

**Sioux City Community School District
Board of Education
SCHOOL FUNDING RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED:

WHEREAS recent years allowable growth has not kept pace with the educational needs of the District to support student learning. Iowa wants and needs to be a world leader, which will require a strong educational program and funding to support that program. Iowa is failing to annually invest sufficient resources into this system; and

WHEREAS increased funding of Iowa schools over the past three years is the lowest in the 40-year history of the school aid formula; and

WHEREAS Iowa's commitment to fund education (as a percentage of per capita income spent on state and local government) was as high as 8th in the nation in the late 1980s, funding per student in Iowa has more recently plummeted to 31st; and

WHEREAS Iowa invest nearly \$1,000 less per student than the average of other states in the nation and the funding gap is widening; and

WHEREAS school funding should be considered on its own merit and not in conjunction with other legislation. If education is truly the state's priority, then its funding should be prioritized and passed in compliance with Iowa law-within 30 days of the presentation of the governor's budget; and

WHEREAS property tax inequity has become a magnified problem in the entire State of Iowa, and the foundation formula has yielded a system that disadvantages the educational opportunities for students in poverty; and

WHEREAS the Board of Education encourages the community, faculty, and staff to advocate for appropriate levels of school funding; and

WHEREAS improving student achievement is not just about changing policy. It is about providing the necessary resource to strengthen our educational system. The recent across-the-board cut, low-to-no allowable growth rates and an increase in expectations have left school districts with little capacity to fund programs; and

WHEREAS school district budgets must be passed and certified by April 15; collective bargaining agreements have to be approved; curriculum needs to be purchased; and staffing decisions need to be made. Until the legislature acts, schools must assume the worst, unnecessarily reducing staff and cutting programs. Worst-case scenario planning distracts the whole system from the ultimate objective, student achievement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Over recent years, the failure to provide sufficient and increased annual funding to Iowa's school districts has had a cumulative effect and significantly threatens the ability of Iowa schools to meet the current needs and demands of improved student achievement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

To ensure appropriate annual education funding and fiscal solvency the Sioux City Community School District Board of Education resolves that to prepare for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years, the legislature should, as statute dictates, approve allowable growth as soon as possible in the 2013 Legislative Session.

The Sioux City Community School District strongly encourages the legislature to fully fund the property tax equity relief fund and make supplemental state aid a regular component of the foundation formula to make a positive difference with local property tax levies.

THEREFORE; the Sioux City Community School District Board of Education requests that the Iowa legislature set a 4% allowable growth rate for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years.

This Resolution is approved by the Sioux City Community School District Board of Education in support of providing adequate current funding for Iowa schools.

This Resolution adopted this 25 day of February, 2013.

Ayes: Directors Batcheller, Johnson, Kryst, McJaggart, Myers, Warnstadt, and Williams

Nays: NONE

Michael Kryst
Board President

2/28/13
Date

[Signature]
Superintendent

2/28/13
Date