

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CALLING FOR INCREASED STATE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION,
FROM PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH POST-SECONDARY LEVELS**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Education Commission (MEC), a non-profit entity, serves in an advisory role on education to the City of Tucson Mayor and Council and the Pima County Board of Supervisors, and

WHEREAS, the MEC is composed of representatives from pre-kindergarten to post-secondary education organizations and institutions, businesses, social services, government and youth, and

WHEREAS, the MEC recognizes the importance of today's election with regard to setting a child-centered, student-focused and future-oriented direction for our community and state, and

WHEREAS, mindful of its purpose as an organization and cognizant of the potential impact of the electorate's decisions on the well-being of the children and youth it serves, it wants our community to know where it stands as education advocates, and

WHEREAS, the statistics regarding the well-being of children and youth in Pima County, the City of Tucson and the State of Arizona are well known, making the election a unique and ideal opportunity for our citizens to send a clear and resounding message to elected officials about what our priorities should be on education, and

WHEREAS, while there clearly are other needs beside those outlined in this statement, it feels that addressing these concerns will get our community and state on a proper course,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby supports the position on education funding set forth by members of the Metropolitan Education Commission as follows:

The MEC encourages city and county elected officials to work together with the Arizona Legislature and the Governor's Office to support public education by:

- Avoiding any further diversion of revenue from Arizona's public schools.
- Providing funding for high-quality pre-kindergarten early-childhood education and child care throughout the state, ensuring that the state immediately access all available federal funds for child-care assistance, and prioritizing the use of new funds to increase reimbursement rates for low-income parents.
- Funding full-day kindergarten and including kindergarten children in the Locally Controlled Funding calculation.

- Returning overall funding support for kindergarten through high school to at least levels that existed prior to 2008 and continuing to support full funding, accounting for inflation, in the manner prescribed under state law.
- Maintaining Career and Technical Education and Joint Technical Education District funding at not less than existing levels, and restoring funding for high school freshmen to enroll in Career and Technical Education classes to provide students the opportunity to successfully explore career fields and acquire Career and Technical education certifications.
- Restoring the building renewal formula, which was fully funded only once since its inception, and was repealed in fiscal year 2014 and replaced by a grants program that provides only a fraction of the funds needed. Current funding for the grants program is \$51 million, compared to \$288 million that the building renewal formula would have earmarked.
- Providing or securing the revenue to, at the very least, support the proposal made by the governor to give all teachers a 20-percent raise by 2020.
- Identifying other options available to the Legislature that could provide the revenues needed to fund even greater salary increases for all those who work in our schools, prior to the 2020 date set by the governor.
- Passing legislation in 2019 to provide for greater accountability and oversight for charter schools.
- Restoring funding for Pima and Maricopa Community College systems to at least the levels that existed before their funding was eliminated.
- Designing and implementing an equitable public education funding formula, from pre-school through high school, with increased and sustainable revenue that adequately closes the achievement gap, creates equity for all students, and reflects nationally competitive funding ratios for investing in our future-generation workforce so Arizona is highly competitive in the global economy.

Passed by the Pima County Board of Supervisors this ____ day of _____, 2018.

Richard Elías, Chairman
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Julie Castañeda, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Andrew Flagg, Deputy County Attorney