

## **Resolution in Support of the Superintendents' Position Statement**

### **Big Sandy School District 100J**

WHEREAS, without the negative factor, the School Finance Act formula would have provided Big Sandy School District 100J with an additional \$319,667 in the 2010-2011 school year, an additional \$407,621 in the 2011-2012 school year, an additional \$507,671 in the 2012-2013 school year, an additional \$499,986 in the 2013-2014 school year, and an additional \$437,842 for the 2014-2015 school year. As a result, the Big Sandy School Board has had to:

- Reduce certified and noncertified staff
- Not purchase a new bus for the past nine years
- Freeze salaries and health insurance benefits while all surrounding costs went up
- Reduce the academic and extracurricular offerings (i.e. music, counseling, language arts, elementary, secondary, drama, para professionals, remedial language arts, literature, cook...)
- Delay purchasing curriculum materials
- Delay purchasing athletic uniforms...
- Consolidate services; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that every student in Colorado has the same educational opportunities regardless of where the student lives, Colorado's school finance formula since 1994 has included both a base amount of per pupil funding and an additional amount based on "factors" to account for unique local conditions and equalize total per pupil funding across school districts; and


WHEREAS, the factors funded through Colorado's school finance formula address significant variables, including district size, personnel costs, cost of living and number of at-risk students in a district; and

WHEREAS, starting in fiscal year 2010–11, the legislature added a new “negative factor” to make across-the-board cuts to education spending. The negative factor applies the same percentage cut across districts, resulting in a higher funding loss to districts that rely most heavily on the factors, thereby destroying the equalizing mechanism of the school finance formula and disproportionately impacting the districts and communities with the highest needs; and

WHEREAS, when Colorado voters passed Amendment 23 in 2000, the constitutional provision was designed to help Colorado’s public school funding catch up to the national average and to keep it at that level. By not honoring this expressed will of the people, the Legislature’s invention of the negative factor has cost each student of Big Sandy School District 100J over \$7200 each in funding over the past five years.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Big Sandy School Board calls upon the Colorado Legislature to honor the requests of the Superintendents’ Position Paper on School Finance and restore funding that has been taken from our students through the use of the negative factor, returning these funds without earmarks or new programs, allowing the district to return the funding back just as the district had to determine how to reduce expenses removed by the legislative mechanism.

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2014.

  
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Board President

  
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Board Secretary