

THE CITY OF CRANSTON

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

“Public Schools Fair Funding Formula”

Resolution No. 2025-

Passed:

Jessica M. Marino, Council President

WHEREAS, Rhode Island’s education funding formula, also known as the “Fair Funding Formula” was first implemented in FY 2012 and fully phased in over ten Years; and

WHEREAS, the Fair Funding Formula is a complex system that distributes state aid to local education agencies (LEAs) based on factors like student enrollment, poverty levels, and community wealth, with the goal of promoting greater predictability and equity; and

WHEREAS, the key components of the Fair Funding Formula are broken down as follows:

- **Core Instruction Funding:** This component calculates the cost of educating students by multiplying enrollment by the cost of instruction per pupil.
- **Student Success Factor Funding:** This component adds funding based on student enrollment below the poverty level, multiplied by a percentage of the per-pupil instruction cost.
- **State Share Ratio:** This component determines how much of the total funding the state should pay for each district, considering factors like community wealth and revenue-generating capacity; and

WHEREAS, the phase in approach of full implementation of the fair Funding Formula has ended as of June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the negative impact of decreased enrollment during the COVID-19 pandemic on formula funding, the State of Rhode Island issued a temporary hold harmless provision for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 due to the lack of accurate student enrollment figures.

WHEREAS, both the loss of State aid funding combined with the requirement of local LEA tuition payments to Public Schools of Choice (PSOC) have created a negative financial burden on sending districts, as part of the premise that State aid funding follows the student; and

48 **WHEREAS**, the City of Cranston and its students have been negatively impacted
49 financially, as in FY-2026 we are anticipating a loss of \$876,662 in state aid due to the downward
50 shift of State support as calculated within the “State Share Ratio” component.
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52 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Honorable Cranston City Council
53 respectfully requests that the Rhode Island General Assembly and Executive Branch undertake a
54 comprehensive review of the Fair Funding Formula as currently enacted with the goal of
55 overcoming the inherent financial shortcomings like those noted above and establish a more
56 predictable year over year funding mechanism on behalf of local LEAs; and
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58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** until said comprehensive review is completed and
59 codified, the State of Rhode Island revert to its pre-COVID Fair Funding Formula thereby restoring
60 Cranston’s loss of \$876,662 as calculated within the State Share Ratio, as well as end the temporary
61 hold harmless provision; and
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63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to every Rhode
64 Island Municipality, School Committee, State Senator, State Representative, and the Governor.
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67 Sponsored by: Councilman Buonanno, Councilman Traficante, Council President Marino and
68 Councilman Campopiano
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70 Referred to: Ordinance Committee May 15, 2025
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