

1 THE CITY OF CRANSTON

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4 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

5 "School Transportation Resolution for Out of District, Homeless and Private School
6 Students"

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9 Resolution No. 2025-

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11 *Passed:*

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14 *Jessica M. Marino, Council President*

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18 WHEREAS, Rhode Island General Law (RIGL) 16-21.1-1 (5) currently requires State and
19 Local Education Agencies to provide and fund private school transportation; and

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21 WHEREAS, transportation of private school students is not a federal requirement; and

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23 WHEREAS, Rhode Island provides significant subsidies for private schools, some charging
24 tuition exceeding \$42,375 annually, while districts face rising costs in other areas such as homeless
25 student transportation; and

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27 WHEREAS, the City of Cranston has spent \$55,267.00 on private school transportation for
28 the first half of the 2024-2025 school year, representing a substantial financial burden on the
29 district; and

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31 WHEREAS, during the same period, Cranston incurred \$ 62,509.00 in transportation costs
32 for homeless students, \$ 623,248.00 for out-of- district placements, and \$ 81,821.00 under ESSA
33 requirements, totaling \$ 890,838.00 in all transportation expenses to date; and

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35 WHEREAS, the growing transportation costs for homeless students and other vulnerable
36 populations are underfunded, requiring districts to divert resources from other critical educational
37 priorities; and

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39 WHEREAS, the Honorable Cranston City Council believes that amending RIGL 16-21.1
40 (5) to require nonpublic nonprofit schools to share in transportation cost with sending school
41 districts would ensure equitable resource allocation;

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43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Honorable Cranston City Council
44 respectfully requests that the Rhode Island General Assembly amend RIGL 16-21.1-1 et seq. to
45 prioritize funding for homeless students' transportation and require private schools to share in
46 transportation costs.

48 Proposed amendments to the statute include:

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50 **1. Shared Cost Model:** Nonpublic nonprofit schools benefiting from statewide transportation
51 should share transportation costs with sending districts.

52 **2. State Funding Priority:** Full funding of transportation cost for McKinney-Vento (homeless)
53 students to ensure equity and compliance with federal mandates.

54 **3. Policy Alignments:** Reevaluation of transportation policies to prioritize public education needs
55 and vulnerable student populations over private school subsidies.

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57 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to every Rhode
58 Island Municipality, School Committee, State Senator, State Representative, and the Governor.

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62 Sponsored by: Councilman Buonanno, Councilman Traficante and Council President Marino

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64 Referred to: Ordinance Committee May 15, 2025
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