

Livonia Public Schools Board of Education Resolution

School Funding Budget Shortfall Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

WHEREAS, in March 2020, Michigan announced the first case within our state of the coronavirus disease that causes COVID-19, causing the Governor to declare a state of emergency under her powers in the Michigan Constitution; and

WHEREAS, in response to this emergency, after Michigan school districts were required to cancel in-person learning, school districts have risen to the challenge by being innovative and focused on their unique needs, providing distance learning for all Michigan students; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has created tremendous uncertainty on how to provide quality education while maintaining safe conditions for both staff and students, causing districts to face new expenses and challenges for the upcoming school year including providing personal protective equipment; creating new health screening procedures; increased cleaning and sanitation costs; reorganization of learning spaces to accommodate social distancing; and expanded access to school-based mental health services; and

WHEREAS, both the state and national economies have suffered greatly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has dramatically reduced state and local revenue placing enormous pressure on the state budget, including the School Aid Fund, which is predicted to be more than \$1 billion below previous estimates for the next two years; and

WHEREAS, due to falling revenues, local school districts face severe budget shortfalls for the current fiscal year which ends June 30, 2020, including a potential untenable proration cut of at least \$650 per student, and similar budget challenges for the upcoming year, making it extraordinarily difficult to provide high-quality education, access to technology, and safety for both students and staff;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Livonia Public Schools School District supports the passage of legislation by the U.S. Congress appropriating needed funds to be distributed to states and local districts, with maximum flexibility to fill budget gaps during this state of emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Livonia Public Schools School District urges congressional action to provide additional funding for the highly successful E-Rate Program, which helps schools ensure connectivity for online learning; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to our Governor, and to all members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate representing the families in our District, as well as our state representatives.

ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District, Wayne County, Michigan, at their regular meeting thereof, held this fifteenth day of June, 2020.

Ayes: _____

Nayes: _____

Tammy Bonifield, Secretary
Board of Education