

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION NO. 20-023

Recognition of “Fund Education Now” Week, February 3-7, 2020

WHEREAS, California currently has the fifth largest economy in the world, and yet our state spends nowhere near the national average on per-pupil funding when adjusted for cost of living, with 36 of the 50 states, from Vermont to Alabama, spending more per student than California; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2018 report published by the Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE) research center at Stanford University, a \$25.6 billion increase in school funding is necessary to adequately fund California public schools; and

WHEREAS, the United States government has not kept its promise of increasing funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which supports special education programs; and

WHEREAS, school districts are forced to implement unfunded mandates from the California legislature, including the state mandated rising costs of pensions with little relief from the state; and

WHEREAS, the cost of living, and in particular the cost of housing, in the Bay Area creates additional pressures on educators in the Bay Area where the Consumer Price Index has risen 78.4% over 15 years; and

WHEREAS, the cost to repair school facilities is higher in California than other states, as well as the cost for maintaining transportation services for students; and

WHEREAS, California is the state with the highest number of children living in poverty; and

WHEREAS, California remains at the bottom for teacher-to-student, nurse-to-student, counselor-to-student, and librarian-to-student ratios; and

WHEREAS, California is a beacon of opportunity for people around the world, which has allowed the state to have the highest number of English Language Learners; and

WHEREAS, studies have consistently shown a positive correlation between funding levels and education outcomes; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that having a week dedicated to raising education funding awareness in the East Bay community and advocating for increased funding for education is in the best interest of students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Berkeley Unified School District Board of Education recognizes February 3-7, 2020 as *Fund Education Now Week*.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by Board of Education of the Berkeley Unified School District on this 22nd day of January 2020.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Ka'Dijah Brown
Clerk, Board of Education
Berkeley Unified School District