



Santa Cruz County Board of Education • 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • Tel (831) 466-5900 •
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Ms. Jane Royer Barr • Ms. Rose Filicetti • Ms. Sandra Nichols • Ms. Sue Roth • Mr. Dana Sales
Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen

RESOLUTION #20-20
IN SUPPORT OF STATE EDUCATION FUNDING IN LIGHT OF IMPACTS ASSOCIATED
WITH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, school districts and county offices of education rapidly adapted under constantly changing and challenging circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to continue delivering high-quality education to all students while safeguarding public health; and

WHEREAS, the challenges caused by an abrupt shift to distance learning has forced local educational agencies (LEAs) already faced with budget deficits to purchase additional supplies, adopt new supports and tailor resources to shifting student needs to ensure learning continues; and

WHEREAS, LEAs continue to provide other critical services to students and families, including meal distribution, access to technology, and mental and behavioral health services while grappling with an impending economic recession that is projected to cause a severe decline in revenues; and

WHEREAS, local budgets are quickly being drained of reserves hit by extreme upticks in unemployment rates and other impacts caused by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, The Santa Cruz County Office of Education is incurring new costs to effectively respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, public schools need substantial funding now in order to all at once overhaul operations to accommodate distance learning and other support services for all students; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends in its latest guidance that schools should consider remaining closed until districts can “encourage social distancing through increased spacing, small groups and limited mixing between groups,” and “intensify cleaning, disinfection and ventilation,” and “train all employees on health and safety protocols;” and

WHEREAS, many uncertainties remain over how schools will operate upon students' return to campus in regard to staggered schedules, smaller class sizes, additional deep cleanings and other changes proposed by state officials in order to maintain a healthy environment for pupils, educators and staff; and

WHEREAS, recent analysis by the Learning Policy Institute found almost 320,000 teaching jobs could be lost nationwide if states cut their education budgets by 15 percent in response to COVID-19 economic impacts, resulting in increased class sizes; and

WHEREAS, a California School Boards Association survey of LEAs in March found that even before COVID-19, 77 percent of districts showed fiscal stress and are in deficit spending; and

WHEREAS, the CSBA survey also found that more than one-third of districts were already considering layoffs based on the January budget proposal; and

WHEREAS, conservative cost estimates from San Diego Unified and Los Angeles Unified suggest that districts have assumed added costs of approximately \$400 per student equating to statewide costs as high as \$2.4 billion above the Proposition 98 Guarantee; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed May Revision includes a 10 percent cut to the Local Control Funding Formula, a \$19 billion decline in Proposition 98 and other reductions in education spending that would hobble the Santa Cruz County Office of Education's ability to reopen safely and effectively; and

WHEREAS, the \$31 billion in dedicated emergency funding for K-12 and higher education provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act falls far short of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Great Recession-era stimulus, which provided \$100 billion for education with investments in both state fiscal stabilization funds as well as public school categorical programs including Title I and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and

WHEREAS, the proposed \$3 trillion federal Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act, which would provide \$100.15 billion in total school funding — including about \$58 billion for K-12 in a state fiscal stabilization fund to be distributed based on the Title I funding formula — is welcome, but still insufficient for ensuring student success and safety during this time; and

WHEREAS, a May 12 letter to members of Congress from CSBA and other education partners petitioned for, among other things, the authorization of an additional \$175 billion in federal relief funds for distribution to schools in 2020–21 and 2021–22, the creation of a \$13 billion Emergency Relief Fund to cover increased costs associated with serving students with

individualized education programs (IEPs) during the COVID-19 crisis, expanded E-Rate eligible services and an additional \$2 billion in E-Rate program funding; and

WHEREAS, an April analysis by the Collaborative for Student Growth predicted a loss of 30 percent of the typical yearly gains in reading and nearly a full year behind in math for students in grades 3-8 due to the academic interruptions caused by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, The Santa Cruz County Office of Education needs additional funding to ensure that all its students are able to make up for lost learning time and receive a world-class education in a safe, clean environment; and

WHEREAS, schools deserve financial support from the state that reflects the realistic challenges caused by COVID-19 now and when classrooms reopen.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education calls on the Governor of California and State Legislature, inclusive of our state Senators and Assemblymembers, to prioritize stable public school funding in the 2020–21 state budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature pass a 2020–21 state budget, and that Gov. Gavin Newsom sign said budget, that includes:

- » The \$1.2 billion allocation included in the January budget proposal in on-going Proposition 98 funds for a statutory 2.29 percent cost-of-living increase; and
- » A repurposing of the \$1.5 billion in one-time proposals from the January budget to discretionary funding that schools can use to cover costs associated with COVID-19; and
- » A utilization of dollars within the State Reserve Fund — currently totaling more than \$17 billion — to support schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a bond be placed on the November ballot of at least \$2 billion to address broadband access needs in schools, particularly in rural areas; purchase computer hardware; and support school health and safety activities related to COVID-19.

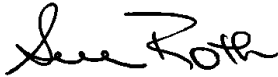
PASSED and ADOPTED by the Board of Education of Santa Cruz County on this **18th day of June, 2020** by the following vote:

AYES: Barr, Filicetti, Nichols, Roth, Sales, Sanchez, Van Allen

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None



Board President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education



Faris M. Sabbah, Secretary
Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools