



BARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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School Committee

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October 18, 2022

Commissioner Angelica Infante-Green
RI Department of Education
255 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Commissioner Infante-Green,

As you may be aware, the General Assembly modified the Governor's Budget/Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) proposed FY23 budget for local education aid this past spring. Although the recommended and adopted budget included an overall increase of \$17.9 million, which is an impressive level of support for education across the state of Rhode Island, a change in the calculation has significantly and adversely affected three districts, including Barrington.

Our understanding, per our conversations with your staff at RIDE, is that the data used to calculate the House Finance Committee's (and subsequently enacted) recommendation was using the **FY22's** Share Ratio, in an effort to hold harmless many districts across Rhode Island that are facing declining enrollment in addition to other challenges. The Governor's budget that we had used for budgeting and adopting our budget locally since its release in January 2022 (consistent with many years of practice) used **FY23's** Share Ratio data (which is 25.8% for Barrington compared to 21.4% for FY22).

The difference in changing that methodology resulted in a \$1,529,647 cut to Barrington's aid. Although partially restored at the final vote, Barrington is still \$1,227,477 short of our calculated (and anticipated) aid based on the **FY23's** Share Ratio. ***This has substantially impacted Barrington's ability to deliver the educational program prioritized in the FY2023 budget adopted by voters at Barrington's Financial Town Meeting on May 25th.***

It is our hope that in the spirit of insulating communities in unanticipated fluctuations in our funding formula aid that RIDE could request the discrepancy/shortfall of \$1,227,477 as part of RIDE's FY23 supplemental budget request. This request is intended to be one-time, as we are hopeful the General Assembly will return to supporting the Governor's Budget/RIDE's recommendation of allocation per the funding formula using the most current data going forward.

Respectfully,
The Barrington School Committee

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