



To: The Rhode Island House Committee on Finance

From: The East Greenwich School Committee

Re: Hearing on H 5749

Date: 4/29/25

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

The East Greenwich School Committee is writing to express our deep concern regarding the cuts in state aid to our school district in the current proposed budget. We are aware of the financial challenges our state is facing and the uncertainty at the federal level, but our schools also face challenges and uncertainty. The proposed reductions would have significant negative impacts on our students, educators, and community as a whole. We are thankful for the introduction and your consideration of H 5749 and urge you to recommend it for passage

This bill does not seek to fundamentally alter the state funding formula. Instead, it reduces the variation and uncertainty in state aid from year to year and allows better planning and budgeting for our schools and our partners in the Town of East Greenwich. Importantly it does the same for schools and towns across the state.

State aid is as critical to the operations and programs of the East Greenwich Public Schools as it is to any other school district in Rhode Island. These funds ensure that students have access to quality education, facilities, and essential resources. The proposed reduction of this aid forces difficult decisions. The East Greenwich School Committee recently had to pass a budget that eliminates educator positions, field trip funding, and needed maintenance on aging facilities to fulfill our obligations of a balanced budget. Such measures risk compromising the quality of education that our children deserve and rely on.

Our schools already face significant challenges, including recovering from the learning losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, addressing mental health needs, and meeting rising costs of materials and resources. These proposed cuts would exacerbate these issues, undermining the progress we have worked so hard to achieve.

Investing in education is investing in the future of our state. Strong schools are not only vital for the success of our students in East Greenwich, but also for the overall well-being and economic health of all of our communities.



Thank you for your time and for your commitment to serving Rhode Island. We seek to work with you to ensure that every child in our state receives the education they deserve. H 5749 is key to bodies like ours around the state to ensure stable funding.

Sincerely,

The East Greenwich School Committee