

Federal Funding Resolution Draft

[Belmont School Committee \[DRAFT\]](#)

[Reference: Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District](#)

[Reference: City of Boston In School Committee](#)

[Reference: Framingham School Committee](#)

Belmont School Committee [DRAFT]

May 26, 2020

BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FEDERAL SUPPORT AND STIMULUS FUNDING FOR PUBLIC K-12 EDUCATION

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, the Belmont Public Schools to continue to provide our district students and families with essential services and ongoing educational and technological supports; and

WHEREAS, we are incurring substantial unexpected costs in meal services, technology and instruction, and transportation services; and

WHEREAS, these costs and challenges will persist well into the next school year as COVID-19 affects our economy and destabilizes funding for public schools; and

WHEREAS, we will be 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 likely cause personnel reductions in our district; and

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

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, 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; therefore, let it be

RESOLVED: That all members of the Belmont School Committee join with fellow Massachusetts School Committees and the Belmont Superintendent of Schools in urging the Massachusetts 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.**

Reference: [Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District](#)

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has required an immediate overhaul of the instructional plans and strategies of not only our school system but school systems across the country as well; and

WHEREAS, we are bound to remain committed to delivering high-quality instruction while ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff; and

WHEREAS, the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School teachers, paraprofessionals and other district employees continue to provide our students and families with access to their educational needs; and

WHEREAS, the effects of these challenges will persist well into the next school year as COVID-19 affects our economy and destabilizes funding for public schools; and

WHEREAS, we are already incurring substantial unexpected costs to provide meal services and purchase and deploy digital instructional devices; and

WHEREAS, we will be 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 likely cause personnel reductions in our district; and

WHEREAS, these budget cuts will be happening at the same time that we will be working to address the immense instructional challenge of unfinished learning that many students will face coming out of this school year; therefore, let it be

RESOLVED: That all members of the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School Committee join with the Superintendent of Schools in urging the Massachusetts 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.

Approved 5-21-2020

Reference: City of Boston In School Committee

BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FEDERAL SUPPORT AND STIMULUS FUNDING FOR PUBLIC K-12 EDUCATION

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, to date the 10,000 employees of the Boston Public Schools have worked around the clock to continue to provide our 55,000 BPS students and families with access to food, shelter, Wi-Fi, and other educational needs, distributing more than 300,000 meals and over 30,000 Chromebooks; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic the Boston Public Schools, in coordination with the Office of the Mayor of the City of Boston, Martin J. Walsh, has spent more than \$5.1 million to acquire 20,000 Chromebooks to prevent learning loss; and

WHEREAS, the Boston Public Schools and the City of Boston have maintained payroll for over 10,000 full and part-time district employees, providing stability to our community during economic uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, the Boston Public Schools has continued to provide 13,000 - 15,000 meals per day to students in Boston, despite a projected shortfall of revenue from the Federal Meals Program, which is estimated to cost the district a projected \$5M through the end of the current school year; and

WHEREAS, these challenges 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; therefore, let it be

RESOLVED: That the Chairperson and members of the Boston School Committee join with the Superintendent of Schools in urging the Massachusetts 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.

April 29, 2020 Approved

Reference: [Framingham School Committee](#)

FRAMINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FEDERAL SUPPORT AND STIMULUS FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

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, to date the more than 1800 employees of the Framingham Public Schools have worked collaboratively with municipal departments and community partners around the clock to continue to provide our more than 9000 FPS students and their families with access to food, Wi-Fi, and other educational needs, distributing more than 41,000 meals and over 3300 Chromebooks; and

WHEREAS, our teachers, counselors, social workers, support staff, and administrators are making a direct reach to families; our school nurses are supporting the City's Department of Public Health with COVID-19 contract tracing; our food service staff is ensuring that meals are available each day to our students; and our translators and interpreters are ensuring that lessons and messaging are made available to families in multiple languages; and

WHEREAS, the Framingham Public Schools and the City of Framingham have maintained payroll for over 1800 employees, providing stability to our community during economic uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, the Framingham Public Schools has continued to provide approximately 1000 meals per day to students in Framingham, despite a projected shortfall of revenue from the Federal Meals Program, which is estimated to cost the district a projected \$1 million through the end of the current school year; and

WHEREAS, these challenges 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 across municipalities will unequivocally result in budget cuts and may force personnel reductions in urban school systems;

WHEREAS, funds for critical municipal services outside of the school district who support our school community such as public health and public safety departments also require federal support; and

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; and

WHEREAS, federal funding is needed to enable the Massachusetts Legislature and Governor Charlie Baker to fund fully public education — PreK through higher education — at the level needed to maintain current staffing and services, including the option to fund the long-awaited Student Opportunity Act, and enable students and our state's economy to thrive as we begin recovering from the pandemic; therefore, let it be

RESOLVED: That the Framingham School Committee join with the Superintendent of Schools in urging the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation, including our United States Senators and House of Representative members, to advocate for and approve additional federal education funding for state and local governments to provide to our nation's public schools with the resources to fulfill their obligations to educate our students; and

RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be submitted to the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation, Framingham's State Legislators, Framingham City Council, U.S. Secretary of Education, Massachusetts Secretary of Education, the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, the Massachusetts Municipal Association, and the White House.

Approved by a Roll Call Vote of the Framingham School Committee on May 20, 2020