



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

RESOLUTION

R64 – 2021

Introduced by City Council on May 5, 2021

Recommends the General Assembly To Enact Gov. Wolf's 2021 State Budget Proposal for K-12 Education Funding

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

Whereas, all of Pennsylvania's more than 1.7 million public school students deserve the highest quality education; and

Whereas, the General Assembly enacted a student-weighted Fair Funding Formula (Act 35 of 2016) to distribute PA State Basic Education Funding equitably to all PA school districts but then continued to impose the political doctrine of "Hold Harmless" resulting in continued great disparities between school districts; and

Whereas the "Hold Harmless" clause prevents any district from receiving any less funding than they had prior to 2014 even if that leads to inequities; and

Whereas, the distribution of 100% of the Basic Education Funding through the Fair Funding Formula would eliminate the racial disparities in the distribution of state Basic Education Funds; and

Whereas, the 2021 State Budget Proposal proposed by Gov. Tom Wolf would substantially increase Pennsylvania's K-12 Basic Education Funding and would distribute this funding to all school districts through the Fair Funding Formula; and

Whereas, should Gov. Wolf's 2021 budget proposal be fully enacted, the Allentown School District would receive an increase in state funding; and

Whereas, Gov. Wolf's proposal also calls for a special \$1.15B supplement of new funding to be distributed to ease the transition to the fair funding formula for districts that have historically received more funding than they would under the Fair Funding Formula,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Allentown City Council recommends the General Assembly to fully enact the 2021 Education Budget proposed by Gov. Wolf; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that further work will be needed to eliminate the racial disparity in state education funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Allentown City Council encourage others, including parents, students, district taxpayers, to contact the Pennsylvania General Assembly to convey the importance of fully enacting equitable and adequate state education funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be submitted to the elected senators and representatives of the City Allentown in the General Assembly and to the Governor of Pennsylvania.