

Resolution of Support: School Finance Research Collaborative Study

WHEREAS, the School Finance Research Collaborative is a diverse group of business leaders and education experts, from Metro Detroit to the U.P., who agree it's time to change the way Michigan's schools are funded; and

WHEREAS, the School Finance Research Collaborative has completed Michigan's first comprehensive school adequacy study, providing a roadmap to fixing Michigan's broken school funding system; and

WHEREAS, the School Finance Research Collaborative commissioned the nation's top two school finance research firms to determine the true cost of educating a student, informed by nearly 300 Michigan educators from across the state; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that all children are unique and many learn differently, the School Finance Research Collaborative report provides a base cost for student achievement in Michigan, with additional funding considerations for special education, English Language Learners, Career and Technical education and students living in poverty; and

WHEREAS, the study concluded that it costs a minimum \$9,590 to educate a regular education child in Michigan, regardless of location, income, learning challenges or other circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the study concluded that Michigan's school funding system also must take into account district size, districts in geographically isolated areas, and differing transportation costs; and

WHEREAS, many of Michigan's public schools are struggling to meet student performance standards, and our students will continue to fall behind if our school funding system doesn't address their wide-ranging needs; and

WHEREAS, every child learns differently, and to improve student performance we must change how we fund Michigan's schools to address the individual learning needs of all students.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the **X** Board of Education supports the findings of the School Finance Research Collaborative study and encourages the Legislature and governor to adopt a new, fairer school funding model.