

**SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR FULL AND FAIR FUNDING OF  
CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS**, California has the sixth largest economy in the world, and the largest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of any state in the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, despite California's leadership in the global economy, the state falls in the nation's bottom quintile on nearly every measure of public K-12 school funding and school staffing; and

**WHEREAS**, California ranks 45<sup>th</sup> nationally in the percentage of taxable income spent on education, 41<sup>st</sup> in per-pupil funding, 45<sup>th</sup> in pupil-teacher ratios and 48<sup>th</sup> in pupil-staff ratios; and

**WHEREAS**, K-12 school funding has not substantially increased, on an inflation-adjusted basis, for more than a decade; and

**WHEREAS**, under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), state funding for K-12 schools has only this year recently returned to levels predating the Great Recession of 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, the modest revenue increases since the implementation of LCFF have been eroded by rapidly increasing costs for health care, pensions, transportation and utilities; and

**WHEREAS**, 58 percent of California's public school students are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch — 13 percent above the national average — and 23 percent of California students are English learners, more than twice the national average; and

**WHEREAS**, California's investment in public schools is out of alignment with its wealth, its ambitions, its demographics and the demands of a 21<sup>st</sup>-century education; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2007, a bipartisan group of California leaders commissioned a report titled *Getting Down to Facts*, which stated it would take an additional \$17 billion annually to meet the State Board of Education achievement targets for K-12 schools; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, a California School Boards Association (CSBA) report, *California's Challenge: Adequately Funding Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, updated the *Getting Down to Facts* data and determined that, adjusting for inflation, an additional \$22 billion to \$40 billion annually would be required to provide all public school students with access to a high-quality education; and

**WHEREAS**, California funds schools at roughly \$1,961 per student less than the national average, which translates to approximately \$3,462 per student when adjusted for California being a high-cost state; and

**WHEREAS**, California trails the average of the top 10 states by almost \$7,000 in per-pupil funding; and

**WHEREAS**, in *Robles-Wong v. State of California*, a group of plaintiffs led by CSBA argued that California's school funding system violated Article IX of the State Constitution by denying all students access to an education that prepares them for economic security and full participation in our democratic institutions; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Supreme Court declined to hear the case by a 4-3 margin, prompting Justice Goodwin H. Liu to write: “It is regrettable that this court, having recognized education as a fundamental right in a landmark decision 45 years ago [*Serrano v. Priest* (1971) 5 Cal.3d 584], should now decline to address the substantive meaning of that right.”; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to prepare our students for participation in a democratic society and an increasingly competitive, technology-driven global economy, California must fund schools at a level sufficient to support student success; and

**WHEREAS**, despite its vast wealth, California has consistently underfunded public education while widening its scope, adding new requirements and raising standards without providing appropriate resources to prepare all students for college, career and civic life; and

**WHEREAS**, if California is to close opportunity and achievement gaps and create a public school system that offers consistently high levels of education, the State must provide schools with the resources to meet the needs of their specific populations;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education urges the State Legislature to fund California public schools at the national average or higher by the year 2020, and at a level that is equal to or above the average of the top 10 states nationally by 2025 and to maintain, at a minimum, this level of funding until otherwise decreed.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED**, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of the month of January 2018 by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein  
Board of Education President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
DR. Ben Drati  
Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date