



LOUISE D. DINSMORE  
School Committee Chairperson

## Chariho Regional School District Office of the Superintendent

455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894

***All Kids. All of the Time.***



GINA M. PICARD  
Superintendent of Schools

MICHAEL COMELLA, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF 2025-H5204**

Relating to Education – Transportation of School Pupils Beyond City and Town Limits

**WHEREAS:** the Chariho Regional School District (“Chariho”) is a tri-town school district comprising Charlestown, Richmond, and Hopkinton. Chariho is the geographically largest regional school district in Rhode Island, spanning a geographic area of 126 square miles; and

**WHEREAS:** The Chariho Regional District School Committee has previously adopted a resolution of its support for full funding of transportation categorical aid funding ([2025-H2501](#)) between the state and regional school districts to partially offset the higher transportation costs of the geographically larger regional districts; and

**WHEREAS:** RIGL [16-21.1-1](#) (Transportation of School Pupils Beyond City and Town Limits – General Purposes) requires Chariho to provide bus transportation to pupils who attend nonpublic nonprofit schools; and

**WHEREAS:** the estimated cost for this service in FY25 is \$902,578.63 on out-of-district transportation, after an estimated credit for non-public offset of \$ 474,896.00 the total cost to Chariho is \$427,682.63 for an average cost of \$ 8,385.93 per student; and

**WHEREAS:** by contrast, the per pupil cost for each pupil being transported within Chariho is only \$ 1,456.00; and

**WHEREAS:** RIGL [16-21.1-8](#) (Transportation of School Pupils Beyond City and Town Limits – Statewide Transportation System for All Students) requires Chariho to utilize the statewide transportation system to meet this need; and

**WHEREAS:** Chariho employs contracted transportation service through Ocean State Transit, an in-district vendor located 0.8 miles away from the main campus; and

**WHEREAS:** [2025-H5204](#) would enable Chariho and every other school district to “utilize its own buses or vendors to transport students outside the district, at a lower cost than the statewide school transportation system,” and submit these costs to the RI Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to receive reimbursement from state funds whenever a district can provide transportation outside its community at a lower cost than the statewide transportation system;

**WHEREAS:** 2025-H5204 would promote economic efficiency as the statewide transportation system and school districts compete to lower costs, the original goal of the statewide transportation system;

The Chariho Regional School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, marital status, race, religion, national origin, color, creed, political affiliation, sexual orientation, or handicap in accordance with applicable law.

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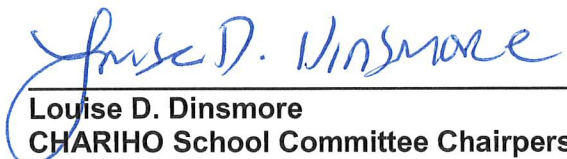
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Chariho Regional District School Committee

1. Respectfully requests that Chariho is permitted to utilize its own vendor to transport students outside of the district at a lower cost of the statewide transportation system.
2. Respectfully requests that Chariho should be permitted to submit these costs to the RI Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to receive reimbursement from state funds.
3. Seeks the support of all regional School Committees, Town Councils of towns having regional school districts, and legislators representing towns served by regional school districts regarding this matter of mutual interest to the students, schools, and taxpayers of our school districts.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Charlestown Town Council, the Richmond Town Council, the Hopkinton Town Council, and legislators serving the towns of the Chariho Regional School District.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor of the State of Rhode Island; the Rhode Island General Assembly; and every RI Municipality, School Committee, and Town Council.

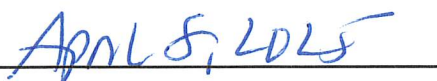
**This RESOLUTION shall take effect upon passage, WHERETO:** The following bear witness:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Louise D. Dinsmore  
CHARIHO School Committee Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela A. Brasil  
CHARIHO School Committee Clerk

April 8, 2025

Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date