

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Resolution 16-051 in Support of AB 1846, a Bill to Increase Adult Education Funding

WHEREAS, California is home to one of our nation's largest immigrant populations with over six million California residents less than fluent in English;

WHEREAS, there are over five million California residents that do not have a high school diploma;

WHEREAS, English fluency and a high school diploma are essential for most family-sustaining jobs which can lift people out of poverty;

WHEREAS, Adult education provides English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, elementary and secondary basic skills education, as well as vocational education as an avenue out of poverty;

WHEREAS, adult education programs in California have provided Californians the opportunity to study and train for a better life and better income for over 150 years;

WHEREAS, adult education helps parents help their children by offering ESL classes which allows parents to understand their children's homework and communicate with their children's teachers and school;

WHEREAS, adult education programs were deeply cut or eliminated during the recession. Current adult ed funding is at 66% of its pre-recession level from approximately \$750 million pre-recession to currently \$500 million in the governor's budget;

WHEREAS Assembly Bill 1846 (Lopez) proposes funding adult education programs in California at their pre-recession level with an additional of \$250 million from the state general fund for a total of \$750 million;

THEREFORE, we stand with the many Californians that depend on adult education as a pathway to a better life for all California and support AB 1846.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Berkeley Unified School District this 18th day of May, 2016.