

Lisa Cataldi

From: William McCaffrey <william.mccaffrey@warwickschools.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 3:26 PM
To: SLegislation; Rep. Shekarchi, K Joseph; Rep. McNamara, Joseph M.; Rep. Shanley, Evan P.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Hopkins, Marie A.; Rep. Solomon, Joseph J. Jr.
Cc: Mayor Frank J. Picozzi; Facente William R; Shaun Galligan; Ernest Almonte; Craig Enos
Subject: H7341

You don't often get email from william.mccaffrey@warwickschools.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective regarding Rhode Island House Bill H7341.

As more students participate in Career and Technical Education (CTE) and pathway programs outside of their home district, it becomes increasingly important that districts work together with transparency and accountability. While this bill contains several positive provisions, in its current form it will have both positive and negative impacts on Warwick Public Schools and other districts across the state.

The legislation does strengthen communication between sending and receiving districts. Requiring receiving districts to provide regular updates regarding a student's status will ensure that home districts have accurate information about participation, enrollment, and progress. When a student leaves a program or their status changes, the sending district will know in a timely manner. This level of communication is not only good practice, but essential for effective planning, budgeting, and ensuring students remain supported throughout their educational journey.

Additionally, the bill promotes fairness in how educational costs are managed between districts. By aligning costs with the actual expense of delivering the program, the legislation helps ensure that districts are paying an amount that reflects the true cost of the educational services being provided. No district should be profiting from sending districts. This approach encourages collaboration while also protecting taxpayers and school budgets.

However, there are also concerns that should be considered. The bill allows students to be transported outside of the current regional transportation zones established by Rhode Island General Laws to attend CTE programs. This change would have a significant negative impact on the Warwick Public Schools transportation budget, as well as on transportation budgets for districts across the state. If this bill passes in its current format it would add \$500,000.00 to our transportation budget for next school year.

In addition, there is currently no legislation establishing application deadline dates for students applying to CTE programs. Sending districts should know by February 1 of the previous school year which students have been accepted so districts can properly budget for these expenditures. Without a clear deadline, it becomes extremely difficult for districts to plan for students attending out-of-district CTE programming.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to hold H7341 for further study in order to better understand the financial implications for all school districts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

William D. McCaffrey
Superintendent of Schools
Warwick Public Schools
69 Draper Avenue
Warwick, RI 02889
Telephone (401) 734-3217
Cell Phone (401) 871-3106
william.mccaffrey@warwickschools.org

Confidentiality Clause: *The e-mail and any attachments thereto contain privileged and confidential information intended only for this e-mail or any attachments thereto is not the intended recipient or an agent of the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination or copying of this e-mail or attachments are strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify sender immediately by return e-mail and delete all messages and any attachments pertaining to this e-mail. Thank you.*