Chariho Regional School District
Office of the Director of Administration & Finance

455A Switch Road
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894

All Kids. All of the Time.

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January 5, 2026

The following is planned for submission to RIDE and is a request for approval by the Chariho Regional School District School Committee by January of 2026.

The Chariho Regional School District is requesting a variance for the 2026-2027 school year from the requirement which stipulates that bus monitors must be provided on all buses transporting students in grades K-5. It is the understanding of the District that the Commissioner is empowered by the General Assembly to grant a variance to this requirement if persuaded that "An alternative plan provides substantially equivalent safety for children."

The Chariho Regional School District is requesting a variance as it pertains to the transportation of grade five students attending the Chariho Regional Middle School. These students will be transported with students in grades six through twelve who attend both the Middle School and Chariho Regional High School, students for whom the bus monitor law does not apply.

(No students attending grades K-4 are transported with these students.)

To provide for substantially equivalent safety for children, the District will:

• Utilize emergency procedures on all Middle School and High School bus routes as outlined by the Rhode Island Department of Education.

• Conduct mandatory on-the-bus safety lessons for all students in grades 5-12, to include proper embarking and disembarking procedures when using the so-called emergency procedures, by educators twice each year, by October 1st and March 1st.

• The District will certify in writing to the Department of Education in October and March that such safety instruction for all students has been completed. The safety instruction shall include actual demonstrations of the "Do's and Don'ts" of safely embarking and disembarking and shall call upon students to actually demonstrate these behaviors during the instructional lessons.

Sincerely,

Gregory Zenion
Director of Administration and Finance
Chariho Regional School District

The Chariho Regional School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, marital status, race, religion, genetic information, national origin, color, political affiliation, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or disability in accordance with applicable law.

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