

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-63

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARINA CALLING FOR
FULL AND FAIR FUNDING OF CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, California has the sixth largest economy in the world, and the largest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of any state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, despite California's leadership in the global economy, the state falls in the nation's bottom quintile on nearly every measure of public K-12 school funding and school staffing; and

WHEREAS, California ranks 45th nationally in the percentage of taxable income spent on education, 41st in per-pupil funding, 45th in pupil-teacher ratios and 48th in pupil-staff ratios; and

WHEREAS, K-12 school funding has not substantially increased, on an inflation-adjusted basis, for more than a decade; and

WHEREAS, under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), state funding for K-12 schools has only recently returned to levels predating the Great Recession of 2007; and

WHEREAS, the modest revenue increases since the implementation of LCFF have been eroded by rapidly increasing costs for health care, pensions, transportation and utilities; and

WHEREAS, 58 percent of California's public-school students are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch — 13 percent above the national average — and 23 percent of California students are English learners, more than twice the national average; and

WHEREAS, California's investment in public schools is out of alignment with its wealth, its ambitions, its demographics and the demands of a 21st-century education; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, a bipartisan group of California leaders commissioned a report titled Getting Down to Facts, which stated it would take an additional \$17 billion annually to meet the State Board of Education achievement targets for K-12 schools; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, a California School Boards Association (CSBA) report, California's Challenge: Adequately Funding Education in the 21st Century, updated the Getting Down to Facts data and determined that, adjusting for inflation, an additional \$22 billion to \$40 billion annually would be required to provide all public school students with access to a high-quality education; and

WHEREAS, California funds schools at roughly \$1,961 per student less than the national average, which translates to approximately \$3,462 per student when adjusted for California being a high-cost state; and

WHEREAS, California trails the average of the top 10 states by almost \$7,000 in per-pupil funding; and

WHEREAS, in Robles-Wong v. State of California, a group of plaintiffs led by CSBA argued that California's school funding system violated Article IX of the State Constitution by denying all students access to an education that prepares them for economic security and full participation in our democratic institutions; and

WHEREAS, the California Supreme Court declined to hear the case by a 4-3 margin, prompting Justice Goodwin H. Liu to write: "It is regrettable that this court, having recognized education as a fundamental right in a landmark decision 45 years ago [Serrano v. Priest (1971) 5 Cal.3d 584], should now decline to address the substantive meaning of that right."; and

WHEREAS, in order to prepare our students for participation in a democratic society and an increasingly competitive, technology-driven global economy, California must fund schools at a level sufficient to support student success; and

WHEREAS, despite its vast wealth, California has consistently underfunded public education while widening its scope, adding new requirements and raising standards without providing appropriate resources to prepare all students for college, career and civic life; and

WHEREAS, if California is to close opportunity and achievement gaps and create a public school system that offers consistently high levels of education, the State must provide schools with the resources to meet the needs of their specific populations;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Marina urges the State Legislature to fund California public schools at the national average or higher by the year 2020, and at a level that is equal to or above the average of the top 10 states nationally by 2025 and to maintain, at a minimum, this level of funding until otherwise decreed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Marina at a regular meeting duly held on this 18th day of June 2019 by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCIL MEMBERS: Urrutia, O'Connell, Morton, Delgado

NOES, COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ABSENT, COUNCIL MEMBERS: Berkley

ABSTAIN, COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

Bruce C. Delgado, Mayor

ATTEST:

Anita Sharp, Deputy City Clerk

May 15, 2019

Item No. **8f(1)**

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the Marina City Council

City Council Meeting
of June 4, 2019

**CITY COUNCIL CONSIDER ADOPTING RESOLUTION NO. 2019-,
CALLING FOR FULL AND FAIR FUNDING OF CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC
SCHOOLS (NOT A PROJECT UNDER CEQA ARTICLE 20, SECTION
15378 AND UNDER GENERAL RULE ARTICLE 5, SECTION 15061)**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Consider adopting Resolution No. 2019-, calling for Full and Fair Funding of California's Public Schools (Not a Project Under CEQA Article 20, Section 15378 and Under General Rule Article 5, Section 15061).

BACKGROUND:

The California School Boards Association (CSBA) is calling on the State Legislatures to raise school funding to the national average by 2020 and to the average of the top 10 states by 2025. Local Marina policy makers, educators, and school board members are supporting this advocacy.

Despite boasting the fifth-largest economy in the world and the highest gross domestic product of any state, California sits near the bottom nationally in nearly every significant measure of school funding and school staffing.

According to a 2015 report commissioned by the CSBA titled, *California's Challenge Adequate Funding Education in the 21st Century*, adjusted for cost of living, California ranks 41st in per-pupil funding, 45th in the percentage of taxable income spent on education, 45th in student-teacher ratios, and 48th in staff per student.

If the state funded schools at just the national average, that would increase funding by \$1,961 per pupil. For a classroom of 25 students, that's an additional \$49,025 for student support services (counselors, social workers, wellness centers), parent and community engagement, support for English learners, intervention programs, instructional support staff, class size reduction, CTE, and expanded offerings in the arts and other extracurricular activities.

To meet the needs of 6.2 million public school students and prepare them for an increasingly competitive, complex, and technological world, California must secure Full and Fair Funding for public schools. The California School Boards Association is calling on the Legislature to raise school funding to the national average by 2020 and to the average of the top 10 states by 2025.

On May 22, local community members including members of the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District Board of Education will be making a trip to the state capitol to participate in a Day of Action Rally in support of this important effort.

In an effort to demonstrate the City's support, it is recommended the attached resolution be adopted.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

CONCLUSION:

This request is submitted for City Council consideration and possible action

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Urrutia
Council Member

REVIEWED/CONCUR:

Layne Long
City Manager
City of Marina