

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF COLBY EDUCATION CENTER

STEVEN KOLDEN, SUPERINTENDENT

FAIR FUNDING FOR OUR FUTURE RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATE SUPERINTENDENT, TONY EVERS, FAIR FUNDING FOR OUR FUTURE BUDGET MODEL

WHEREAS, The Fair Funding Formula shifts the School Tax Levy Credit, the First Dollar Credit, and High Poverty Aid to the General Aid Formula. What this does is give the money directly to school districts to provide direct tax levy relief rather than to individuals through a complex tax credit formula in a below-the-line tax credit on tax bills. This uses existing dollars to provide tax relief, but distributes those dollars using the equalization formula.

WHEREAS, The Fair Funding Formula incorporates a poverty factor into the formula (30%). The equalization aid formula is lacking one key element to help ensure funds are distributed based where they are needed most; a poverty factor. Using the current formula, funds are distributed based primarily on property value and poverty level is not taken into consideration. There are many districts that are considered to be very property wealthy, but the population that makes up that district may have an extremely high poverty rate. By incorporating a poverty factor, we are acknowledging that the make-up of a district and a community's ability to pay cannot be determined solely on property values.

WHEREAS, The Fair Funding Formula guarantees a minimum amount of state funding for every student (\$3,000). This provision ensures that all districts receive a consistent level of funding – even the highly negative tertiary districts (property wealthy) who currently receive little or no state aid.

WHEREAS, The Fair Funding Formula establishes predictable growth in state aids by restoring the state's two-thirds funding commitment. This will ensure budgetary stability moving forward.

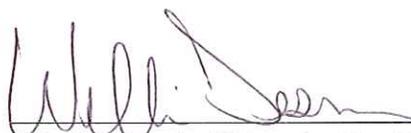
WHEREAS, The Fair Funding Formula maintains the current growth in revenue limits (+225 & 230 per pupil). The original intent of the revenue limit per pupil increase was to protect taxpayers by limiting growth, but also to ensure districts' allowable revenues were able to increase at a comparable rate to general inflation. We have seen this multiplier, which was initially intended to stabilize budgets, move from \$274.68 to -\$534.65 (-5.5%) with no pattern of consistency over the last few years.

WHEREAS, The Fair Funding Formula makes technical formula changes that strengthen rural, declining enrollment, and negatively aided districts. This will be accomplished by increasing the secondary cost ceiling and hold harmless level.

WHEREAS, The Fair Funding Formula increases transparency. Rather than distributing funds through a complicated school tax levy credit, all state aid will go to school boards to provide direct tax levy relief.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the School District of Colby supports the Fair Funding For Our Future model for the 2013-15 State Biennium Budget.

ADOPTED by the Colby Board of Education on this 17th day of December, 2012, by affirmative vote.


Colby Board of Education President


Colby Board of Education Clerk