

Sample Resolution of a School Board in Support of Fully Funding Maine's Public Schools

Whereas, public education is integral to the democratic viability and economic future of Maine by directly and indirectly contributing to the intellectual and physical development of the children and young adults of our great state; and

Whereas, recognizing the essential need of a strong public school system the voters of Maine in 2004 overwhelmingly approved a referendum requiring the State of Maine to fully fund 55% of the cost of public education; and

Whereas, since 2008, the state has short-changed its share of funding for public education by over \$500 million in flagrant violation of the letter and spirit of the 2004 referendum; and

Whereas, as the state has abandoned its commitment to fund our public schools property owners throughout the state have often been asked to shoulder more of the responsibility for funding our schools, often through increases in local property taxes; and

Whereas, the Governor has proposed in his budget moving the funding for our schools backwards by reducing GPA to local school districts by \$12.56 million from 2012-13 levels and shifting an additional \$14 million in retirement costs from the state to the local school districts for each of the next two years; and

Whereas, if the Governor's proposed budget is adopted in its current form, our school district will be forced to take drastic actions to balance their budgets by laying off educators, reducing personnel, cutting programs and services, and asking local middle class families to pay even more in property taxes to make up from the shortfall from the state;

Now Therefore, be it resolved that:

The XXX School Board calls on the legislators of both parties to fully fund our public schools as expressed by the will of the citizens of Maine in the 2004 referendum by providing the required 55% of the cost of public education in Maine; and

The XXX School Board calls upon the legislators of both parties to reject the Governor's proposal to shift pension payments onto local cities and towns; and

Therefore be it finally resolved, the XXX School Board calls upon the Maine Legislature to raise additional state revenue in an equitable fashion in order to avoid regressive tax shifts to municipalities