

Radnor Township School District



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Invest in Excellence

RESOLUTION URGING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ESTABLISH A FUNDING FORMULA FOR BASIC EDUCATION

At a meeting on May 26, 2015 by a vote of 9 to 0 with 0 abstaining and 0 absent, as recorded in the minutes of the Board of Directors of the Radnor Township School District.

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's more than 1.8 million public school students deserve the highest quality education; and

WHEREAS, the state's contribution in funding public education as a percentage of basic instructional expenses has declined from over 50% during the mid-1970's to less than 35% today; and, on average, other states contribute 44% of total education funding; and Pennsylvania ranks 47th among the 50 states in the amount of state subsidies allocated to support elementary and secondary education, and ranks 8th in reliance on local taxes; and the state's contribution to funding public education in Radnor Township amounts to 2% of all revenue in the current fiscal year budget;

WHEREAS, as the state's share of K-12 education funding decreases while the number of state and federal mandates for public schools steadily increases each year, additional burden is placed on local taxpayers to make up the difference to ensure that our students' education is not jeopardized; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, basic education funding has been distributed without the benefit of a funding formula, with the lack of a reliable, fair and transparent funding formula resulting in great disparities in how state education funds are distributed to school districts; and

WHEREAS, these inequities effectively harm the ability of school districts to adequately and fairly provide the resources for the different needs of their students, especially those in poverty, those with disabilities, English language learners and other students; and

WHEREAS, the Radnor Township School District School District supports the development of a system of public school financing that addresses the needs of school districts and students, and establishes a school funding formula that is predictable and consistent; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, in the absence of a funding formula, the state's Legislature has been ensuring that individual school districts receive no fewer state dollars than the previous year (often referred to as "hold harmless funding"); and

WHEREAS, local school boards are best positioned to make decisions related to the operational, leadership, and funding needs of their schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Radnor Township School District urges the General Assembly to take legislative action to establish a formula that is predictable and consistent without diminishing existing levels of the State's contributions to any of the State's public school districts, and that respects the need of local school districts to make independent and autonomous decisions about the governance, local funding and operations of their schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Radnor Township School District School District will encourage others, including parents, students and district taxpayers, to contact the Pennsylvania General Assembly to convey the importance of establishing a predictable and consistent public school funding formula; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution submitted to the elected senators and representatives of the Radnor Township School District in the General Assembly, and to the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Adopted this 26th day of May, 2015.

Signed,

Kimberly Doherty
School Board President

Michelle Diekow
Board Secretary

(seal)