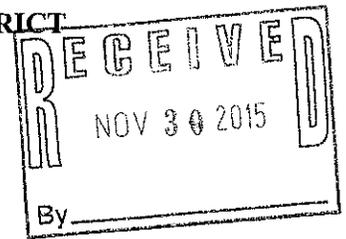




EXETER-WEST GREENWICH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MARIE-ELENA J. AHERN, Ed.D.
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CARMELLA FARRAR, M. Ed.
Director of Special Education

ROBERT V. ROSS, M.Ed.
Director of Administration

PATRICIA J. RUIZZO
District Treasurer

November 24, 2015

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Claudine Pande - Chairperson
Mark Rafanelli - Vice-Chairperson
Valerie Zuercher - Clerk
Theresa Donovan
Lee Kissinger
Diane Bampton Allen
Sheryl R. Green

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 Street
Providence, RI 02903-3400

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

At its November 24, 2015 meeting, the Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School 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 Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District lost a substantial amount of state aid to education. Other regional districts have suffered similar losses.

The Towns of Exeter and West Greenwich were encouraged 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 two towns.

These two towns took this bold step in 1965 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 Exeter-West Greenwich 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 formulas. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Claudine Pande, Chairperson
Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee

cc: Exeter Town Council; West Greenwich Town Council; Representatives Price, Costa, Roberts, and Giarrusso; Senators Morgan, Kettle, and Raptakis; Superintendents Barnes, Ricci, and Andrade; Commissioner Wagner; File

Our Mission: Empowering Students: Dream...Reach...Succeed.

Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, marital status, race, religion, national origin, color, creed, political affiliation, sexual orientation or disability in its employment policies.