

A Resolution of the School Board of Volusia County, Florida, calling for the review of the methodology used to calculate the District Cost Differential multiplier within the Florida Education Finance Program Formula

KNOW ALL CITIZENS BY THESE PRESENTS, that the Volusia County School Board, a political subdivision of the State of Florida hereby calls for the Florida Legislature, Governor and Commissioner of Education to direct, during the 2016 legislative session, the review of the methodology used to calculate the District Cost Differential multiplier within the Florida Education Finance Program Formula; and providing for an effective date.

WHEREAS, the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) was created by the Florida Legislature in 1973 to provide an equitable base level of educational resources for public school districts; and

WHEREAS, the FEFP formula includes four multipliers, one of which is the District Cost Differential (DCD); and

WHEREAS, the DCD is a personnel cost adjustment intended to account for variation among districts in the cost of wages and salaries for school personnel, which account for in excess of 80% or more of district operating costs and required by section 1011.62(2), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the DCD calculation depends on Florida Price Level Index (FPLI), which has been maintained by the University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research (Bureau) since 2000 under the direction of the Florida Department of Education (DOE); and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the legislature ordered a review of the accuracy and appropriateness of FPLI used to calculate the DCD in the 2003-2004 General Appropriations Act, chapter 2003- 397, Laws of Florida; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the method to calculate the FPLI was substantially changed by DOE, without direction by statute or peer review by economic experts; and

WHEREAS, many school districts have lost tens of millions of dollars in funding since the 2004 DCD change; and

WHEREAS, the taxpayers of Volusia County have lost \$120,594,464 in state education funding since the 2004 DCD change, which has been redistributed to other school districts; and

WHEREAS, it has been over a decade since the legislature ordered a review of the accuracy and appropriateness of FPLI used to calculate the DCD; and

WHEREAS, much has changed in the state economy over the last decade that warrants an independent review of the methodology used to calculate the DCD and the impact it has on Florida school districts; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of Volusia County believes that a generally accepted expectation of school finance is that the quality of a student's education should not be defined by the wealth of the district in which the student resides.

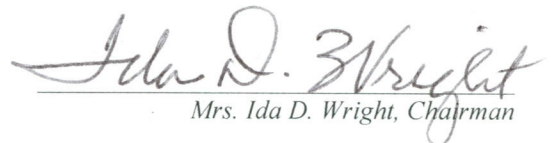
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN OFFICIAL SESSION, DULY ASSEMBLED IN DELAND, FLORIDA, THIS 12<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2016, AS FOLLOWS:

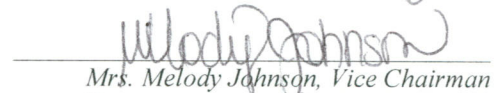
SECTION 1. FINDINGS. The findings set forth above are hereby adopted and incorporated by reference into this resolution.

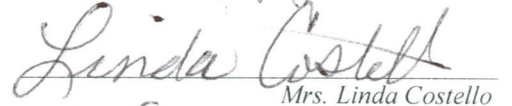
SECTION 2. REQUESTED ACTION. The School Board of Volusia County respectfully calls on the Florida Legislature, Governor and Commissioner of Education to direct, in the 2016 legislative session, a review of the current DCD formula to determine the consequences and magnitude of equitable funding on school districts in the State of Florida and take all necessary action, including the elimination of the DCD, to ensure a more equitable and non- arbitrary funding formula.

SECTION 3. That a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the official minutes of the School Board of Volusia County, Florida, distributed to all public schools and appropriate governmental bodies in Volusia County, Florida

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 12<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2016  
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

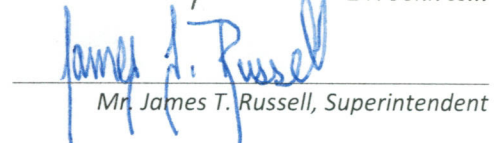
  
Mrs. Ida D. Wright, Chairman

  
Mrs. Melody Johnson, Vice Chairman

  
Mrs. Linda Costello

  
Mrs. Linda Cuthbert

  
Dr. John Hill

  
Mr. James T. Russell, Superintendent