

Resolution Calling for Fully Adjusting Chapter 70 Aid for Inflation for Fiscal Year 2025 and Beyond

WHEREAS, Chapter 70 of the General Laws provides a structure for allocation of school aid based on Foundation Budgets that reflects the needs and costs for Massachusetts school districts, and

WHEREAS the “Foundation inflation index” is an essential element of the school aid formula needed to maintain the purchasing power of district Foundation Budgets, and

WHEREAS, the Chapter 70 Section 2 definition of the Foundation inflation index limits each annual adjustment to no more than 4.5 percent when inflation exceeds that amount, and

WHEREAS, application of that limit or cap on the Foundation inflation index in fiscal years 2023 and 2024 has reduced the base used to calculate Foundation Budgets for fiscal year 2025 and future years by about 6 percent below what is needed to maintain the purchasing power of Massachusetts schools, and

WHEREAS, a legislative change is needed (1) to fully reflect recent inflation in the Chapter 70 definition of the Foundation inflation index for fiscal year 2025 and (2) to eliminate the cap in future years, so as to restore the purchasing power of district Foundation budgets to reflect the intended resource allocations of the Student Opportunity Act,

THEREFORE: be it

RESOLVED, that the Haverhill School Committee calls on the Massachusetts Legislature and the Governor to (1) amend Chapter 70 Section 2 of the General Laws (i) to provide a Foundation Inflation Index for Fiscal Year 2025 that fully adjusts for inflation occurring since the start of the Student Opportunity Act and (ii) to eliminate the upper limit on the Foundation inflation index for all future years, and (2) for fiscal year 2025, to fully fund the Student Opportunity Act including Foundation aid that fully accounts for inflation that has occurred since the passage of that act.

RESOLVED further, that the Haverhill School Committee calls on the Massachusetts Association of School Committees to work to advance legislation that would ensure that Chapter 70 Foundation Budgets for fiscal year 2025 and forward, are fully adjusted for all inflation that has occurred since the start of the Student Opportunity Act.

VOTED: Unanimously 9-0

DATE: March 14, 2024

BY: The Haverhill School Committee, Haverhill, Massachusetts

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