A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR FULL, PERMANENT FUNDING OF IDEA

WHEREAS, public education is the cornerstone of our democracy, providing fundamental skills and opportunity to nearly 90% - 50 million - to children across the United States; and,

WHEREAS, In the decade following the Great Recession, students across the U.S. lost nearly $600 billion from the states’ disinvestment in their public schools; and

WHEREAS, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, both state and federal funding for public schools failed to meet the critical needs of students across the country; and,

WHEREAS, the federal government provided nearly $200 billion through three issuances of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Act (ESSER) to states and school districts, including [$$$] to the [SCHOOL DISTRICT]; and,

WHEREAS, the realized impact of ESSER funding is that it has benefited students’ academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs through targeted programming and additional personnel, enahnced professional development opportunities, new technology as well as critical updates to school facilities; and

WHEREAS, research has consistently shown that increased education funding positively affects academic performance, increases graduation rates, and impacts future earnings; and,

WHEREAS, without an infusion of federal public education funding by Congress, it is estimated that districts will have to cut an average of $1,200 per student from their budget; and,

WHEREAS, the systematic and chronic underfunding of public schools is a strategy by those who want to dismantle the public education system to decimate the quality of education that public schools can provide;

WHEREAS, when Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was passed in 1975, the federal government committed to pay 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure for special education to ensure that every child with a disability has access to a high quality education; and,

WHEREAS, the financial pledge for IDEA has never been met and is currently funded at approximately 10.7 percent, leaving a gap of billions of dollars needed for students; and,

WHEREAS, [SCHOOL DISTRICT] is proud to serve a student population that includes [XX] percent of students with disabilities; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the [SCHOOL DISTRICT] as follows:

The [SCHOOL DISTRICT] school board calls on Congress to immediately pass the IDEA Full Funding Act (S.2217/H.R. 4519) which would create a 10 year mandatory path to fully fund IDEA; and,

The [SCHOOL DISTRICT] school board calls on the state legislature to provide adequate, equitable, and sustainable funding increases to districts to mitigate the harm caused by decades of underfunded schools.