



RESOLUTION URGING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO INCREASE ITS INVESTMENT IN STUDENTS IN THE COMMONWEALTH'S MOST UNDERFUNDED SCHOOL DISTRICTS BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, all of Pennsylvania's more than 1.7 million public school students deserve the opportunity to attend schools with the financial resources to provide a quality education; and

WHEREAS, while Pennsylvania's Basic Education Funding (BEF) formula provides weighted student funding for districts with higher levels of need, only 11% of all Basic Education Funding (only new money) is distributed using the formula; and

WHEREAS, at the current rate of increases in state educational spending, it will take decades or more for the most underfunded districts to be fully, fairly funded; and

WHEREAS, these underfunded districts struggle to reach adequate funding levels despite high local tax efforts; and

WHEREAS, these large adequacy and equity funding gaps worsen achievement gaps between student in well- and poorly-resourced districts, limiting students' educational opportunities and threatening the Commonwealth's future workforce, tax base, and economy; and

WHEREAS, underfunded and inadequately funded districts serve a disproportionate share of the Commonwealth's students of color, students living in poverty, students with disabilities, and English learners; and

WHEREAS, insufficient action by the General Assembly to address the needs of the Commonwealth's most underfunded school districts will continue to leave hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvania's children without adequate resources to receive a high-quality education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethlehem Area School District demands that the General Assembly ensure that all districts, particularly those serving higher-need students, have adequate resources by increasing Basic Education Funding, equitably distributing that funding through the Fair Funding Formula (as proposed by both the Governor's Budget and Senate Bill 123), and passing House Bill 1167 to appropriate additional funds for a "Level Up" supplement aimed at schools with the greatest need.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be submitted to the elected State Senators and State Representatives of the Bethlehem Area School District in the General Assembly, and to the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Adopted this 26th day of April 2021.

Signed



Michael E. Faccinetto, Board President



Stacy M. Gober, Board Secretary