

TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE

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RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE REQUEST TO WAIVE THE LOCAL MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT (MOE) REQUIREMENT FOR SCHOOLS

- WHEREAS, the State of Rhode Island, municipalities and school departments are set to receive unprecedented Federal aid; and
- WHEREAS, together we must prioritize the responsible use of this funding to avoid the creation of structural deficits and unsustainable financial challenges for years to come; and
- WHEREAS, all cities and towns are required by Rhode Island General Law to contribute the same level of funding as was allocated in the previous fiscal year to their respective school districts.
- WHEREAS, in light of the hundreds of millions of dollars in school aid coming to our state, it is appropriate that cities and towns have the ability to reduce their local MOE contributions to 95% of their past spending levels for FY 2022 and FY 2023; and
- WHEREAS, many school districts are reportedly experiencing surpluses for remote instruction and other COVID-19 impacts, but cities and towns cannot reduce their mandated education maintenance of effort amount; and
- WHEREAS, during the "great recession", the General Assembly allowed cities and towns to reduce their local maintenance of effort in 2010 and 2011; and
- WHEREAS, with significant Federal funding coming to school districts from the American Rescue Plan school budgets should first rely on Federal funds rather than local taxpayers and similar maintenance of effort relief is warranted; and
- WHEREAS, unless Rhode Island Department of Education exempts one-time COVID-19 costs from local maintenance of effort calculations, cities and towns could face an artificially high spending bar, coupled with tax cap restrictions, that will be unsustainable when Federal funds expire in 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Burrillville ask that the General Assembly temporarily waive the state maintenance of effort requirements for local contributions to schools.

Passed as a resolution of the Burrillville Town Council this 28th day of April, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald A. Fox".

Donald A. Fox, President
Burrillville Town Council

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vicki Martin".

SEAL. Vicki Martin, Town Clerk

