

EASTERN LANCASTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-1

URGING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO OPPOSE SENATE BILL 909 (OR ANYTHING SIMILAR) AND INSTEAD DEDICATE ITS EFFORTS TO ESTABLISHING A NEW FUNDING FORMULA FOR BASIC EDUCATION

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's more than 1.8 million public school students deserve the highest quality education; and

WHEREAS, the state's contribution in funding public education as a percentage of basic instructional expenses has declined from over 50% during the mid-1970's, to less than 35% today; and

WHEREAS, state and federal mandates, including employer financial contributions to the Public School Employee' Retirement System ("PSERS"), districts' charter school tuition payments for regular and special education students, and special education costs cannot be controlled by school boards and consume a larger portion of districts' budgets each year; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by the Pennsylvania School Board Association ("PSBA") found over the past few years that state-mandated PSERS and charter school costs were responsible for a twenty-five percent (25%) aggregate annual increase in school district expenditures while all other district expenditures increases were negligible; and

WHEREAS, as the state's share of K-12 education funding decreases while the number of state and federal mandates for public schools steadily increases each year, additional burden is placed on local taxpayers to make up the difference to ensure that our students' education is not jeopardized; and

WHEREAS, Act 1 of 2006 already restricts the ability of school districts to raise taxes at the local level by, prohibiting the levying of new taxes without voter approval; limiting property tax increases to the Act 1 inflationary index absent compelling financial circumstances; and restricting potential Act 1 index exceptions available to school districts to exceed that inflationary index; and

WHEREAS, preventing school districts to pursue tax increases consistent with price inflation will require will require cutting established educational programs and ultimately harm public school students;

WHEREAS, legislative proposals seeking to require school districts to place referendum questions on the ballot for any and all property tax increases -- as advocated in Senate Bill 909 -- do nothing to address an inadequate funding system for public education or the many unfunded and underfunded state and federal mandates imposed upon school districts.

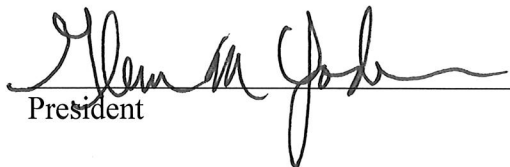
WHEREAS, the Eastern Lancaster County School District supports the development of a system of public school financing that addresses the needs of school districts and students, and establishes a school funding formula that is equitable, adequate, comprehensive and consistent.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Eastern Lancaster County School District opposes Senate Bill 909, and any other legislative proposal that would requires a voter referendum to raise additional local funds to support public education and, instead, urges the General Assembly to reinvest its interest in the support of public schools by taking legislative action to establish a funding formula that is predictable and addresses adequacy and equity for all school districts; and

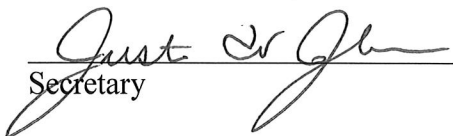
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Eastern Lancaster County School District will encourage others, including other school districts, parents, students and taxpayers, to contact the Pennsylvania General Assembly to convey their opposition to Senate Bill 909 and instead urge our elected legislators to dedicate their time, attention and efforts to establishing a fair and equitable public school funding formula; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution submitted to the elected senators and representatives of the Eastern Lancaster County School District in the General Assembly, the Governor of Pennsylvania and PSBA.

Adopted this 17th day of November, 2015, by a public vote of the Board of School Directors of the Eastern Lancaster County School District.



President

 12/21/15

Secretary