

**HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

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**Resolution in Support of Increased Funding for  
Massachusetts Public Schools**

**WHEREAS**, free public schools available to all students without exception are foundational to our democracy and are required by the state constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, all of our students, no matter where they live, deserve high-quality public schools that teach the whole child and provide them with a well-rounded school experience that addresses their academic, social and emotional needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the state's foundation budget formula, which determines state aid to each district, has been woefully out of date for years, thereby underfunding our districts by more than \$1 billion a year for essential educational services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature failed to pass any foundation budget legislation in the last session, leaving districts, educators and students without the funds necessary to support the schools our students deserve; and

**WHEREAS**, an updated foundation budget formula should bring Hingham and all districts an increase in general state financial aid including: formula adjustments for inflation; higher allowances for economically disadvantaged students, special education and English Language Learners; enhancements to school safety; provisions for social and emotional health; and adjustments to insurance costs to reflect actual costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature failed to fully fund METCO, special education circuit breaker funds, charter school reimbursement, and other state mandates; and

**WHEREAS**, districts are already being measured by rigorous accountability measures including MCAS tests, as such any proposed changes should improve outcomes for students and educators as opposed to serving as punitive measures for sanctions; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no perfect one-size-fits-all formula to address 351 diverse cities and towns, and none of the major reform bills currently filed in the Legislature includes a commitment to adequate minimum aid increases each year, an annual minimum aid increase of at least \$100 per student would avoid cuts to existing school programs; and

**WHEREAS**, there are two pending initiatives for litigation to address education finance reform which would use taxpayer money and take years to conclude, and a legislated approach could render a lawsuit moot by finding a solution with input from all stakeholders and be implemented immediately;

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the **Hingham School Committee** urges the Legislature to **approve an education finance reform act in 2019 that fully addresses the needs in all districts.**