

**Franklin Public Schools
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038**

Action Required

Subject: Resolutions

Date: June 9, 2020

Dept: School Committee

Reason: Required Vote

Enclosure: yes

Recommendation:

Resolution in Support of Funding in the COVID-19 Era

I recommend that the School Committee adopt the resolution as discussed.

Action Requested of the School Committee:

Majority vote of the School Committee is required.

<u>Vote Tabulator</u>	
A Bergen:	Y / N T Keenan: Y / N
J D'Angelo:	Y / N M J Scofield: Y / N
J Pond-Pfeffer:	Y / N D Spencer: Y / N
E Stokes:	Y / N Action: _____



Franklin Public Schools

*Office of the Superintendent
355 East Central Street; Suite 3
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038
Phone: 508-553-4819*

To: Franklin School Committee
From: Sara E. Ahern, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Re: Proposed School Committee Resolution
Date: June 4, 2020

On May 28, FEA President, Donna Grady, forwarded a Resolution in Support of Educational Funding in the COVID-19 ERA for consideration by the Franklin School Committee.

I recommend that the School Committee adopt the resolution as discussed.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATION FUNDING IN THE COVID-19 ERA

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Legislature and governor enacted the *Student Opportunity Act* in 2019 because the state's school funding formula was out of date and failed to provide all students with the education to which they are constitutionally entitled; and

WHEREAS, the inadequacy in funding was felt most deeply in school districts serving high concentrations of low-income students, English learners and students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the *Student Opportunity Act* requires phasing in new funding formulas to provide greater resources for all school districts, with the largest share going to low-income districts; and

WHEREAS, our students' needs are even greater now after public schools and colleges were shut down in mid-March in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in the upcoming academic year many students will need enhanced educational opportunities, technology, health and guidance services; and

WHEREAS, the need for these additional services exists in every school district and is greatest in school districts that would receive the largest share of new funding under the *Student Opportunity Act*; and

WHEREAS, the federal, state and local governments share responsibility for making sure all students receive the education to which they are constitutionally entitled.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Franklin School Committee supports the following:

- Congress should approve New Deal-level funding for state and local governments in response to the economic crisis caused by this pandemic, raising revenues progressively if necessary, to ensure that they can fulfill their obligations to educate our students;
- The Massachusetts Legislature and Governor Charlie Baker should fund public education — preK through higher education — at the level needed to maintain current staffing and services, fully fund the first year of the *Student Opportunity Act*, and enable students and our state's economy to thrive as we begin recovering from the pandemic;
- Our town should maintain its commitment to fully fund our public schools.