

# *City of Boston*

## *In School Committee*

June 19, 2019

### **BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION** **IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATION FUNDING REFORM**

- WHEREAS: The Boston Public Schools (BPS) has the duty and privilege of educating 55,000 diverse, resilient, talented students, for whom a high-quality public education is both a basic human right and their key to a bright future; and
- WHEREAS: The BPS student body is made up of 86% of young people of color; our students face economic disadvantage at twice the statewide rate; our students are English language learners at three times the state average; and BPS serves 43% of the Commonwealth's students who face multiple challenges of poverty, language barriers, and disability; and
- WHEREAS: The Commonwealth's current education funding formula woefully underserves the BPS student body, with Net State Education Aid falling from 20% of the total BPS budget in 2010 to less than 4% today, and without immediate intervention will fall to zero in the next two years; and
- WHEREAS: Over the last five years, the City of Boston has increased the BPS budget by \$240 million, despite a \$120 million shortfall in Charter School Reimbursements from the state and a concurrent \$100 million increase in Charter School Tuition; and
- WHEREAS: The Commonwealth is facing a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reform the state's education funding formula and close persistent opportunity and achievement gaps for students in cities and towns with populations similar to Boston across the state; therefore, let it be
- RESOLVED: That the Chairperson and members of the School Committee of the City of Boston join with the Interim Superintendent of Schools in urging members of the General Court to adopt the following principles in any education funding reform legislation to be considered by the legislature during the current session:
- Ensure that districts receive a floor of Chapter 70 funding, after accounting for net charter school tuition costs, and provide all districts with a minimum per-pupil increase in education aid over existing funding levels.

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- Set the low income increment, as determined by the district's number of low-income students, at a level between 50% and 100% of the statewide per-pupil average of Foundation Budget payments, and further ensure that all students who qualify for the increment are counted by allowing districts to utilize all legitimate methods to determine the number of students that are low-income.
- Adopt the Foundation Budget Review Commission (FBRC) recommendations and fully adjust the special education rate to reflect the true cost of educating in-district and out-of-district special education students.
- Fully implement an English Language Learners increment and maintain the existing method of identifying English Language Learners.
- Update Foundation Budget funding to reflect the true cost of employee and retiree health insurance benefits, with annual adjustments that are benchmarked to the rates issued by the Group Insurance Commission.
- Avoid impacts to any other vital Local Aid accounts, while assuring full funding for the Commonwealth's other statutory commitments to cities and towns for additional education expenditures.

On roll call, the resolution was approved by the following vote:

YEAS – Michael D. O'Neill; Lorna Rivera; Jeri Robinson; and  
Chairperson Michael Loconto - 4

NAYS – 0

ABSENT – Hardin Coleman; Quoc Tran, and  
Vice Chairperson Alexandra Oliver-Dávila -3

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan  
Executive Secretary