

RESOLUTION TO SEEK ADEQUATE EDUCATION FUNDING

FROM THE KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

To all whom these presents shall come:

WHEREAS, an excellent public school system is vital to the quality of life in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and fundamental to preserving a strong democratic society both now and in the future; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky Constitution Section 183 requires the General Assembly of Kentucky to provide for an efficient system of common schools through this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, the Supreme Court of Kentucky, in its landmark opinion in Rose v. Council for Better Education, Inc., 790 S.W.2d 186 (Ky. 1989), declared that, because education is a fundamental right bestowed upon its citizens by the Kentucky Constitution, an underfunded or inadequately funded system of education violates the Kentucky Constitution's mandate that the General Assembly provide an efficient system of common schools; and

WHEREAS, upon passage of Senate Bill 1 -- now called Unbridled Learning -- the Kentucky General Assembly and Governor Steve Beshear acknowledged the precedent established by the Kentucky Supreme Court in Rose v. Council for Better Education, Inc., and affirmed that Kentucky's students would have the tools they need to compete in a global society; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky General Assembly's repeated failure to provide an adequately funded system of education has created unfunded mandates which continue to increase, putting additional stress and responsibilities on teachers and administrators working to ensure that students continue on their path to becoming college and career ready; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky General Assembly and Governor Steve Beshear made a commitment to Kentucky's students to fully fund the mandates of Unbridled Learning, abide by the directive of Rose v. Council for Better Education, Inc., and the lack of funding puts at risk the law's goals and jeopardizes the future success of our students; and

WHEREAS, the lack of adequate funding has caused the Fayette County Public Schools and its fellow districts across the Commonwealth to make significant cuts to their budgets, including both personnel and programs, and compelled local school boards to increase property taxes so their districts can continue to operate and serve the students, who are the future of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, despite the General Assembly's abdication of its constitutional requirements, Kentucky's public school districts are doing more with less, as demonstrated by *Education Week's Quality Counts* report, which placed Kentucky among the top 10 states overall in

education policy and performance, but at the same time gave Kentucky a grade of F in the spending category.

NOW, THEREFORE, we the members of the Fayette County Board of Education, do challenge the members of the Kentucky General Assembly and Governor Steve Beshear to take all appropriate and necessary action, including raising revenues if necessary, to fulfill the Kentucky Constitution's requirement to provide for a fully funded efficient system of public education and place the needs of the students of the Commonwealth of Kentucky first so that Kentucky's public education system can ensure that they are college and career ready.

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