

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution 19-015 in Support of Full Funding for Public Education

Whereas, K-14 per pupil spending, which relies on state funding, has since 1978 declined from the top ten in the nation to the bottom ten; and

Whereas, school funding in California is \$3,400 per pupil less than the national average, while California's cost of living is among the highest in the nation; and

Whereas, the discrepancies between salary and the cost of living prevent many teachers and staff from living in the communities they serve and prevent school districts from retaining high quality educators; and

Whereas, California faces a teacher shortage that threatens the quality of public education throughout the state; and

Whereas, public schools in California face unique challenges to provide an equitable, quality education for a student population with vast differences in language, income, parental education level, and other social, economic, and educational factors; and

Whereas, special education funding has become an increasing burden to local school districts due to the growing number of students receiving special education services, the rising costs associated with those services, and the lack of adequate state (and federal) financial support for those services; and

Whereas, research has proven that investments in high-needs students raise achievement levels, reduce poverty, and increase the productivity of the workforce; and

Whereas, Proposition 13 contains a loophole that for decades has undertaxed commercial property, resulting in the drastic underfunding of public education and social services; and

Whereas, The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act¹ (CSLCFA) initiative would close this loophole and provide at least \$4.5 billion annually for K-14 schools and another \$5.5 billion to needed social services; and

Whereas, CSLCFA would provide funding to all school districts, over and above Proposition 98 funding, following the local control funding formula to support all students in all districts with unduplicated students; and

¹ This is an initiative that has qualified for the 2020 ballot, <https://schoolsandcommunitiesfirst.org>.

Whereas, CSLCFA 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;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Berkeley Unified School District endorses The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act (CSLCFA) ballot measure in 2020;

Resolved, That the Berkeley Unified School District affirms that supporting the full funding of public education must be a top priority of the California State Legislature and of the Governor;

Resolved, That the Berkeley Unified School District urges the Governor and Legislature to strenuously advocate for significant increases in federal special education funding, to fully fund California's portion of the special education mandate, and to make meaningful special education reforms; and

Resolved, That the Berkeley Unified School District urges the Governor and Legislature to support wages that address California's high cost of living for all workers serving California students to address this state's teacher and support personnel shortage.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Education of the Berkeley Unified School District this 6th day of February, 2019

Ty Alper, Director/Clerk
Board of Education
Berkeley Unified School District