

May 27, 2020

**RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO  
URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FEDERAL EDUCATIONAL  
FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO MITIGATE THE ADVERSE FINANCIAL EFFECTS  
OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is a monumental and unprecedented challenge, emerging quickly and demanding an immediate overhaul of the instructional plans and strategies of school systems across the country; and

WHEREAS, the nation's public schools remain committed to delivering high-quality instruction while ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff; and

WHEREAS, this challenge will persist and likely grow as COVID-19 affects our economy and destabilizes funding for public schools; and

WHEREAS, reputable economists have predicted the end of the nation's economic expansion and forecast a recession that may be deep and long-lasting; and

WHEREAS, any nationwide recession is likely to most severely affect urban areas, their most economically disadvantaged residents, and Black and Latinx communities that are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and its economic repercussions; and

WHEREAS, the numbers of unemployment claims in the nation's big cities are already the highest we have seen since the Great Depression and may only grow; and

WHEREAS, 12,000 students in Chicago are currently homeless, among approximately 1.5 million nationally--a number that will likely increase with the ongoing public health and economic crisis--and federal funds are necessary to address the scope of housing insecurity and provide the rent relief, mortgage relief, and access to affordable housing necessary to provide students a safe and stable place to live and learn; and

WHEREAS, urban public-school systems across the country are already incurring substantial unexpected costs to provide meal services and purchase and deploy digital instructional devices; and

WHEREAS, urban public-school systems are facing difficult decisions about how to allocate dwindling financial resources to sustain high-quality instruction and other essential services for students and families over the next several years; and

WHEREAS, these decisions will be happening at the same time that urban public school systems will be working to address the immense instructional challenge of unfinished learning that many students will face coming out of this school year; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 provided \$100 billion in education funding with investments in both the education stabilization fund and various federal categorical programs for public schools, such as Title I and the Individuals with Disabilities Act; and

WHEREAS, Congress followed ARRA in 2010 with \$10 billion in additional funding for the Education Jobs Fund to help school districts retain existing employees, recall former employees, and hire new ones; and

WHEREAS, by comparison, the recent Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides only \$13 billion for education stabilization funding, which is less than half of one percent of the total \$2.2 trillion relief provided in the CARES Act and is far below the investment that the federal government provided in 2009 and 2010 in ARRA and the Education Jobs fund; and

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2020 the House voted to significantly increase this figure, passing the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act calling for \$3 trillion in additional funding including \$58 billion that would go to K-12 education that would flow through the states to be distributed local districts and \$3 billion for school meal providers and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Child and Adult Care Food Program but the Senate has refused to vote on the bill; and

WHEREAS, public education is one of the largest employers of any organization, public or private, in the nation; and

WHEREAS, published economic research has demonstrated a strong connection between a country's GDP growth and its investments in elementary and secondary education; and

WHEREAS, research has repeatedly found a strong causal relationship between levels of schooling and wages that individuals earn over a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, many students and their families experienced trauma prior to the pandemic, and are experiencing further trauma as a result of the pandemic and associated economic crises, which will require additional trauma-informed and healing-centered supports in the coming months and years for the development of the whole child; and

WHEREAS, for public schools to thrive and for our students to realize a bright and productive future, the federal government needs to make a substantial new investment in our wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Great City Schools, the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the National School Boards Association, the American Association of School Administrators, and the National Parent Teachers Association, and others have called for some \$200 billion in relief for the nation's PK-12 public schools; and

WHEREAS, this level of funding is the minimum needed by the nation's urban public schools to care for our school communities and keep students healthy, safe, and engaged in order to sustain and accelerate their academic achievement trends over the past decade, including gains in reading and math achievement that outpace the national average, and close opportunity gaps for historically underserved students.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the City of Chicago on behalf of Chicago Public School District 299 ("Chicago Public Schools") thanks our House of Representative Members for passing the HEROES Act and join our Senators in asking the Senate for a vote on the HEROES Act, and urge the President to sign it, and further, encourage them to continue to advocate for and approve additional federal education funding distributed to our nation's public schools at the local level through the Title I formula.