

**PAWTUCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE
RHODE ISLAND EDUCATION COMMISSIONER WAIVE THE SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR**

The Pawtucket School Committee hereby states the following:

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern;

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, United States Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the entire United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, cases of COVID-19 and community transmission of the virus have been documented in the State of Rhode Island;

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, the Governor of the State of Rhode Island, Gina M. Raimondo issued a Declaration of Disaster Emergency in response to the spread of COVID-19 within the state's borders;

WHEREAS, the Governor ordered the closing of schools on March 16, 2020, and that schools shall implement distance learning plans the weeks of March 23 and March 30;

WHEREAS, there is no expectation that schools will immediately reopen thereafter;

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Department of Education requires that local educational agencies track and report the attendance of students and teachers and report to Rhode Island Department of Education the local educational agency and individual schools' student and teacher attendance records;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Education does not mandate that state education agencies or local education agencies report attendance records;

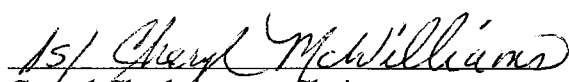
WHEREAS, unique and difficult challenges arise when tracking attendance while engaging in emergency distance learning;

WHEREAS, there is no common state-wide definition of attendance during this period of emergency implementation of distance learning;

WHEREAS, 2019-2020 school year attendance records will lack accuracy and the utility of such information will be greatly diminished due to the health emergency;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Pawtucket School Committee respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Commissioner of Education, by the power vested in her as Commissioner, waive the attendance reporting requirements for both teachers and students for the 2019-2020 school year.

WHERETO: The following bear witness:


Gerard Charbonneau, Chairperson
Pawtucket School Committee


Witness