

## PASSING A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SCHOOL FUNDING LAWSUIT

### Frequently Asked Questions

Passing such a resolution demonstrates support for a statewide solution to Pennsylvania's failure to meet its constitutional mandate to ensure quality public education.

The resolution is specifically a statement in support of the litigation before the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court about the failure to properly enforce Pennsylvania's constitutional guarantee in Article III, Section 14, of "a thorough and efficient system of public education," and urging the Pennsylvania General Assembly to create and maintain a fair, adequate and predictable funding system that enables all children to meet state academic standards and does not discriminate against low-wealth school districts.

#### Who can propose and pass a resolution in support of the school funding lawsuit?

Any organization can propose and pass a resolution in support of the education funding lawsuit – a community group, a PTO, a PTA, a home school association, a school board, a municipal organization such as a borough council, etc.

#### Why should an organization propose and pass the resolution?

It is vital that people in every corner of the commonwealth are talking about the issue of fair and adequate state funding for our public schools. Public education advocates have a very important role to play in demanding action and then holding state lawmakers accountable for ensuring that all schools receive adequate and equitable funding to meet our children's educational needs. **We MUST raise awareness of the school funding problem in our communities and demand action from every branch of government.**

Passing a resolution in support of the school funding lawsuit is an effective way to raise awareness of the issue of inequitable school funding in PA and to publicly show that your organization supports a constitutional state funding system that will allow all students to meet state standards and does not discriminate against low-wealth school districts. ***Even proposing the resolution at a public meeting will get people talking about the lawsuit and the issue of inequitable school funding in Pennsylvania.***

#### What should our organization do after we pass the resolution?

If your organization passes a resolution in support of the school funding lawsuit, please make sure to: send a copy of the resolution to:

- Your state senators and representatives. Find their information at [Find Your Legislator PA](#)
- Governor Tom Wolf, Office of the Governor, 508 Main Capitol, Harrisburg, PA 17120
- PA Secretary of Education Noe Ortega, 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17126
- Senate Majority Leader, Jake Corman, 350 Main Capitol, Harrisburg, PA 17120
- House Majority Leader, Brian Cutler, 139 Main Capitol, PO Box 202100, Harrisburg, PA 17120
- Your local newspaper, along with an explanation of why your group passed it
- **Finally, send a copy of your resolution to Susan Spicka at [sspicka@educationvoterspa.org](mailto:sspicka@educationvoterspa.org) so that it will be counted and included in a list of organizations that have passed resolutions.**

Sign up for updates, trainings, and alerts at [www.edvoterspa.org](http://www.edvoterspa.org)

## Resolution in support of the PA school funding litigation for fair funding

The following language is a resolution that can be passed by municipal and county governments, school boards, PTA/PTO/HSA organizations, and community and civic organizations.

Please contact Susan Spicka [sspicka@educationvoterspa.org](mailto:sspicka@educationvoterspa.org) with questions and to share a copy of your resolution after it is passed to ensure that it is counted and recorded. For more information, click [here](#).

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WHEREAS education in Pennsylvania is a constitutional right, articulated in Article III, Section 14 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It states that **“The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth”**; and

Whereas there is substantial evidence that both individual health and economic well-being are tied to educational outcomes;

Whereas there is ample evidence that community prosperity is related to the quality of education;

Whereas when the state fails to adequately fund education, it puts an unfair responsibility on local taxpayers, which cannot be met in low-wealth districts even when paying higher tax rates;

Whereas the General Assembly has defined what a thorough education is by identifying educational standards (the standards used in PSSA and Keystone exams) that all PA students are expected to meet; and

Whereas the current school funding system in Pennsylvania results in grossly different amounts of money spent on children in different districts in violation of the equal protection provisions of the state Constitution; with much less money spent on children in low-wealth districts even though their students have additional educational needs; now, therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name) supports the parents of individual children, the school districts, the Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools, and the PA NAACP State Conference in their suit to enforce Pennsylvania’s constitutional guarantee of “a thorough and efficient system of public education” and urges the Pennsylvania General Assembly to provide a fair, adequate, and predictable funding system that enables all children to meet state academic standards and does not discriminate against low-wealth school districts; and

*Further resolved*, that a copy of this resolution be presented to the governor’s office, the PA Secretary of Education and to state senator(s) \_\_\_\_\_ and state representative(s) \_\_\_\_\_, state legislators who represent our school district.