

**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

RESOLUTION NO. 3139

***“Requesting Federal Funding to Support Public Schools in Response to COVID-19
Economic Impacts”***

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced school districts and county offices of education to rapidly adapt under constantly changing and challenging circumstances to continue to deliver high-quality education to all students while safeguarding public health; and

WHEREAS, the challenges caused by an abrupt shift to distance learning have forced local educational agencies already faced with budget deficits to provide significant support and tailor resources to students to ensure learning continues; and

WHEREAS, public schools will need substantial funding in order to overhaul operations to accommodate distance learning for all students, as well as provide the support services and healthy meals they need to thrive in school; and

WHEREAS, state and local budgets are quickly being drained of reserves through extreme upticks in unemployment rates and other impacts caused by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, LEAs are working to continue to provide critical services to students and families, such as distance learning, meal pick-ups, access to technology, and mental and behavioral health services while grappling with an impending economic recession that includes a decline in revenues; and

WHEREAS, Sacramento City Unified School District (District) is serving more meals while schools are closed during the pandemic compared to when schools were open, and recently served our largest meal count in one day of over 40,000 meals; and

WHEREAS, the District has strived to ensure students have the tools they need to access distance learning by purchasing and distributing thousands of devices to students, and negotiating with local internet service providers to provide internet service to our families that need access; and

WHEREAS, at the same time, LEAs including Sacramento City Unified School District are incurring new costs to effectively respond to COVID-19, which adds to the severity of the economic recession; and

WHEREAS, Governor Newsom’s May Revision to the state budget includes a shortfall of \$15.1 billion for K-14 education because of a substantial reduction in the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee, owing to the dramatic downturn in the economy; and

WHEREAS, absent additional federal funding, the May Revision proposes to reduce Local Control Funding Formula resources by ten percent, which amounts to a loss of \$49.6M for the District; and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides \$13.5 billion for public school budgets to directly stabilize public school funding nationwide, as well as additional aid for child care, child nutrition and grants to provide mental health support to students; and

WHEREAS, the \$31 billion in dedicated emergency funding for K-12 and higher education provided by the CARES Act falls far short of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Great Recession-era stimulus, which provided \$100 billion for education with investments in both state fiscal stabilization funds as well as public school categorical programs including Title I and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and

WHEREAS, the Association of California School Administrators and the California School Boards Association in an April 15 letter to congressional leaders requested the next federal stimulus package include an additional \$175 billion under the Education Stabilization Fund for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund; specific targeted funding support for students with disabilities and low-income students; and for mental health and trauma services for students, as well as waivers targeting a narrow set of requirements under IDEA that schools cannot safely meet under statewide shelter-in-place orders; and

WHEREAS, 35 U.S. senators, including California's Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris, strongly urged Congress in an April 2 letter that the next coronavirus relief package include at least \$2 billion in E-Rate funds for schools and libraries to provide WiFi hotspots or other devices with WiFi capability to students without adequate connectivity at their home, noting the "homework gap" experienced by 12 million students in this country who do not have internet access at home and are unable to complete their homework; and

WHEREAS, the Public Policy Institute of California found in 2019 that nearly 16 percent (roughly 945,000) of California's school-aged children had no internet connection at home in 2017, while 27 percent (about 1.7 million) did not have broadband access; and

WHEREAS, the issue is even more prevalent for low-income households and students in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, research shows that students without home internet access have lower reading, math and science scores, which is likely to be exacerbated as schools nationwide transition from in-person instruction to distance learning; and

WHEREAS, Governor Gavin Newsom sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy on March 19 requesting additional federal assistance to supplement California's efforts to prepare for a COVID-19 surge; and

WHEREAS, on May 11, Governor Newsom joined governors and legislative leaders from five western states in a letter to congressional leaders to request \$1 trillion in direct and flexible relief to states and local governments in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to preserve core government services like public health, public safety and public education, and help people get back to work; and

WHEREAS, national education organizations including the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, The School Superintendents Association, the Council of Great City Schools, the National Parent Teachers Association and the National School Boards Association have called upon Congress to provide \$200 billion to begin providing relief to public schools throughout the country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education calls on our Congressional delegation, inclusive of our United States Senators and House of Representatives, and the Governor of California to advocate for additional federal funding to prioritize stable public school funding.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education on this 21st day of May, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: _____
NOES: _____
ABSTAIN: _____
ABSENT: _____

Jessie Ryan
President of the Board of Education

ATTESTED TO:

Jorge A. Aguilar
Secretary of the Board of Education