

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

**Resolution petitioning the State Legislature to modify the Fair Funding Formula to adequately fund districts facing Charter School and Mayoral Academy enrollment expansion and place a moratorium on that expansion.**

Whereas the Rhode Island Fair Funding Formula is based on fair and equitable funding, and in part, on the principle that the resources follow the child,

And,

It has been demonstrated that the mandated tuition payments exceed any corresponding district-level savings estimated for students leaving the Cumberland School Department to attend Charter Schools or Mayoral Academies,

Whereas The Rhode Island Fair Funding Formula constituted a major step in linking resource allocation to the State's standards on a core instruction amount that adequately and equitably funds student instructional needs as described in the Basic Education Program (BEP),

And,

It has been demonstrated in the Town of Cumberland that the Cumberland School Department (CSD) would require in excess of \$4 million of additional funding to meet its BEP obligation,

Whereas the State provides one hundred (100) percent of the state share of the Rhode Island Fair Funding Formula to expanding Mayoral Academies and Charter Schools since the formula's adoption,

While,

It has been demonstrated that the state Funding Formula is not fair and equitable toward all Cumberland students as it does not provide the same core instruction amount to a Cumberland student regardless of whether the student attends a charter school, mayoral academy or district school, as the district and charter schools receive a pro-rated amount while the Mayoral Academies and expanding Charter Schools receive the full core instruction amount. It has also been demonstrated that the local share to district students is greater than that of charter schools and mayoral academies.

Whereas in the FY 2015 Budget, the Cumberland School Department allocation for Charter School and Mayoral Academies tuitions is \$2.7 million dollars,

And,

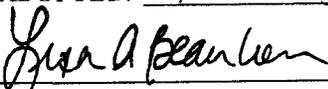
It has been demonstrated that if departed students had returned to the Cumberland School Department in FY 2013-14, the costs incurred would have been \$462,000, compared to the \$1,874,730 of tuitions that Cumberland paid to the Mayoral Academy.

Whereas Charter Schools and Mayoral Academies are approved by RIDE and not by the sending district taxpayers or School Committees or Town Councils, without consideration of the local fiscal impact of that district.

Now Therefore Let It Be Resolved:

**The Cumberland School Committee requests that the State Legislature modify the Fair Funding Formula to 1) eliminate the negative fiscal impact of Charter Schools and Mayoral Academies enrollment on the Cumberland School District and 2) ensure the basic education program is adequately funded at the state and local levels. Additionally, the Cumberland School Committee requests that the State Legislature place a moratorium on expanding enrollment in Charter Schools and Mayoral Academies while the legislature works to eliminate said adverse impact, holding harmless all students presently attending those schools.**

DATE ADOPTED: 2/26/2015



Lisa A. Beaulieu, Chairperson  
Cumberland School Committee



William J. Dennen, Clerk  
Cumberland School Committee