



*The School Board of Broward County, Florida*

# RESOLUTION

No. 20-108

## **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS MEMBER DISTRICTS' REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FEDERAL FUNDING DUE TO COVID-19**

As one of the school district members of the Council of the Great City Schools, Broward County Public schools supports the call for Congress to provide more funding for public school systems in the next coronavirus supplemental appropriations bill. Because of declines in state and local revenues, significant revenue shortfalls are looming for school districts projecting 15 to 25 percent cuts in overall revenues going into next school year.

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic is a monumental and unprecedented challenge, emerging quickly and demanding an immediate overhaul of the instructional plans and strategies of school systems across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, the nation's public schools remain committed to delivering high-quality instruction while ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, this challenge will persist and likely grow as COVID-19 affects our economy and destabilizes funding for public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, reputable economists have predicted the end of the nation's economic expansion and forecast a recession that may be deep and long-lasting; and

**WHEREAS**, any nationwide recession is likely to affect urban areas and their poorest citizens most severely; and

**WHEREAS**, the numbers of unemployment claims in the nation's big cities are already the highest we have seen since the Great Depression and may only grow; and

**WHEREAS**, urban public-school systems across the country are already incurring substantial unexpected costs to provide meal services and purchase and deploy digital instructional devices; and

**WHEREAS**, urban public-school systems are facing difficult decisions about how to allocate dwindling financial resources to sustain high-quality instruction and other essential services for students and families over the next several years; and

**WHEREAS**, revenue shortfalls will unequivocally result in budget cuts and personnel reductions in urban school systems;

**WHEREAS**, these budget cuts will be happening at the same time that urban public school systems will be working to address the immense instructional challenge of unfinished learning that many students will face coming out of this school year; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Recovery and Reinvestment ACT (ARRA) of 2009 provided \$100 billion in education funding with investments in both the education stabilization fund and various federal categorical programs for public schools, such as Title I and the Individuals with Disabilities Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress followed ARRA in 2010 with \$10 billion in additional funding for the Education Jobs Fund to help school districts retain existing employees, recall former employees, and hire new ones; and

**WHEREAS**, by comparison the recent Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides only \$13 billion for education stabilization funding, which is less than half of one percent of the total \$2.2 trillion relief provided in the CARES Act and is far below the investment that the federal government provided in 2009 and 2010 in ARRA and the Education Jobs fund; and

**WHEREAS**, public education is one of the largest employers of any organization, public or private, in the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, published economic research has demonstrated a strong connection between a country's GDP growth and its investments in elementary and secondary education; and

**WHEREAS**, research has repeatedly found a strong causal relationship between levels of schooling and wages that individuals earn over a lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, for public schools to thrive and for our students to realize a bright and productive future, the federal government needs to make a substantial new investment in our wellbeing; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Great City Schools, the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the National School Boards Association, the American Association of School Administrators, and the National Parent Teachers Association, and others have called for some \$200 billion in relief for the nation's public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, this level of funding is the minimum needed by the nation's urban public schools to sustain and accelerate their academic achievement trends over the past decade, including gains in reading and math achievement that outpace the national average;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the School Board of Broward County, Florida calls on its Congressional delegation, including our United States Senators and House of Representative members, to advocate for and approve additional federal education funding for our nation's public schools.

Given at Fort Lauderdale, Florida this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Donna P. Korn, Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent of Schools