

RESOLUTION NO. 19/19-20
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES FIRST ACT (version 19-0008)

Whereas, since the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, school funding in California has experienced severe limitations in what was once the main source of funding for schools, the property tax; and

Whereas, while the intent of Proposition 13 when it was passed was to help homeowners, however loopholes in the system have permitted major commercial and industrial properties to avoid reassessment, a windfall to commercial property owners at the expense of vital school funding; and

Whereas, the property tax has shifted away from commercial property and toward residential property throughout the state and in virtually every county; and

Whereas, per-pupil support, relying on state funding, has declined from the top 10 in the nation to the bottom 10; and

Whereas, school funding is \$3,400.00 per pupil under the national average, while California's cost of living is among the highest in the nation; and

Whereas, public schools in California face challenges in providing an equitable and fair education for a student population with vast differences in language, poverty, parental education level, and other social, educational, and economic factors; and

Whereas, research has proven that investments in high needs students raises achievement levels, lowers poverty, and increases the productivity of the workforce; and

Whereas, estimates by academic researchers at USC have identified that reassessing commercial property will bring \$11.4 billion in property taxes to cities, counties, special districts, and schools; and

Whereas, USC has identified that nearly 80% of the revenue will come from just 8% of large properties, owned by corporations and wealthy investors, many of them out-of-state; and

Whereas, USC research shows that a majority of commercial owners already pay close to market value, making the current system inequitable among businesses, benefitting large owners who have held land for a long period; and

Whereas, the current failure to close the commercial property loophole has led to poor land use and inflated land values, particularly limiting the ability to provide adequate high-density housing and land use; and

Whereas, the Schools and Local Communities Funding Act will be on the ballot in 2020; and

Whereas, the measure provides for at least \$4.5 billion annually for schools K-14; and

Whereas, the measure will provide funding to all districts, over and above Proposition 98 funding and following the local control funding formula to all students in need in all districts; and

Whereas, school district bonds will be retired faster or rates lowered; and

Whereas, the Act will also provide billions in funding yearly for cities, counties, and special districts in locally controlled revenues for parks, public safety, housing, infrastructure, health and human services, libraries and the environment; and

Whereas, the Act will improve land use, provides tax relief to small businesses, and level the playing field among businesses; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Mateo Foster City School District Board of Education supports the Funding for Schools and Local Communities Funding Act.

ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the San Mateo-Foster City School District at the regular meeting held on the 27th day of February of 2020 by the following vote;

AYES

NOES

ABSENT

ATTEST:

Secretary to the Board of Trustees