

INTRODUCED: October 8, 2018

Expedited Consideration

A RESOLUTION No. 2018-R091

To request that the General Assembly of Virginia fulfill its constitutional obligation and adequately fund the true costs of public education in Virginia for the successful future of students of schools administered by the School Board of the City of Richmond and students throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Patrons – Mayor Stoney and All Members of Council

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: OCT 8 2018 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, a strong K-12 education system is critical to the success of our children and our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia has decreased state funding for K-12 education by an estimated \$378,000,000 per year since 2009; and

WHEREAS, since 2009, direct state aid from the Commonwealth of Virginia has fallen nine percent per student; and

AYES: 8 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN:

ADOPTED: OCT 8 2018 REJECTED: STRICKEN:

WHEREAS, since 2009, local governments have taken on a larger share of the funding and have invested \$4,000,000,000 above the required local effort for Standard of Quality programs in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2017; and

WHEREAS, both the Mayor of the City of Richmond and the Council of the City of Richmond believe that the current Standards of Quality do not recognize the true costs of education including pupil transportation, debt, school support staff, providing and updating broadband and other technology, and instructional staff salaries; and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 2 of the Constitution of Virginia states as follows:

Standards of quality for the several school divisions shall be determined and prescribed from time to time by the Board of Education, subject to revision only by the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall determine the manner in which funds are to be provided for the cost of maintaining an educational program meeting the prescribed standards of quality, and shall provide for the apportionment of the cost of such program between the Commonwealth and the local units of government comprising such school divisions. Each unit of local government shall provide its portion of such cost by local taxes or from other available funds.

WHEREAS, both the Mayor of the City of Richmond and the Council of the City of Richmond believe that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Richmond that the City call upon the General Assembly of Virginia to fulfill its constitutional obligation and adequately fund the true costs of public education in the Commonwealth of Virginia for the successful future of students of schools administered by the School Board of the City of Richmond and students throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

That the City of Richmond calls upon the General Assembly to fulfill its constitutional obligation and adequately fund the true costs of public education in the Commonwealth of Virginia for the successful future of students of schools administered by the School Board of the City of Richmond and students throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.



CITY OF RICHMOND
INTRACITY CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED

OCT 01 2018

OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY

O&R REQUEST

DATE: October 1, 2018

EDITION: 1

TO: The Honorable Members of City Council

FROM: The Honorable Levar M. Stoney, Mayor

JS 10/1/18

RE: State funding for K-12 education

ORD. OR RES. No. _____

PURPOSE: To call on the General Assembly to fulfill their constitutional obligation regarding adequate funding for public education in Virginia.

REASON: To provide adequate funding for public education in Virginia as state funding has decreased by an estimated \$378 million per year since 2009.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval is recommended by the City Administration.

BACKGROUND: Article VIII, Section 2 of the Virginia Constitution states, "Standards of quality for the several school divisions shall be determined and prescribed from time to time by the Board of Education, subject to revision only by the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall determine the manner in which funds are to be provided for the cost of maintaining an educational program meeting the prescribed standards of quality, and shall provide for the apportionment of the cost of such program between the Commonwealth and the local units of government comprising such school divisions. Each unit of local government shall provide its portion of such cost by local taxes or from other available funds."

However, the Commonwealth of Virginia has decreased state funding for K-12 education by an estimated \$378 million per year since 2009. Additionally, since 2009 local governments have taken on a larger share of the funding, and invested \$4 billion above the required local effort for Standard of Quality programs in 2016-2017.

FISCAL IMPACT / COST: None.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: None.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NECESSARY: No.

O&R Request

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REVENUE TO CITY: None.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon adoption.

REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE: October 8, 2018

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE: October 8, 2018

REQUESTED AGENDA: Consent agenda

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE:

CONSIDERATION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES: None.

AFFECTED AGENCIES: None.

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.: None.

REQUIRED CHANGES TO WORK PROGRAM(S): None.

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution language.

STAFF: