



Meadowbrook

May 19, 2025
AGAINST House Bill No. 6236
Waldorf School

Rhode Island Cannot Afford to Be Less Family-Friendly

1. A Pattern of Family-Unfriendly Policy

- Rhode Island ranks poorly in metrics like affordability, childcare availability, and tax burden on middle-income families.
- H6236 continues this trend by making basic access to education even harder for parents who choose Independent, Catholic, or CTE programs — many of whom do so because these schools meet the child's needs and the family's values.

2. Transportation Is a Service We Have Already Paid For

- Removing public transportation for Independent, Catholic, and CTE programs students does not create equity — it penalizes choice.

3. This Bill Hurts Working Families

- Many working parents rely on school buses to ensure their children get to school safely while they go to work.
- Cutting this service will disproportionately impact families who can not afford private transportation, do not have flexible jobs, or have multiple children at different schools.

4. Driving Families Out of Rhode Island

- If the State wants to retain young families, it should be making it easier — not harder — to raise children here.

5. Undermines Educational Choice and Diversity

- Families choose their schools for diverse reasons — special needs, cultural fit, academic focus — and they still pay Local and State taxes.
- By removing transportation, the state is making it a privilege of the wealthy to access anything beyond the public school assigned by ZIP code.



6. Does Not Appeal to Common Values

- This is not a private vs public school issue — it's a **Rhode Island family issue**.
- Every child deserves safe, reliable transportation to school, no matter what kind of school their parents choose.