



BARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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School Committee

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December 18, 2008

The Honorable «FirstLast_Name»

«Street»

«City_State_Zip»

Dear «Salutation»: Sent to all Members of General Assembly and Governor

We are aware that your executive and legislative bodies will soon be deliberating the distribution of direct state education aid to Districts in what will be the most challenging fiscal and economic environment in recent history. In the course of those deliberations we respectfully petition your consideration of three (3) tables of data compiled by or from: the Rhode Island Department of Education ("RIDE"); the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council; and or the Rhode Island House Fiscal Advisory Staff Report. Each of these charts or tables of data is reported on a District-by-District basis. These tables include:

1. Changes in Grades K-12 "Resident Average Daily Membership" ("RADM) over the last ten (10) years. RADM counts the students based on the School District where they reside and gives the district credit for any time the student is an enrolled member of the district, regardless of actual attendance. The alternative measure of counting students, "Resident Average Daily Attendance" ("RADA"), likewise counts students in the District where they reside, but based on the actual days they are present in the classroom. RADA is substantially lower in urban districts.
2. Direct State Aid by District, comparing Fiscal Year 2000 to Fiscal Year 2009.
3. Per Pupil Expenditures by District, Including Other Commitments and Students served Out of District.

First and most importantly we request your review of the changes shown in the K-12 RADM chart. This chart shows that Barrington had the greatest increase in enrollment of all Districts in the State over the last ten (10) years at 12.5%. In contrast, all but nine (9) other Districts experienced a decreasing RADM population. Some of those decreases were in excess of 20%. In that same ten (10) year period, state aid continued to be awarded in disregard of those significant changes in District enrollment.

Review of the Direct State Aid by District Table reveals that in that same ten (10) year time frame, Per Pupil State Aid to Barrington increased by \$101.00 to \$750.00 per pupil, by far the lowest increase in the State. The result is that the District with the greatest increase in enrollment received the lowest per pupil increase in State Education Aid.

The Per Pupil Expenditure Chart reveals that Barrington spent less per pupil than every other District in the State, except North Smithfield and Cumberland. Excluding the consolidated District of Foster-Glocester (which has especially higher per pupil expenditure because of the inclusion of substantial construction costs) and New Shoreham (which historically has disproportionately higher per pupil spending due to its low population), eleven (11) Districts are spending at rates in excess of \$15,000 per pupil, while seven (7) including Barrington, are spending less than \$12,000 per pupil. We can explain that this low per pupil expenditure in Barrington is in part a result of our low rate of spending on administration and our high, now 20%, co-share by our teachers of health care premiums. Due to the limitations imposed under Senate Bill 3050, it would take each of these seven (7) Districts spending under \$12,000 per pupil at least five (5) years of the maximum increase allowed under Senate Bill 3050 to even reach the current Rhode Island average expenditures per pupil of \$14,119, and that assumes the State average doesn't increase at all in that same five (5) year period. That is a gross inequity in treatment which cannot be remedied even with the support of the individual community for the maximum possible increase allowed under the law.

Finally if you choose to do your own research regarding each of the various education aid funding formulas proposed over the last two years since the R.C. Wood Report was issued, you will find that all proposals show some Districts like Barrington are being consistently under funded while other Districts are actually being over-funded, often times in dramatically obvious amounts.

Our point is this: Certain factors, including increases or decreases in student population; existing expenditures per pupil; and the existing level of state aid per pupil; must be taken into consideration by the General Assembly in its distribution of state aid to Districts under the next fiscal year budget. Irrespective of the fact that changes in District enrollment and other circumstances may be the result of forces beyond anyone's control, the facts now make evident that the current arrangement of distributing state education aid is highly arbitrary, inequitable and without any reasonable basis for perpetuation. We believe it is incumbent upon all policy makers to work toward a fair, equitable, adequate and predictable funding formula for all children in this State. Our community has been and continues to be sensitive to the daunting challenges faced by many other communities, particularly the urban communities, and is supportive of a funding formula recognizing and responsive to those challenges. In the meantime, regardless of whether you decrease or leave state education aid appropriation at the same overall dollar amount as last year, we urge your attention to remediating the dramatic inequities in the treatment of ours and other Districts with the resources currently available.

