



Town of East Greenwich State of Rhode Island

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

NO. 2026.08

SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RHODE ISLAND BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON EDUCATION FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

WHEREAS, the Town of East Greenwich recognizes that a high-quality, equitable public education system is essential to the long-term economic vitality, social well-being, and civic strength of the State of Rhode Island and its municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Commission's report, *"Equalizing Opportunity: Creating a Fair and Transparent Funding System for Rhode Island's Public Schools,"* represents one of the most comprehensive evaluations of the State's education funding system in more than a decade; and

WHEREAS, the report finds that Rhode Island's current education funding system, while improved since its adoption approximately fifteen (15) years ago, remains outdated, insufficient, and inequitable, with significant limitations in transparency, predictability, and fair distribution of fiscal responsibility; and

WHEREAS, municipalities, including the Town of East Greenwich, continue to bear disproportionate financial burdens for essential educational costs, including but not limited to transportation, building maintenance, special education, and legacy teacher pension obligations; and

WHEREAS, the Commission identifies the need for a modernized, student-centered funding framework grounded in the principles of sufficiency, equity, transparency, predictability, accountability, comprehensiveness, and fairness in fiscal burden; and

WHEREAS, the Commission's recommendations provide a clear, actionable roadmap for reform through four primary structural improvements:

1. Accounting for the full cost of education and equitably sharing those costs between the State and municipalities;
2. Aligning funding with individual student needs through enhanced and more accurate weighting factors;
3. Establishing local contributions based on each municipality's ability to pay; and
4. Strengthening fiscal responsibility, transparency, and strategic financial management; and

WHEREAS, key proposed reforms include expanding the Core Instruction Amount into a comprehensive Core Education Amount (CEA) that reflects the true cost of delivering education, including transportation, facilities, and specialized services; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations further call for increased and more precise funding weights for economically disadvantaged students, multilingual learners, students with disabilities, and those enrolled in high-cost career and technical education programs, ensuring that resources follow students based on need; and

WHEREAS, the Commission proposes a more equitable framework for municipal contributions based on property valuation and fiscal capacity, replacing existing constraints and reducing reliance on maintenance-of-effort provisions; and

WHEREAS, the report emphasizes enhanced accountability measures, including standardized financial reporting, public transparency, and the establishment of oversight mechanisms to ensure that education funding is effectively aligned with student outcomes; and

WHEREAS, these reforms are informed by extensive stakeholder engagement, including educators, municipal leaders, policy experts, and Rhode Island students, whose input underscores the urgency of creating a more fair, transparent, and effective system; and

WHEREAS, implementation of these recommendations would reduce fiscal volatility for municipalities, improve long-term budget stability, and ensure that all students—regardless of community—have access to the resources necessary to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of East Greenwich hereby expresses its strong support for the findings and recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Education Funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town urges the Governor, the Rhode Island General Assembly, and all relevant state agencies to advance and fully implement the Commission’s recommendations in a timely and comprehensive manner; and

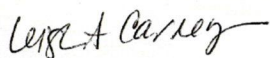
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such implementation should prioritize immediate and meaningful reform to establish a funding system that is equitable, transparent, predictable, and aligned with the true cost of delivering a high-quality public education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of East Greenwich affirms its commitment to working collaboratively with state and local partners to support a modernized education funding system that serves the best interests of all Rhode Island students and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Governor of Rhode Island, members of the Rhode Island General Assembly, and other appropriate state officials.

ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of East Greenwich this 23rd day of March, 2026.

ATTEST:



Leigh A. Carney, MMC
Town Clerk

