the Funding Formula:

At its November 10, 2015 meeting, the Chariho Regional School District Committee voted unanimously to provide written testimony to you in support of the re-establishment of the regional state aid incentive in the funding formula. As a result of the enactment of the current funding formula, the member towns of the Chariho Regional School District lost a substantial amount of state aid to education. Other regional districts have suffered similar losses.

The Towns of Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton were encouraged more than fifty years ago to join together to form a regional school district. They did so, in good faith, motivated by a promise of increased state aid to education. That promise was abruptly broken with the passage of the current funding formula in 2010. As a result, an increased and difficult burden has been put on the taxpayers of the three towns.

These three towns took this bold step in 1958 to increase educational opportunities for its young people and to operate more efficiently, to cost share. On December 10th, you will be discussing cost sharing options. The Chariho Regional School District is a shining example of cost sharing, one which should be promoted and encouraged through the funding formula.

We urge you to correct the mistake of 2010, keep the promise of the past, and restore the regional state aid bonus to the funding formula. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Craig F. Louzon, Chair
Chariho Regional School District Committee

c: Charlestown Town Council; Richmond Town Council; Hopkinton Town Council; Representatives Price, Filippi and Kennedy; Senators Morgan and Algieri; Superintendents Barnes, Erinakes, and Andrade; Commissioner Wagner; file

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