Patrick A. Guida
Barrington School Committee

CHANGES IN K-12 RADM (FY 1999 to FY 2008)

Chart #1

District	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07	Projected FY 08	10 Year Fluctuation FY 99 to 08	% Change	4 Year Fluctuation FY 04 to 08	% Change
BARRINGTON	3,006	3,103	3,147	3,212	3,272	3,306	3,338	3,310	3,411	3,383	377	12.5%	77	2.3%
BRISTOL-WARREN	3,788	3,772	3,684	3,696	3,719	3,579	3,571	3,506	3,462	3,438	(350)	-9.2%	(141)	-3.9%
BURRILLVILLE	2,816	2,708	2,690	2,653	2,587	2,540	2,522	2,528	2,570	2,579	(237)	-8.4%	39	1.5%
CENTRAL FALLS	3,206	3,312	3,570	3,720	3,773	3,801	3,734	3,696	3,700	3,604	398	12.4%	(197)	-5.2%
CHARIHO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
CHARLESTOWN	1,068	1,083	1,103	1,120	1,091	1,066	1,065	1,035	1,040	1,071	3	0.3%	5	0.5%
COVENTRY	5,327	5,473	5,471	5,674	5,645	5,701	5,638	5,617	5,442	5,215	(112)	-2.1%	(486)	-8.5%
CRAWSTON	10,494	10,620	10,564	10,752	10,825	10,795	10,639	10,512	10,444	10,247	(247)	-2.4%	(548)	-5.1%
CUMBERLAND	4,874	4,977	5,082	5,213	5,263	5,125	5,253	5,072	5,046	4,744	(130)	-2.7%	(381)	-7.4%
E GREENWICH	2,182	2,292	2,313	2,349	2,385	2,400	2,410	2,361	2,340	2,361	179	8.2%	(39)	-1.6%
E PROVIDENCE	6,452	6,439	6,420	6,346	6,233	5,951	5,876	5,837	5,665	5,640	(812)	-12.6%	(311)	-5.2%
EX-W. GREENWICH	1,989	2,015	2,068	2,081	2,135	2,100	2,115	2,091	2,030	1,943	(46)	-2.3%	(157)	-7.5%
FOSTER	374	388	397	376	365	351	321	293	287	268	(106)	-28.3%	(83)	-23.6%
FOSTER-GLOCESTER	1,542	1,576	1,569	1,620	1,706	1,690	1,675	1,635	1,566	1,516	(26)	-1.7%	(174)	-10.3%
GLOCESTER	795	782	788	757	728	748	731	684	657	558	(237)	-29.8%	(190)	-25.4%
HOPKINTON	1,327	1,371	1,375	1,382	1,425	1,357	1,359	1,328	1,295	1,309	(18)	-1.4%	(48)	-3.5%
JAMESTOWN	812	803	774	733	744	751	733	754	704	702	(110)	-13.5%	(49)	-6.5%
JOHNSTON	3,409	3,370	3,251	3,324	3,257	3,241	3,387	3,244	3,211	3,206	(203)	-6.0%	(35)	-1.1%
LINCOLN	3,663	3,667	3,600	3,658	3,618	3,456	3,384	3,266	3,267	3,327	(336)	-9.2%	(129)	-3.7%
