

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10
OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA,
URGING ARIZONA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
TO PROTECT PUBLIC EDUCATION
FROM FEDERAL BUDGET SEQUESTRATION**

WHEREAS, the Governing Board ("the Board") of Amphitheater Unified School District No. 10 of Pima County, Arizona, a political subdivision of the State of Arizona ("AUSD"), is charged with providing a free and appropriate public education for all the students of the District;

WHEREAS, the future of Arizona and the United States of America is dependent upon the assurance of educational opportunity for all of its young people;

WHEREAS, education was a core value often spoken of by our Nation's founding fathers, among them being:

Thomas Jefferson, who instructed us, "Educate and inform the whole mass of the people.... They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty;

John Jay, who said, "I consider knowledge to be the soul of a republic, and as the weak and the wicked are generally in alliance, as much care should be taken to diminish the number of the former as of the latter. Education is the way to do this, and nothing should be left undone to afford all ranks of people the means of obtaining a proper degree of it at a cheap and easy rate; and

James Madison, who observed, "What spectacle can be more edifying or more seasonable, than that of Liberty and Learning, each leaning on the other for their mutual and surest support?"

WHEREAS, our national government has continued to recognize the intrinsic value of public education since these founding fathers spoke of the same, as evidenced by such measures as: the Enabling Act of our state, which required establishment of a free public education system in Arizona, as well as many federal education mandates throughout our Nation's history, including those enacted through such laws as the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA), the several Elementary and Secondary Education (ESEA) acts, and the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB);

WHEREAS, federal education mandates sometimes include funding to support those mandates, but such funding never fully covers all the costs of such mandates;

WHEREAS, the federal funding that is received is essential for the provision of vital services for students by school districts;

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Budget Control Act (Public Law 112-25) which, among other things, formed a panel of legislators charged with identifying \$1.2 trillion in deficit reductions;

WHEREAS, the Budget Control Act also specified that automatic budget cuts, or “sequestration”, would occur if the panel failed to reach an agreement by the deadline, and sequestration is now scheduled to occur in January 2013, because no resolution did occur;

WHEREAS, sequestration will result in across-the-board cuts for most programs of 7.8 percent to 9.1 percent for Fiscal Year 2013, leading to a reduction of approximately \$3.5 billion to \$4.1 billion for the Department of Education and a possible \$725 million reduction for Head Start; and assuming a \$4.1 billion reduction, this would translate to the following national impacts:

- a \$1.3 billion cut to Title I, impacting 1.7 million students;
- a \$1 billion cut to IDEA funding, impacting 536,000 students with disabilities, and reducing such funding to 2006 levels, despite a 27 percent rise in costs since that time;
- a \$102.2 million reduction to Perkins Career and Technical Education Basic State Grants, impacting 1.4 million students;
- a reduction in School Improvement Grants of \$44 million, hurting 67,000 students in our Nation’s neediest schools:
- \$15 million dollars in cuts to rural education, while rural schools have absorbed 70 percent of increases in school enrollment; and
- the loss of approximately 90,000 education jobs;

WHEREAS, for the State of Arizona the sequestration cuts to public education would total approximately \$85,861,000, and would include but not be limited to the following specific program cuts:

- a reduction of \$25,380,000 in the Title I, Part A grant to Arizona school districts, affecting 22,980 students and likely causing 410 job losses;
- a reduction of \$15,459,000 in the IDEA, Part B, (Special Education) grants to Arizona school districts, affecting 9,210 students and likely eliminating 250 jobs;
- a cut of \$10,018,000 to Arizona’s Head Start programs, affecting 1,140 of our state’s youngest citizen learners, and potentially causing the loss of 490 jobs; and
- the reduction of \$1,622,000 in the Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education grant to Arizona, affecting 18,790 of the state’s students and 26 jobs;

WHEREAS, the state education budget has already been dramatically reduced during the past several years, resulting in funding losses of \$36,701,787 in the Amphitheater District alone from fiscal year 2009 to the present;

WHEREAS, against this backdrop of dramatic and damaging budget cuts, our District continues to strive to innovate and initiate educational programs and services which rise to the challenges facing the students of our district, our state and our Nation;

WHEREAS, at the same time our Nation's government is poised to slash public education funding it is simultaneously seeking innovation in public education through such initiatives as Race to the Top and the Teacher Incentive Fund;

WHEREAS, Amphitheater District initiatives have included implementation of the International Baccalaureate Degree Program[®], the Cambridge International Curriculum[®], a rigorous performance-focused evaluation system for district educators, and a successful Teacher Incentive Fund grant program that helped developed teacher proficiency through performance pay;

WHEREAS, the capability of school districts to continue to be innovative is greatly diminished by the decline of fiscal support from both the state and national governments;

WHEREAS, local education communities have frequently demonstrated their commitment to public education through the passage of school district budget overrides to augment waning state funding, but many districts in Arizona have also lost historical override funding due to the impacts of the economic recession upon Arizona's families;

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Education has stated, "The long-term impact of sequestration...would jeopardize our Nation's ability to develop and support an educated, skilled workforce that can compete in the global economy. Indeed, it would be hard to overstate the devastating impact of sequestration as a signal not just to the Nation, but to the world, that we are no longer able or willing to prioritize investment in the best guarantee of our future success and prosperity: the education of our children;"

WHEREAS, the promise held in public education, which our founding fathers recognized, is more crucial than ever in our State's history;

WHEREAS, the Board believes the future and promise of our state wait for the action of our representatives and senators;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Amphitheater Unified School District Governing Board that the congressional delegation of Arizona should represent the people of this great state by working *and voting* to prevent the looming and damaging effects of sequestration upon the people, students and future of this state.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board this 4th day of December, 2012.

Governing Board Members:

Diana L. Boros
President

Susan Zibrat
Vice-President

Kent Paul Barrabee, Ph.D.

Jeff Grant

Linda Loomis, Ph.D.

Resources:

U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
American Association of School Administrators: www.aasa.org
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: www.cbpp.org
Committee for Education Funding: www.cef.org
Congressional Budget Office: www.cbo.gov
National Education Association: www.nea.org
Center for Exception Children: www.cec.sped.org

Rev: December 4, 2012; 2:00 p.m.