



BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

151 State Street, Bristol, Rhode Island 02809-2205

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December 15, 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 Westminister St.
Providence, RI 02903-3400

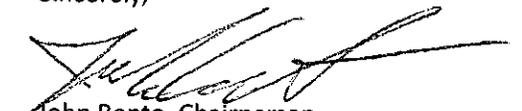
Dear Co-Chairs Bryant and Sweitzer, and Members of the Committee to Study the Funding Formula:

At its meeting of December 14, 2015, the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee with the support of Representative Jan P. Malik, Representative Kenneth A. Marshall, Senator Walter S. Felag Jr., Warren Town Council President Joseph A. DePasquale, Warren Interim Town Manager Jan Reitsma, Bristol Town Council Chairman Nathan T. Calouro and Bristol Town Administrator Tony A. Teixeira voted to provide written testimony to you in support of restoring the regional state aid incentive (RI General Laws 16-7-20.5) to the Rhode Island School Funding Formula.

In 2011, prior to the enactment of State Funding Formula, state aid to the Bristol Warren Regional School District (BWRSD) was approximately \$18.6 million. As a result of the suspension of the regional state aid incentive in 2012, the member towns of the BWRSD have endured the cumulative reduction of approximately \$3 million in state aid to education to date. Furthermore, with the continued loss of the regional state aid incentive, it is projected that in the year 2021, upon full enactment of the current State Aid Funding Formula, state aid to the BWRSD will be reduced to approximately \$12.6 million resulting in the two towns' expected local share to increase by an estimated \$6 million. This significant reduction in combination with the limitations of Senate Bill 3050 adversely impacts the District's comprehensive educational opportunities and efforts to fully prepare students for college and career readiness. This fiscal projection is of great concern to both communities.

The intent of school district regionalization is to maximize district and town capacity, expand educational opportunities, and achieve cost savings. Since the establishment of the Bristol Warren Regional District in 1991, the District and its member towns have been outstanding stewards of this mission. To that end, the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee implores you to reinstate the previous level of support to the Bristol Warren Regional School District and to other regional school districts to strengthen our regionalized efforts and incentivize the collaborative initiatives across Rhode Island school districts.

Sincerely,



John Bento, Chairperson
Bristol Warren Regional School Committee

cc: Bristol Town Council; Warren Town Council; Representatives Gallison, Malik and Marshall; Senators Felag and Coyne; Superintendents Barnes, Ricci and Erinakes; Commissioner Wagner; file

The Bristol Warren Regional School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, color, disability or sexual orientation in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.