

HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

220 Central Street
Hingham, MA 02043-2745
Telephone: 781-741-1500
Fax: 781-749-7457

www.hinghamschools.org



Michelle Ayer, Chair
Carlos A. F. Da Silva, Vice Chair
Kerry Ni, Secretary
Edward Schreier, DDS
Elizabeth Reed O'Reilly
Libby Lewiecki
Nes Correnti

**Resolution in Support of Increased Funding for
Massachusetts Public Schools**

WHEREAS, free public schools available to all students without exception are foundational to our democracy and are required by the state constitution; and

WHEREAS, all of our students, no matter where they live, deserve high-quality public schools that teach the whole child and provide them with a well-rounded school experience that addresses their academic, social and emotional needs; and

WHEREAS, the state's foundation budget formula, which determines state aid to each district, has been woefully out of date for years, thereby underfunding our districts by more than \$1 billion a year for essential educational services; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature failed to pass any foundation budget legislation in the last session, leaving districts, educators and students without the funds necessary to support the schools our students deserve; and

WHEREAS, an updated foundation budget formula should bring Hingham and all districts an increase in general state financial aid including: formula adjustments for inflation; higher allowances for economically disadvantaged students, special education and English Language Learners; enhancements to school safety; provisions for social and emotional health; and adjustments to insurance costs to reflect actual costs; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature failed to fully fund METCO, special education circuit breaker funds, charter school reimbursement, and other state mandates; and

WHEREAS, districts are already being measured by rigorous accountability measures including MCAS tests, as such any proposed changes should improve outcomes for students and educators as opposed to serving as punitive measures for sanctions; and

WHEREAS, there is no perfect one-size-fits-all formula to address 351 diverse cities and towns, and none of the major reform bills currently filed in the Legislature includes a commitment to adequate minimum aid increases each year, an annual minimum aid increase of at least \$100 per student would avoid cuts to existing school programs; and

WHEREAS, there are two pending initiatives for litigation to address education finance reform which would use taxpayer money and take years to conclude, and a legislated approach could render a lawsuit moot by finding a solution with input from all stakeholders and be implemented immediately;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the **Hingham School Committee** urges the Legislature to **approve an education finance reform act in 2019 that fully addresses the needs in all districts.**