LT COMPTON	458	452	434	433	443	438	434	451	459	437	(21)	-4.6%	(1)	-0.2%
MIDDLETOWN	2,732	2,725	2,699	2,757	2,733	2,642	2,474	2,470	2,419	2,386	(346)	-12.7%	(256)	-9.7%
N KINGSTOWN	4,209	4,200	4,212	4,259	4,347	4,355	4,367	4,315	4,259	4,244	35	0.8%	(111)	-2.5%
N PROVIDENCE	3,546	3,538	3,490	3,379	3,381	3,374	3,394	3,331	3,222	3,140	(406)	-11.4%	(234)	-6.9%
N SMITHFIELD	1,717	1,791	1,838	1,827	1,841	1,890	1,888	1,882	1,870	1,875	158	9.2%	(15)	-0.8%
NARRAGANSETT	1,800	1,745	1,743	1,713	1,729	1,676	1,660	1,578	1,529	1,476	(324)	-18.0%	(200)	-11.9%
NEW SHOREHAM	139	125	126	134	136	140	136	132	140	142	3	2.2%	2	1.4%
NEWPORT	2,965	2,964	2,998	2,930	2,896	2,746	2,539	2,402	2,250	2,169	(796)	-26.8%	(577)	-21.0%
PAWTUCKET	9,621	9,656	9,817	9,668	9,750	9,709	9,439	9,215	8,981	8,871	(750)	-7.8%	(838)	-8.6%
PORTSMOUTH	2,699	2,748	2,811	2,831	2,868	2,876	2,800	2,767	2,810	2,695	(4)	-0.1%	(181)	-6.3%
PROVIDENCE	24,977	26,004	27,022	28,121	28,362	27,923	27,087	26,169	25,834	25,052	75	0.3%	(2,871)	-10.3%
RICHMOND	1,264	1,268	1,248	1,240	1,189	1,289	1,307	1,315	1,288	1,303	39	3.1%	14	1.1%
S KINGSTOWN	4,143	4,157	4,221	4,236	4,236	4,108	4,072	3,952	3,956	3,776	(367)	-8.9%	(332)	-8.1%
SCITUATE	1,728	1,726	1,723	1,749	1,758	1,742	1,765	1,755	1,768	1,733	5	0.3%	(9)	-0.5%
SMITHFIELD	2,669	2,681	2,637	2,654	2,670	2,648	2,586	2,548	2,508	2,497	(172)	-6.4%	(151)	-5.7%
TIVERTON	2,132	2,122	2,119	2,168	2,184	2,159	2,106	2,035	2,036	2,004	(128)	-6.0%	(155)	-7.2%
W WARWICK	3,629	3,695	3,797	3,856	3,927	3,774	3,676	3,619	3,614	3,579	(50)	-1.4%	(195)	-5.2%
WARWICK	11,782	11,915	11,957	11,765	11,802	11,636	11,526	11,205	10,855	10,723	(1,059)	-9.0%	(913)	-7.8%
WESTERLY	3,430	3,483	3,532	3,665	3,690	3,723	3,648	3,527	3,479	3,380	(50)	-1.5%	(343)	-9.2%
WOONSOCKET	6,312	6,480	6,638	6,514	6,668	6,627	6,624	6,377	6,315	6,224	(88)	-1.4%	(403)	-6.1%
TOTAL	149,076	151,226	152,928	154,565	155,381	153,433	151,269	147,814	145,729	142,817	(6,259)	-4.2%	(10,616)	-6.9%
% Change from PY		1.4%	1.1%	1.1%	0.5%	-1.3%	-1.4%	-2.3%	-1.4%	-2.0%				

