Dear Friends, Mentors, and Supporters,

All of us at MENTOR Rhode Island are sad, devastated, heartbroken AND ANGRY.

We were blindsided by the news that, on Tuesday night at the School Committee Meeting, our entire funding for the Warwick Mentor Program was cut from the budget. As you know, mentoring is not a "nice to have" program. It is a "need to have" program which gives support to the young people we serve. Currently there are 160 mentor/mentee pairs ranging from 2nd grade through high school.

How do we tell these children that their mentors, people they have relied on week after week, year after year in some cases, are unable to continue? I am outraged. I hope you are, too.

Will you please help us to advocate for the reinstatement of these funds?

Our program has been in existence and funded by the school department since 1990; it is the foundation of our organization. Thirty years of history and amazing results for Warwick kids.... I cannot find the words to express the disappointment and devastation we are feeling.

Please reach out to our elected officials to express your thoughts:

School Committee members Phone Email

Bethany Furtado, Chair 401-737-2354 [bethany.furtado@warwickschools.org](mailto:bethany.furtado@warwickschools.org) Eugene Nadeau 401-463-8742 [eugene.nadeau@warwickschools.org](mailto:eugene.nadeau@warwickschools.org) Karen Bachus 401-732-3757 [karen.bachus@warwickschools.org](mailto:karen.bachus@warwickschools.org) M. Terri Medeiros [terri.medeiros@warwickschools.org](mailto:terri.medeiros@warwickschools.org) David Testa 401-626-1084 [david.testa@warwickschools.org](mailto:david.testa@warwickschools.org)   
City Council members

Richard Corley 401-481-5436 [rkcorley@corleyassociates.com](mailto:rkcorley@corleyassociates.com) Jeremy Rix 401-263-5559 [rixforwarwick@gmail.com](mailto:rixforwarwick@gmail.com) Timothy Howe 401-215-0632 [Howe.Ward3@gmail.com](mailto:Howe.Ward3@gmail.com) Edgar Ladouceur 401-447-7181 [ed.ladouceurri@yahoo.com](mailto:ed.ladouceurri@yahoo.com) Donna M. Travis 401-738-9774 [Donna.M.Travis@warwickri.com](mailto:Donna.M.Travis@warwickri.com) Stephen P. MacAllister 401-287-1813 [smcallister4@gmail.com](mailto:smcallister4@gmail.com) Joseph Gallucci 401-487-6224 [joegallucciward8@cox.net](mailto:joegallucciward8@cox.net) Steve Merolla, President 401-739-2900 x306 [smerolla@merollalaw.com](mailto:smerolla@merollalaw.com)   
Mayor Joe Solomon 401-738-2004 [mayorsoffice@warwickri.com](mailto:mayorsoffice@warwickri.com)

If you are a mentor, please share YOUR story with these officials! You are so important in the life of your mentee and to the success of the Warwick Mentor Program.

We have an emergency meeting of our Board of Directors on Monday, July 30th. We will formulate our next steps and contingency planning at that time. I will update you as soon as we have some answers.

How do we tell 160 vulnerable kids that they aren't a priority? We need your help!

Please reach out TODAY. It matters for our kids.

With gratitude for all you do,



Jo-Ann  
and the entire MENTOR Rhode Island team  
401-732-7700  
  
P.S. If you have any thoughts on other ways you may be able to help, please do not hesitate to reach out.