

## Sample District/County Office of Education Resolution: State Education Funding in Light of Impacts Associated with COVID-19 Pandemic

(to be copied and emailed or used on district/COE letterhead)

**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 impending economic recession that is projected to cause a severe decline in revenues; and

**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**, **NAME OF DISTRICT/COE** 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**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends in its latest guidance that schools should consider remaining closed until districts can “encourage social distancing through increased spacing, small groups and limited mixing between groups,” and “intensify cleaning, disinfection and ventilation,” and “train all employees on health and safety protocols;” 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 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 proposed May Revision includes a 10 percent cut to the Local Control Funding Formula, a \$19 billion decline in Proposition 98 and other reductions in education spending that would hobble **NAME OF DISTRICT/COE's** ability to reopen safely and effectively; 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**, the proposed \$3 trillion federal Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act, which would provide \$100.15 billion in total school funding — including about \$58 billion for K-12 in a state fiscal stabilization fund to be distributed based on the Title I funding formula — is welcome, but still insufficient for ensuring student success and safety during this time; and

**WHEREAS**, a May 12 letter to members of Congress from CSBA and other education partners petitioned for, among other things, the authorization of an additional \$175 billion in federal relief funds for distribution to schools in 2020–21 and 2021–22, the creation of a \$13 billion Emergency Relief Fund to cover increased costs associated with serving students with individualized education programs (IEPs) during the COVID-19 crisis, expanded E-Rate eligible services and an additional \$2 billion in E-Rate program funding; 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**, **NAME OF DISTRICT/COE** 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**, 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 Board of Education of the **NAME OF DISTRICT/COE** 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:

- » The \$1.2 billion allocation included in the January budget proposal in on-going Proposition 98 funds for a statutory 2.29 percent cost-of-living increase; and
- » A repurposing of the \$1.5 billion in one-time proposals from the January budget to discretionary funding that schools can use to cover costs associated with COVID-19; and
- » A utilization of dollars within the State Reserve Fund — currently totaling more than \$17 billion — to support schools; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a bond be placed on the November ballot of at least \$2 billion to address broadband access needs in schools, particularly in rural areas; purchase computer hardware; and support school health and safety activities related to COVID-19.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of the month of \_\_\_\_\_ in 2020.

Motion made by: \_\_\_\_\_

Second made by: \_\_\_\_\_

List members voting “aye:” \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List members voting “no:” \_\_\_\_\_

List members abstaining: \_\_\_\_\_

List members not present: \_\_\_\_\_