

ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: October 22, 2012

AGENDA ITEM No. 12-10-(2)-12

ACTION ITEM: (Y/N) Y

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION Urging Congress to Stop Education Sequestration

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ATTACHMENTS: 1. RESOLUTION Urging Congress to Stop Education Sequestration.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this agenda item is to allow the Board of Education an opportunity to approve a Resolution in opposition to across-the-board budget cuts in education by the federal government.

BACKGROUND: The federal government will impose an 8.2% across-the-board cut to education and other domestic programs in January unless Congress intervenes. The National School Boards Association has requested local boards of education pass a resolution urging Congress to stop these across-the-board cuts known as sequestration.

The Facts About Sequestration *(from the National School Boards Association)*

- The impact of an 8.2 percent cut to programs such as Title I grants for disadvantaged students would mean a cut of more than \$1 billion, affecting nearly two million students.
- Special education grants would be reduced by more than \$900 million, impacting nearly 500,000 children with disabilities.
- English Language Acquisition grants would be cut by approximately \$60 million, affecting an estimated 377,000 students.
- These budget cuts to education programs would take place during the 2013-14 school year, with the exception of Impact Aid, with which cuts would become effective during this school year.
- Sequestration's budget cuts to these and other education programs would mean increased class sizes and less access to programs for children with special needs, as well as summer school, college counselors, early childhood education and after-school programming.
- Certain school bond programs would also be affected by a 7.6% reduction in federal subsidy payments.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The impact of an 8.2% cut for Orange County Schools would mean a loss of \$850,014 in federal funding.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education adopt the Resolution Urging Congress to Stop Education Sequestration.

**Orange County
Board of
Education**

Board Members:

Donna Coffey
Chair

Stephen H. Halkiotis
Vice Chair

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Anne Medenblik
Deborah A. Piscitelli
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RESOLUTION
Urging Congress to Stop Education Sequestration

WHEREAS, a world class public education is essential for the future success of our nation and today's schoolchildren; and

WHEREAS, the Budget Control Act of 2011 includes a provision to impose \$1.2 trillion in across-the-board budget cuts to almost all federal programs, including education, that would become effective January 2, 2013; and

WHEREAS, these across-the-board budget cuts would impact school districts during the 2013-14 school year, with the exception of the Impact Aid program, with which a reduction would become effective this school year; and

WHEREAS, these across-the-board budget cuts, also known as sequestration, would impact education by a reduction in funds of 8.2 percent or more and could result in larger class sizes, fewer course offerings, loss of extracurricular activities, staff reductions; and

WHEREAS, sequestration would impact almost every public school system in the nation and the millions of students educated through programs such as Title I grants for disadvantaged students, the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), English Language Acquisition, Career and Technical Education, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and more; and

WHEREAS, Orange County Schools, as well as other public schools, would be impacted nationwide by an estimated \$2.7 billion loss from just three programs alone – Title I grants, IDEA special education state grants and Head Start – that serve a combined 30.7 million children; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for K-12 programs was already reduced by more than \$835 million in Fiscal Year 2011, and state and local funding for education continues to be impacted by budget cuts; and

WHEREAS, states and local governments have very limited capacity to absorb further budget cuts from sequestration, as Orange County Schools has already implemented cuts commensurate to state and local budget conditions;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Orange County School District urges Congress and the Administration to amend the Budget Control Act to mitigate the drastic cuts to education that would affect our students and communities, and to protect education as an investment critical to economic stability and American competitiveness.

Adopted this 22nd day of October, 2012.

Donna Coffey, Chair

G. Patrick Rhodes, Superintendent