

Greater Cleveland Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Resolution Concerning State of Texas Rate of Funding for Public Schools Where Our Constitution Requires the State to Provide Free Education

Whereas, no country, state or community can achieve sustainable economic stability and economic improvement without an investment in human capital and society cannot experience social harmony without a continuous improvement in the economy, it is imperative that education of our citizens be an ongoing top priority for the Texas Legislature; and,

Whereas, our Texas constitution requires that the Legislature enact legislation for the State to properly fund a basic, free education for its citizens; and,

Whereas, the State portion of public schools funding has declined significantly over the past 10 years; and,

Whereas, tax cuts enacted in 2012 and other revenue reductions have continuously decreased funding available for the state to properly fund public schools; and,

Whereas, some current public funding is made available to charter schools which are not held to the same standards of performance as traditional, public school districts results in lower funding available to traditional public school districts; and,

Whereas, there is a political movement to make public school funding available to private schools in the form of vouchers where there will be no accountability for performance and this movement is marketed under the guise of "school choice"; and,

Whereas, funding for education should be fair and equitable to all Texas children to ensure that basic education is achieved by all; and,

Whereas, free education to Texas children should include academic rigor for college readiness, vocational readiness and include certifications so that each child, upon graduation, is ready to pursue a career, further vocational training or further intensive academic education through university and graduate school programs; and,

Whereas, the economy in State of Texas represents a significant economic driver for our own citizens, our nation and the world, Texas should be a world leader in education and education funding; and,

Whereas, the latest Texas Supreme Court ruling on school funding called the current system constitutional but "ossified", "byzantine", "undeniably imperfect with immense room for improvement" and, in effect, ruling that doing the least the state can do to educate our children is enough; and,

Whereas, the Texas Legislature has been struggling with school funding issues for many decades and has not yet solved the problem largely due to partisan wrangling in an attempt to get or maintain party control in the legislature and statehouse which is encouraged by special interests groups and political parties while neglecting to enact an education funding plan that will improve the lives of our citizens and improving the most significant driver of the well-being of our citizens and the economy of our state.

Resolved that the Greater Cleveland Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors calls on the Texas Legislature to bring forth a plan and pass legislation to give Texas school children the best education in

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the nation and to fund it through adequate and equitable revenue generation for all Texas citizens, businesses and those businesses who profit in the state of Texas whether located in the state or not; and,

Further Resolved, that the Legislature finalize and definitively enact legislation for public school funding in the 2019 session and focus on achieving positive results for ALL of our state and not just those parties, institutions, organizations, regions, communities or individuals with excessive resources and political capital; and,

Further Resolved, that when Texas achieves "best in the nation" education for our children; that the State of Texas market our "best educated, toughest, most reliable" workforce to the world to attract more business to our state to make our education funding sustainable for future generations

Signed this January 20, 2019

Board Signatures



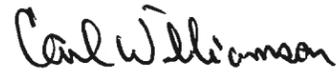
Charlie Rice
2019 President & Chairman



Melissa Lanier
2018 President and Chairman



Victoria Good
2019 Chair Elect



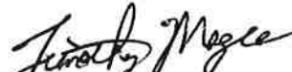
Carl Williamson
2017 President and Chairman



J. Andrew Rice
2016 President and Chairman



Kari Duggar
2019 Treasurer



Timothy Magee
2019 Secretary



Susan Ard
2019 Director



Mike Cook
2019 Director



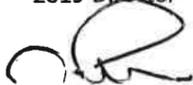
Pattie Foster
2019 Director



Jean McAdams
2018 Director



Jeff McClain
2017 Director



West Smith
2019 Director



Randy Peery
2019 Director



LaNora Purvis
2019 Director



Phillip Cameron
2015 President and Chairman



Jim Carson
Vice President & COO

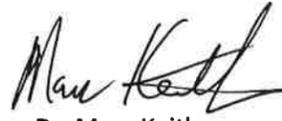
**Greater Cleveland Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors**

We, the undersigned, support the Greater Cleveland Chamber of Commerce's **Resolution Concerning State of Texas Rate of Funding for Public Schools Where Our Constitution Requires the State to Provide Free Education.**

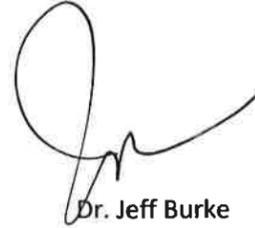
Signatures Below:



Dr. Darrell Myers
Superintendent
Cleveland ISD



Dr. Marc Keith
Superintendent
Tarkington ISD



Dr. Jeff Burke
Superintendent
Splendora ISD