** RIDE changes to Student Identifier (SASID) system after FY 2003

0.5% - 1.4% increase in K-12 RADM from June 99 to June 03. Since Student Identifier System began in 2004, 1.25% - 2.28% decrease in K-12 RADM. Current aid distribution has been frozen at the June 30, 2004 data for the last 4 fiscal years; therefore, the four year fluctuation is shown.

Table 16
Direct State Education Aid By District*
FY 2000 - FY 2009

School District	(\$ thousands)		FY 2000-2009 Change		Per Pupil Aid			
	FY 2000	FY 2009**	Amount	Percent	2000	2009***	Change	Rate
<i>Urban Core</i>								
Central Falls	\$27,269	\$43,874	\$16,605	60.9%	\$8,121	\$13,132	5,011	61.7%
Newport	8,784	11,871	3,088	35.2%	2,962	5,352	2,390	80.7%
Pawtucket	46,932	67,024	20,092	42.8%	4,739	7,633	2,894	61.1%
Providence	136,401	193,870	57,469	42.1%	5,161	7,915	2,754	53.3%
Woonsocket	35,862	47,422	11,560	32.2%	5,377	7,590	2,213	41.2%
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$255,247</i>	<i>\$364,060</i>	<i>\$108,813</i>	<i>42.6%</i>	<i>\$5,175</i>	<i>\$8,076</i>	<i>2,901</i>	<i>56.1%</i>
<i>Urban Ring</i>								
Cranston	\$27,047	\$35,476	\$8,429	31.2%	\$2,476	\$3,371	895	36.2%
East Providence	20,718	26,888	6,170	29.8%	3,128	4,648	1,520	48.6%
North Providence	10,292	13,383	3,091	30.0%	2,926	4,010	1,085	37.1%
Warwick	30,818	37,626	6,808	22.1%	2,513	3,553	1,040	41.4%
West Warwick	15,285	20,441	5,156	33.7%	4,021	5,589	1,568	39.0%
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$104,159</i>	<i>\$133,814</i>	<i>\$29,654</i>	<i>28.5%</i>	<i>\$2,805</i>	<i>\$3,948</i>	<i>1,143</i>	<i>40.7%</i>
<i>Suburban</i>								
Barrington	\$2,065	\$2,600	\$534	25.9%	\$649	\$750	101	15.6%
Bristol-Warren	16,917	20,438	3,521	20.8%	4,320	5,907	1,587	36.7%
Cumberland	10,873	13,257	2,384	21.9%	2,117	2,635	517	24.4%
East Greenwich	1,460	1,950	490	33.6%	615	815	201	32.6%
Jamestown	391	532	141	36.0%	452	1,075	623	138.0%
Johnston	8,343	10,750	2,407	28.9%	2,368	3,356	989	41.8%
Lincoln	6,137	7,403	1,266	20.6%	1,658	2,174	516	31.2%
Middletown	8,353	10,497	2,144	25.7%	2,948	4,439	1,490	50.5%
Narragansett	1,399	1,897	498	35.6%	775	1,288	513	66.1%
North Kingstown	9,979	11,986	2,007	20.1%	2,323	2,647	324	14.0%
Portsmouth	5,094	6,700	1,606	31.5%	1,772	2,265	493	27.8%
Smithfield	4,532	5,744	1,211	26.7%	1,650	2,203	553	33.5%
Westerly	5,393	6,843	1,450	26.9%	1,496	2,065	569	38.0%
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$80,936</i>	<i>\$100,597</i>	<i>\$19,661</i>	<i>24.3%</i>	<i>\$1,981</i>	<i>\$2,600</i>	<i>619</i>	<i>31.2%</i>
<i>Emerging Suburban</i>								
Burrillville	\$10,784	\$13,855	\$3,071	28.5%	\$3,764	\$5,351	1,587	42.2%
Chariho****	12,288	14,831	2,543	20.7%	3,107	3,969	862	27.7%
Coventry	16,657	20,075	3,418	20.5%	2,980	3,665	684	23.0%
Exeter-West Greenwich	6,066	7,586	1,520	25.1%	2,942	3,795	853	29.0%
Foster	1,157	1,416	259	22.4%	2,837	5,208	2,371	83.6%
Foster-Glocester	4,761	5,730	969	20.4%	3,002	3,697	695	23.2%
Glocester	2,642	3,214	572	21.6%	3,109	4,840	1,732	55.7%
Little Compton	274	369	94	34.4%	789	1,138	350	44.3%
New Shoreham	59	106	47	80.1%	469	728	260	55.5%
North Smithfield	3,875	4,834	960	24.8%	2,130	2,582	452	21.2%
Scituate	2,816	3,407	591	21.0%	1,609	1,894	285	17.7%
South Kingstown	8,468	10,549	2,080	24.6%	1,932	2,877	945	48.9%
Tiverton	4,899	5,932	1,033	21.1%	2,133	2,902	769	36.1%
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$74,746</i>	<i>\$91,904</i>	<i>\$17,158</i>	<i>23.0%</i>	<i>\$2,666</i>	<i>\$3,516</i>	<i>850</i>	<i>31.9%</i>
State	\$515,088	\$690,375	\$175,287	34.0%	\$3,316	\$4,801	\$1,485	44.8%

* Excludes Charter Schools, State-run schools, teacher retirement and construction aid.

