

**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR INCREASED AND SUSTAINED FEDERAL
FUNDING OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, public education is the cornerstone of our democracy, providing fundamental skills and opportunity to almost 50 million children, or nearly 90%, of school aged children across the United States; and,

WHEREAS, In the decade following the Great Recession, students across the U.S. lost nearly \$600 billion from disinvestment by states in their public schools; and

WHEREAS, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, both state and federal funding for public schools failed to meet the critical needs of students across the country; and,

WHEREAS, the federal government provided nearly \$200 billion through three issuances of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Act (ESSER) to states and school districts, including more than \$450 million to the Metro Nashville Public Schools; and,

WHEREAS, the realized impact of ESSER funding is that it has benefited students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs through targeted and highly effective tutoring programs, after school and summer school programs, access to technology, expanded meal programs; and

WHEREAS this investment also provided flexible dollars that allowed districts to make capital improvements, purchase curriculum, offer professional development, and hire sorely needed school personnel including teachers, school counselors, and support staff; and,

WHEREAS, research has consistently shown that when increased education funding is spent effectively, it positively affects academic performance, raises graduation rates, and increases future earnings; and,

WHEREAS, Metro Schools used the ESSER investment so effectively they were recognized in a Harvard/Stanford study on post pandemic recovery as ranking 3rd among top 100 urban districts in math growth from 2022-2023 and 6th among top 100 urban districts in reading growth from 2022-23; and,

WHEREAS, on average, districts nationwide have relied on ESSER money to support roughly 8% of their budgets over the past three years; and,

WHEREAS, without an infusion of federal public education funding by Congress, it is estimated that on average, districts across the nation will have to cut over \$1,000 per student from their budgets; and,

WHEREAS, the loss of these funds will be felt drastically, especially in high-poverty school districts that have historically been underfunded, yet continue to serve students with the highest levels of need; and,

WHEREAS, the systematic and chronic underfunding of public schools is a strategy by those who want to dismantle the public education system to decimate the quality of education that public schools can provide;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Nashville Board of Education calls on Congress to immediately pass the Keep Our PACT Act (S. 1202/H.R. 2715) and the IDEA Full Funding Act (S.2217/H.R. 4519) which would create a 10-year mandatory path to fully fund both Title I and IDEA.

ADOPTED BY THE ELECTED METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION, meeting in regular session on the 24th of September 2024, with this Resolution to take immediate effect, the public welfare requiring it.