

RESOLUTION 20-04 URGING FEDERAL AND STATE ACTION PROVIDING EMERGENCY STABILIZATION FUNDING FOR WISCONSIN'S AND AMERICA'S K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE U.S. ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic downturn across America has caused widespread unemployment, decreased consumer spending and strained housing security nationwide – leading to sharp declines in 2020 income tax, sales tax and property tax collection projections; and

WHEREAS, K-12 public schools rely on a combination of property taxes, sales taxes and income taxes to fund their operations and deliver on their mission to educate students; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the School District of Superior applauds President Donald J. Trump and the bipartisan Members of Congress who allocated \$13.5 billion in U.S. K-12 funding as part of the CARES Act passed in early April 2020; and

WHEREAS, in mid-April 2020, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers penned a letter to President Donald J. Trump noting that Wisconsin alone is expected to lose more than \$2 billion tax revenue, unless the federal government intervenes; and

WHEREAS, the nonpartisan Learning Policy Institute projects that almost 320,000 school district positions could be cut nationwide if states cut their education budgets by 15 percent due to the economic recession; and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2020, nonpartisan organizations including the School Superintendent's Association (AASA), American Federation of Teachers, American School Counselor Association, Council of Administrators of Special Education, Council of Great City Schools, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Association of School Psychologists, National Association of State Directors of Special Education, National Education Association, National PTA and the National School Boards Association penned a letter to the majority and minority leaders in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House urging them to allocate at least an additional \$200 billion in K-12 emergency relief funding, including the following:

- At least \$175 billion: Provision of emergency funding directly to state governments to support local school districts
- At least \$25 billion: \$13 billion to support IDEA and \$12 billion to support Title I
- At least \$2 billion: Funding technology to further enable home-based learning and close inequities in broadband Internet access

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Board of Education of the Superior School District urges:

President Donald J. Trump and Members of Congress to immediately allocate significant and sufficient emergency stabilization aid enabling state governments across America to fund their K-12 public schools and prevent furloughs and/or cuts to K-12 public school staffs and programs; and

Governor Tony Evers and the Wisconsin State Legislature to allocate sufficient funding from both the 2021-2022 state budget and the state's Budget Stabilization Fund (also known as the "rainy day fund")

enabling school districts to fund their staff and programs, and execute on their missions to educate Wisconsin's school children.

SOURCES:

Wauwatosa School Board (www.wauwatosaschools.org)

National Parent Teacher Association (PTA): <https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/files/advocacy/2020-letters-to-policymakers/april-6-ed-group-c-4-letter.pdf>

Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB): <https://www.wasb.org/gov-overs-projects-2-billion-in-revenue-losses-for-state-in-letter-to-pres-trump-seeking-aid/>

Education Week, "Here's How Many Teaching Jobs Could Be Lost in Each State in a COVID-19 Recession."

April 30, 2020:

https://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2020/04/teaching_positions_lost_recession.html