

## **Resolution in Support of the Public Education All California's Students Deserve**

WHEREAS, the promise of a free, universal and quality public education system is the foundation of our 21st century democratic society, a civil right and the cornerstone of the American economy;

WHEREAS, California established its system of free, universal public education open to all children in 1866 and now educates more than 9 million students in schools and colleges, including 113 community colleges;

WHEREAS, California strives for and values an inclusive, safe and innovative quality public education system that ensures all students can succeed, regardless of their ZIP code, the color of their skin, their native language, their gender or gender identity, their immigration status, their religion, their sexual orientation, or their social standing;

WHEREAS, all students and educators deserve safe learning and teaching environments, and the right to attend schools free of fear, bullying and discrimination;

WHEREAS, California supports a place for DREAMers and has supported safe-haven schools that reflect and embrace the diversity of our students and their families, as well as the rich languages and cultural assets they bring to our communities;

WHEREAS, all students deserve access to affordable college and to career and technical training programs that will prepare them for the workforce;

WHEREAS, smaller class sizes significantly improve student learning, particularly for ethnic minority students and English learners, give educators more time to provide one-on-one instruction, and allow for more communication between students, families, and communities;

WHEREAS, all students deserve a well-rounded education — ensuring that students and schools have access to multicultural education, art, music, theater, dance, physical education, and career technical classes;

WHEREAS, California community colleges support learning rather than testing, and local control in accountability systems;

WHEREAS, adequate health care, including eye and dental care, is essential to ensuring students come to school ready to learn;

WHEREAS, student, family, and community engagement is an integral part of effective education and is critical to developing a shared vision for learning;

WHEREAS, education professionals are deeply committed to the success of every student and should be recognized as the experts they are, deserving of academic freedom; time to collaborate with their

colleagues; shared decision-making to determine the most effective teaching methods, curriculum, assessment and evaluation systems; and competitive salaries comparable to other professions to attract and retain quality educators;

WHEREAS, all public schools and colleges need adequate counselors and other education support professionals to help meet the needs of all students;

WHEREAS, California law supports collective bargaining rights for education employees as educators who should be able to advocate for their students, have a say about their futures and enjoy the right to negotiate together for safe working conditions and wages that can sustain their families;

WHEREAS, California has led efforts to bring equity to its school funding system and must adequately fund education to climb out of ranking 46th in per-pupil funding for primary and secondary education, which is \$3,462 below the national average; and

WHEREAS, public schools and colleges should serve as centers of the community, not profit centers with taxpayer dollars diverted to private voucher schemes and unaccountable corporate charter schools;

AND WHEREAS, supporting quality public schools and colleges is about building the future of all of California's students, building stronger local communities, and building a better California for all of us;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that educators and all public education supporters affirm their commitment to these values and rise up to protect students and their families, public schools and colleges, the teaching profession, and our communities from any policies that would undermine these values;

BE IT RESOLVED that educators (and all public education supporters) across California vow to call on federal, state and local lawmakers to advocate for the public education all California's students deserve;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that educators (and all public education supporters) will encourage local school districts, college districts and city councils to pass similar resolutions to keep our public schools public and demand the public education that all California's students deserve.