

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

RESOLUTION NO. 3140

*“To Prioritize Public School Funding in the 2020-21 State Budget in Response to
COVID-19 Economic Impacts”*

WHEREAS, school districts and county offices of education rapidly adapted under constantly changing and challenging circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to continue delivering high-quality education to all students while safeguarding public health; and

WHEREAS, the challenges caused by an abrupt shift to distance learning has forced local educational agencies (LEAs) already faced with budget deficits to purchase additional supplies, adopt new supports and tailor resources to shifting student needs to ensure learning continues; and

WHEREAS, LEAs continue to provide other critical services to students and families, including meal distribution, access to technology, and mental and behavioral health services while grappling with an economic recession that is projected to cause a severe 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;

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

WHEREAS, the District is incurring new costs to effectively respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, public schools need substantial funding now in order to all at once overhaul operations to accommodate distance learning and other support services for all students; and

WHEREAS, many uncertainties remain over how schools will operate upon students’ return to campus in regard to staggered schedules, smaller class sizes, additional deep cleanings and other changes proposed by state officials in order to maintain a healthy environment for pupils, educators and staff; and

WHEREAS, recent analysis by the Learning Policy Institute found almost 320,000 teaching jobs could be lost nationwide if states cut their education budgets by 15 percent in response to COVID-19 economic impacts, resulting in increased class sizes; and

WHEREAS, a California School Boards Association survey of LEAs in March found that even before COVID-19, 77 percent of districts showed fiscal stress and are in deficit spending; and

WHEREAS, the CSBA survey also found that more than one-third of districts were already considering layoffs based on the January budget proposal; and

WHEREAS, conservative cost estimates from San Diego Unified and Los Angeles Unified suggest that districts have assumed added costs because of the pandemic of approximately \$400 per student equating to statewide costs as high as \$2.4 billion above the Proposition 98 Guarantee; and

WHEREAS, the Governor'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, the \$31 billion in dedicated emergency funding for K-12 and higher education provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (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, 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, an April analysis by the Collaborative for Student Growth predicted a loss of 30 percent of the typical yearly gains in reading and nearly a full year behind in math for students in grades 3-8 due to the academic interruptions caused by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the District needs additional funding to ensure that all its students are able to make up for lost learning time and receive a world class education in a safe, clean environment; and

WHEREAS, certain proposals in the May Revision provide relief to districts such as the reduction in the employer contribution rates for CalSTRS and CALPERS, the increase in special education base rates to \$645 per pupil, and some flexibilities for fiscal operations; and

WHEREAS, schools deserve financial support from the state that reflects the realistic challenges caused by COVID-19 now and when classrooms reopen.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education calls on the Governor of California and State Legislature, inclusive of our state Senators and Assemblymembers, to prioritize stable public school funding in the 2020–21 state budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature pass a 2020–21 state budget, and that Gov. Gavin Newsom sign said budget, that includes:

A utilization of dollars within the State Budget Stabilization Account — currently totaling more than \$16 billion — to support schools by averting any cuts to the Local Control Funding Formula; and

Investments in special education that finally seek to end decades of disparity in the amount of funding that districts receive for their students with disabilities, an imbalance that saw Sacramento City Unified School District near the bottom of the scale for special education base rates; and

Reductions in the employer contribution rates for CalSTRS and CALPERS, recognizing that districts are not able to continue to bear these escalating costs while in the midst of a recession; and

Reprieve from requirements that provide district funding based on pupil attendance during the 2020-21 school year, recognizing that districts need to continue to be adaptable in employing non-traditional methods in delivering instruction since the battle against COVID-19 is not yet over.

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