

1 **SC-R-2014-08**

2 **CUMBERLAND SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

3 **RESOLUTION OF THE CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN SUPPORTING**

4 **2014 BILLS –2014–S 2269 & 2014–H 7182 FUNDING FORMULA ACCELERATION**

5
6 **WHEREAS**, Article XII Section 4. Of the Rhode Island Constitution states: "The diffusion of knowledge,
7 as well as of virtue among the people, being essential to the preservation of their rights and liberties, it shall
8 be the duty of the general assembly to promote public schools and public libraries, and to adopt all means
9 which it may deem necessary and proper to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities of
10 education and public library services."; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Article I Section 2. Of the Rhode Island Constitution states: "All free governments are
12 instituted for the protection, safety, and happiness of the people. All laws, therefore, should be made for the
13 good of the whole; and the burdens of the state ought to be fairly distributed among its citizens."; and

14 **WHEREAS**, For over two decades Rhode Island lacked a defined funding formula that deprived many
15 students of an adequate education and property taxpayers equity; and

16 **WHEREAS**, In 2010 the Rhode Island General Assembly addressed the inequities in education funding
17 by enacting §16-7.2 The Education Equity and Property Tax Relief Act, thus creating an education funding
18 formula; and

19 **WHEREAS**, The new education formula is on a schedule to be phased in by FY 2018; and

20 **WHEREAS**, The Cumberland School Department is being underfunded by \$2,869,955 in the current
21 Rhode Island FY 2014 budget; and

22 **WHEREAS**, The local appropriation to the Cumberland School Department budget does not
23 adequately address the rising cost of non-core expenses.

24 **WHEREAS**, The Cumberland School Department local appropriation is limited to a 4% allocation in
25 spite of the fact that it now represents the budgets for two school districts.

26 **WHEREAS**, The Legislature recognizes that accelerating the full phase in of the formula by FY 2016,
27 would guarantee the promises articulated in Article I Section 2 & Article XII Section 4 of the Rhode Island
28 Constitution;

29 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, The Cumberland School Department, urges the General Assembly
30 and to enact 2014 – S 2269 & 2014 – H 7182, that would accelerate the schedule for the payment of state
31 education aid and fully fund formula; and

32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That a copy of this Resolution by forwarded to every Rhode Island Municipality,
33 School Committee, State Senator, State Representative and the Governor.

34 **WERETO:** The following bear witness:

35 
36 Lisa A. Beaulieu, Chairperson


Linda G. Teel Clerk

Introduced by: Lisa Beaulieu

Passed: 10-0 5/22/14