



May 20, 2020

**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

Adam Freudberg
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Nicholas Small
Student Representative

District 3

Dr. Robert Tremblay
Superintendent