

JOINT RESOLUTION URGING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ADEQUATELY INVEST IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

By the Board of Directors of the
Wellsboro Area School District

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's more than 1.7 million public school students deserve the highest quality education; and the state's public schools work best when they have the resources to give all students the opportunities they need to succeed; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania ranks 46th among the 50 states in the amount of state subsidies allocated to support elementary and secondary education, among the lowest in the nation, with state's share of funding public education at 38%; and Pennsylvania has the widest funding gap between wealthy and poor school districts of any state in the country; and

WHEREAS, the state has failed to keep pace with the rising cost of mandated special education for students with disabilities, which has increased by 1.6 billion over the last decade, even as the state's share of the cost has fallen from 36% to 25%; and

WHEREAS, the state has failed to keep pace with the costs of providing career and technical education (CTE) pathways to students, allowing its share of CTE funding to fall to 8%, leaving school districts with a 90% share of the CTE budget; and

WHEREAS, inadequate state funding places additional burden on local taxpayers to pick up a greater share of public schools' costs to ensure that our students' education is not jeopardized; and

WHEREAS, the state must make greater, sustainable investments in public schools, without jeopardizing local control of those funds, to lift all students and prepare them for today's competitive workforce.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wellsboro Area School District urges the General Assembly to take legislative action for public education by increasing basic education funding through the state's fair funding formula; ensuing sufficient resources for special education and career and technical education; and generating the necessary revenues through sustainable, recurring funding sources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be submitted to the elected senators and representatives of the Wellsboro Area School District in the General Assembly, and to the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Adopted this _____ day of March, 2019.

Signed,

LaRue Reese, President
Wellsboro Area School District
Board of Education

Bonnie Thompson, Board Secretary
Wellsboro Area School District