

Resolution in Support of Education Funding Reform

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Illinois stipulates that "a fundamental goal of the People of the State of Illinois is the educational development of all persons to the limits of their capacities", and

WHEREAS, the civic, economic and social well-being of Illinois is inextricably linked to the strength of the State's public education system, and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois contributes a quarter of the total funding to support K12 public education while, on average, other states contribute half, and

WHEREAS, the formula used by Illinois to allocate State funding to local school districts is one of the most regressive in the nation in that it allocates less funding to the school districts and students who, research shows, need more support, and

WHEREAS, the Illinois General Assembly created the Senate Education Funding Advisory Committee whose purpose was to "propose a state education funding system that provided adequate, equitable, transparent, and accountable distribution of funds to school districts that will prepare students for success after high school", and

WHEREAS, the Senate Education Funding Advisory Committee issued its report in January 2014, and

WHEREAS, in response to the Advisory Committee report, the Illinois Senate proposed Senate Bill 16 that is commonly known as the School Funding Reform Act of 2014, and

WHEREAS, the School Funding Reform Act responds to the realities of today's students, educators and schools by directing what limited state funds exist to the school districts and students who most need them by steering a greater share of the State's education funds to school districts that have limited local resources to support local schools, and

WHEREAS, the School Funding Reform Act makes clear how much every Illinois school district should spend to educate its students based upon the needs, interests and abilities of those students, recognizing there is no one-size-fits-all when it comes to teaching and learning, and

WHEREAS, the School Funding Reform Act has passed the Illinois Senate and is currently pending in the Illinois House, and

WHEREAS, a coalition of committed organizations, leaders and superintendents known as Funding Illinois' Future has emerged to build awareness of the need for school funding reform and promote a legislative solution in the School Funding Reform Act, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Harlem School District #122 recognizes the need for reform of the formula used to allocate State funding to local school districts, joins the Funding Illinois' Future coalition to support improvement and consequently encourages the efforts to secure passage of legislation by the Illinois General Assembly intended to improve the State's education funding formula.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto affix my official signature, this ____ day of _____ 2014.

Secretary, Board of Education