

**VISTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 20-39**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL ADVOCACY TO PRIORITIZE STABLE
PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING**

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is a monumental and unprecedented challenge which emerged quickly and is resulting in the largest adaptive challenge in the history of our public school system to deliver a high-quality education while ensuring the health and safety of our students; and

WHEREAS, we know this challenge will persist as COVID-19 impacts our economy and destabilizes funding for public schools; and

WHEREAS, the UCLA Anderson Forecast recently announced the arrival of the 2020 recession, after adjusting for the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which ends the economic expansion in the United States and the State of California; and

WHEREAS, UCLA Anderson Forecast predicts the recession will be more severe in California than the overall nation due to a larger proportion of economic activity in tourism and trans-Pacific transportation; and

WHEREAS, the emerging impact to California's economy is currently visible in the number of weekly unemployment claims that were filed, which totaled a historic high of 878,727 during the week of March 28 as compared to the record high prior to COVID-19 of 115,462, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office; and

WHEREAS, while the complete picture of economic indicators are still delayed, local, state, and federal governments, along with school districts like Vista Unified School District, are facing difficult decisions to ensure the delivery of critical services in the short-term, such as extended learning and/or summer school, while grappling with the reality of an economic recession that includes both a decline in revenues; and

WHEREAS, at the same time school districts like Vista Unified School District are incurring new costs to effectively respond to COVID-19 which adds to the severity of the economic recession; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 provided a total of \$100 billion in education funding with investments in both the state fiscal stabilization fund and categorical programs for public schools such as Title I and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and

WHEREAS, by comparison the recent Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides only a total of \$13 billion to directly stabilize public school funding nationwide, which is about

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 in the ARRA Act that totaled \$100 billion; and

WHEREAS, in order for public schools to persevere in this pandemic to protect against the loss of educational attainment and to overcome the educational inequities amplified by COVID-19, a significant federal investment is necessary to stabilize education funding and to ensure funding is available for extended learning options and/or summer school; and

WHEREAS, while persevering in the midst of the greatest economic downturn in recent history, public schools will be the glue that holds our communities together and give us hope for the future; and

WHEREAS, a coalition of national education organizations, such as the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, The School Superintendents Association, the Council of Great City Schools, the National Parent Teachers Association, the National School Boards Association, to name a few, have called for \$200 billion to begin providing meaningful relief to our nation's public schools, but additional relief totaling \$350 billion will likely be needed to ensure public school funding is stabilized over the next two years; and

WHEREAS, this level of funding is necessary for Vista Unified School District to continue making progress in closing academic achievement gaps as documented in the Learning Policy Institute's Positive Outliers series and in UCLA's Center for the Transformation of Schools case study series on Vista Unified School District; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Vista Unified School District School District calls on our Congressional delegation, inclusive of our United States Senators and House of Representatives, and the Governor of California to advocate for additional federal funding to prioritize stable public school funding.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Vista Unified School District on May 7, 2020, at a duly noticed meeting by the following vote:

AYES: 5
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:



Clerk, Board of Trustees
VISTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT