

May 13, 2020

**SHREWSBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED  
FEDERAL SUPPORT AND STIMULUS FUNDING FOR PUBLIC K-12 EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is a monumental and unprecedented challenge, emerging quickly and demanding an immediate overhaul of the instructional plans and strategies of school systems across the country; and

WHEREAS, the nation's public schools remain committed to delivering high-quality instruction while ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff; and

WHEREAS, to date the 872 employees of the Shrewsbury Public Schools have worked around the clock to continue to provide our 6,251 SPS students and families with access to remote learning, iPads, Wi-Fi, and other educational needs, as well as distributing meals; and

WHEREAS, the Shrewsbury Public Schools and the Town of Shrewsbury have maintained payroll for over 872 full and part-time district employees, providing stability to our community during economic uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, these challenges will persist and likely grow as COVID-19 affects our economy and destabilizes funding for public schools; and

WHEREAS, reputable economists have predicted the end of the nation's economic expansion and forecast a recession that may be deep and long-lasting; and

WHEREAS, the numbers of unemployment claims are already the highest we have seen since the Great Depression and may only grow; and

WHEREAS, public school systems are facing difficult decisions about how to allocate dwindling financial resources to sustain high-quality instruction and other essential services for students and families over the next several years; and

WHEREAS, revenue shortfalls will unequivocally result in budget cuts and personnel reductions in public school systems;

WHEREAS, these budget cuts will be happening at the same time that public school systems will be working to address the immense instructional challenge of unfinished learning that many students will face coming out of this school year; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment ACT (ARRA) of 2009 provided

\$100 billion in education funding with investments in both the education stabilization fund and various federal categorical programs for public schools, such as Title I and the Individuals with Disabilities Act; and

WHEREAS, Congress followed ARRA in 2010 with \$10 billion in additional funding for the Education Jobs Fund to help school districts retain existing employees, recall former employees, and hire new ones; and

WHEREAS, by comparison the recent Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides only \$13 billion for education stabilization funding, which is less than half of one percent of the total \$2.2 trillion relief provided in the CARES Act and is far below the investment that the federal government provided in 2009 and 2010 in ARRA and the Education Jobs fund; and

WHEREAS, public education is one of the largest employers of any organization, public or private, in the nation; and

WHEREAS, published economic research has demonstrated a strong connection between a country's GDP growth and its investments in elementary and secondary education; and

WHEREAS, research has repeatedly found a strong causal relationship between levels of schooling and wages that individuals earn over a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, for public schools to thrive and for our students to realize a bright and productive future, the federal government needs to make a substantial new investment in our wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, the National School Boards Association and others have called for some \$ 200 billion in relief for the nation's public schools; and

WHEREAS, this level of funding is the minimum needed by the nation's public schools to sustain and accelerate their academic achievement trends over the past decade, including gains in reading and math achievement that outpace the national average; therefore, let it be

RESOLVED: That the Chairperson and members of the Shrewsbury School Committee join in urging the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation, including our United States Senators and House of Representative members, to advocate for and approve additional federal education funding for our nation's public schools.

On roll call, the order was approved by the following vote:

Yea:

No:

Abstain:

Signatures:

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Sandra M. Fryc, Chairperson

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Jon Wensky, Vice Chair

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B. Dale Magee, M.D., Secretary

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Lynsey Heffernan

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Jason Palitsch