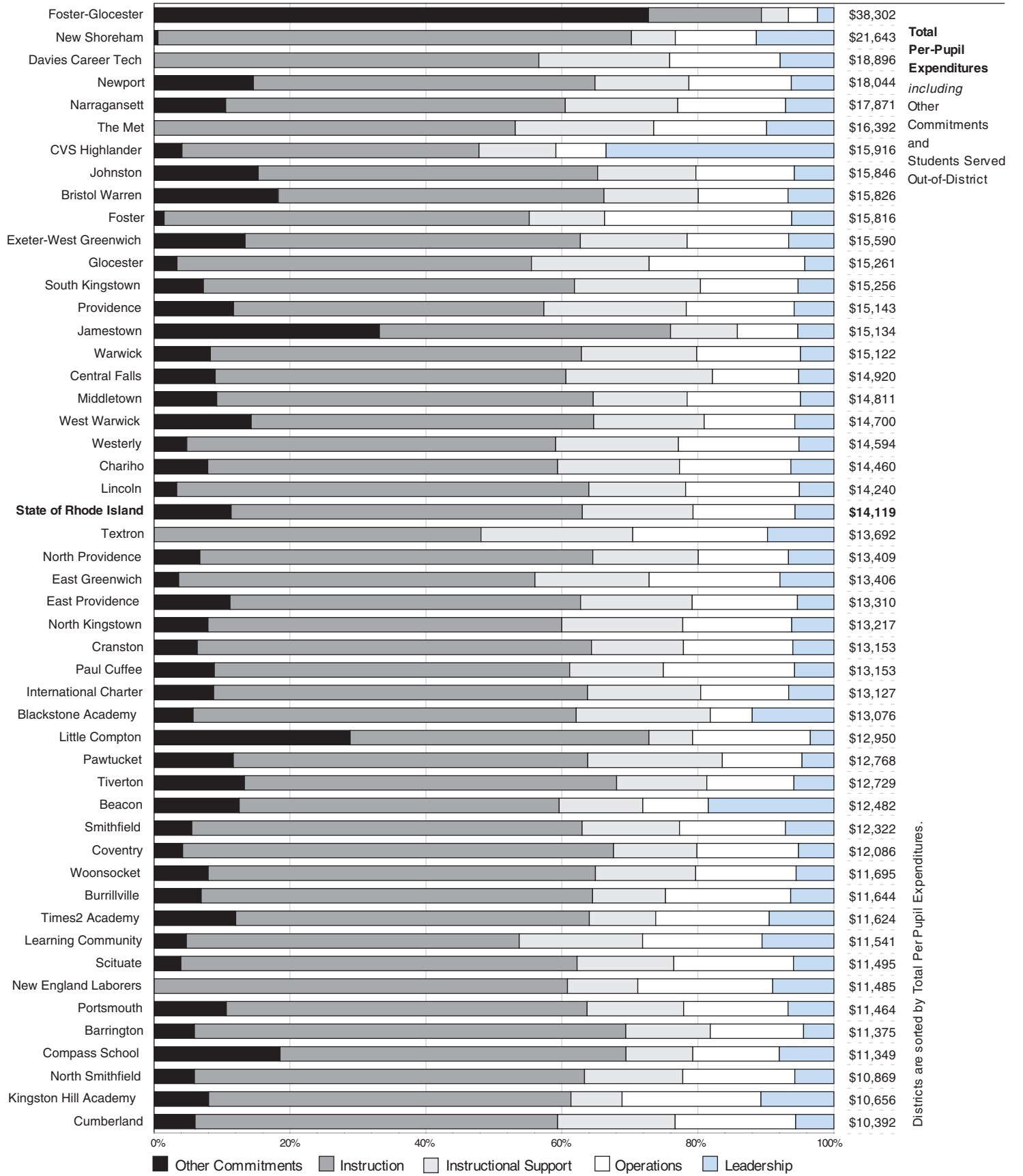
** Does not include potential monies from the Permanent School Fund.

*** Based on Fall 2007 Enrollment.

**** Chariho School District's State Aid represents Charlestown, Hopkinton and Richmond.

Source: R.I. Dept. of Education, House Fiscal Advisory Staff Report, and RIPEC calculations.

Per-Pupil Expenditures by District Including Other Commitments



Note: Jamestown and Little Compton send all high-school students out of district on a tuition basis. The high-school students in these two districts are counted as part of the total number of pupils in determining the per-pupil expenditures. The particularly high per-pupil expenditure in Foster-Glocester was caused by school-construction costs, which are accounted for as part of the School Department budget.

Data Source: InSite