

RESOLUTION OF THE KELLER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGARDING SCHOOL FINANCE

WHEREAS, the mission of the public education system of this state is to ensure that all Texas children have access to a quality education that enables them to achieve their potential and fully participate now and in the future in the social, economic, and educational opportunities of our state and nation (Texas Education Code §4.001);

WHEREAS, the Texas Constitution requires the state to make suitable provisions for the support and maintenance of public education;

WHEREAS, the need for education funding has never been higher. Texas' school-aged population and the number of higher-need students are growing dramatically. Upkeep and expansion of facilities are expensive and maintenance and operations costs are rising¹; and

WHEREAS, the basic allotment, which is the legislatively mandated apportionment of funds that goes to each school district to provide a basic level of education for the district's residents, is \$6,160 per student and has not been increased since 2019; and

WHEREAS, inflation since 2019 has increased by 17%, according to the Consumer Price Index. Keller ISD has seen a 67% increase in the cost of fuel, a 104% increase in the cost of general insurance policies, a 25% increase in the cost of utilities, and a 12% increase in the cost of employee compensation; and

WHEREAS, Texas school districts adopted a state-wide budget deficit of \$2.3 billion in the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The state began this legislative session with a \$32.7 billion surplus as a result of more revenue than expenditures in the previous biennium; and

WHEREAS, because of these inflationary cost pressures, it is estimated that basic allotment needs to be increased to \$7,200 per student to have the same buying power as it had in 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes failure to increase the basic allotment to a level that offsets inflation could have devastating consequences to our district, potentially resulting in disruption of programming, loss of student services, forfeiture of salary increases, and layoffs.

¹ <https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/fiscal-notes/2019/jan/introduction.php>

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE KELLER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Keller Independent School District strongly urge our state legislators to act on behalf of the District's more than 34,200 students and 4,000 employees to uphold their constitutional "duty ... to make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools;" and

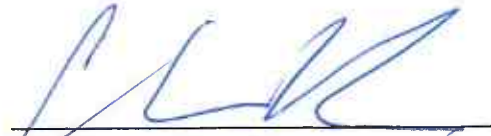
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Texas Legislature take bold action in support of public education for Texans by increasing the basic allotment to a level necessary to meet instructional demands and offset inflationary cost pressures so that Texas public schools can continue developing a well-rounded citizenry and an effective workforce for future generations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Keller ISD Legislative Priorities adopted for the 88th Legislative Session includes a request for increasing the basic funding allotment to account for inflation; and

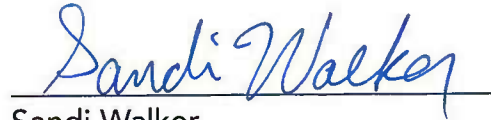
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the Keller Independent School District share a unified message on this issue:

Our district prides itself on being intentionally exceptional. Our amazing educators and staff accomplish this by educating students to achieve, inspiring them to dream, and challenging them to grow, so that they are prepared to be productive members of the community in which they learn, live, and work. Therefore, the Board of Trustees of the Keller Independent School District respectfully urges the 88th Texas Legislature to continue investing in Texas Public School Children by increasing the basic funding allotment to address inflationary cost pressures so that Texas public schools can continue developing a well-rounded citizenry and an effective workforce for future generations.

Adopted on this the 24th day of April 2023, by the Keller ISD Board of Trustees.



Dr. Charles Randklev
President, Board of Trustees



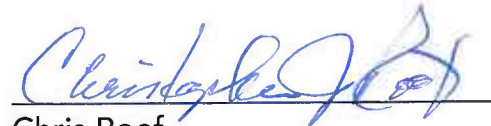
Sandi Walker
Vice President, Board of Trustees



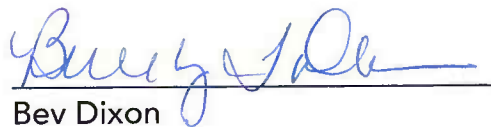
Joni Shaw Smith
Secretary, Board of Trustees



Micah Young
Place 1



Chris Roof
Place 4



Bev Dixon
Place 5



Ruthie Keyes
Place 7