

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AMENDMENT 73

WHEREAS, the Mountain Board of Cooperative Services (Mountain BOCES) Board of Directors believes that every student should have the opportunity to reach his or her full potential and to participate meaningfully in the civic and economic life of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado way of life provides every student the chance to succeed regardless of their zip code or their learning needs; and

WHEREAS, quality public education develops a competitive workforce that will drive a vibrant Colorado economy for decades to come; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is experiencing a teacher shortage crisis and many teachers in rural districts do not make enough salary to meet the cost of living; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's investment in education is lagging behind other states — Colorado ranks 48th nationally in personal income invested in education; and

WHEREAS, education funding has not recovered from the recession; in the 2018-19 school year alone, Colorado schools are underfunded by \$672.4 million; and

WHEREAS, the loss to the Colorado Mountain BOCES 4 Member Districts has been over \$ 32 million since 2009, which is over \$3 million annually, which could have been used to retain and recruit high quality educators in every classroom, provide appropriate technology, equipment and services to all students, support the continuous development of teachers, and contribute to the Colorado Mountain economy that has not benefited to the same degree from the vibrant economy of the front range; and

WHEREAS, reduced funding is directly impacting the Member Districts, and therefore the collective efforts of our BOCES, and our ability to provide meaningful educational opportunities for all students; and

WHEREAS, the reduced funding also limits the Districts' ability to respond to parents and community input on the District's programs and services, including critical services we provide collectively for our teachers and students as a Cooperative; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 73 builds on the successes of Colorado's public schools by expanding students' educational opportunities to prepare them for success in college, career and life; preparing a qualified workforce for decades to come; and ensuring that Colorado's economic prosperity is shared with every community from corner to corner of the state; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 73 will bring Colorado's investment in public education closer to the national average by raising \$1.6 billion dollars annually; provide sustainable support for schools by stabilizing school property taxes; provide additional funding for all students and address the most pressing needs of Colorado's public schools — specifically, funding for full-day

kindergarten and additional funding for other critical programs for which we rely on the cooperation and buying power of our districts and BOCES to deliver quality services, including Early Childhood programs, Special Education programs, At-Risk students, English Language Learners and Gifted & Talented students; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 73 gives local districts and our BOCES greater ability to respond to parent and community input, so we are better able to meet the needs of students with disabilities as well as the needs of our teachers who are committed to serving every student, every day, and

WHEREAS, if granted the opportunity to address our collective needs in the Mountain region of Colorado with the passage of Amendment 73, the Colorado Mountain BOCES commits to focusing on the following priorities:

- Retain and attract quality service providers and staff,
- Access to appropriate technology, equipment and services to meet the needs of all students with Individualized Education Plans,
- Access in our districts to qualified mental health supports for all students,
- Support for all students in need of Health Care Plans in our schools,
- Expanded technology supports for all districts to ensure students and educators have access to high quality courses and learning experiences regardless of zip code,
- Expansion of learning opportunities and support for our gifted and talented students,
- Consistent, high quality professional development for educators in order to support the diverse learning needs of our students and our schools, and
- Continued collective efforts to enhance school safety in all 4 member districts.

WHEREAS, Amendment 73 represents an opportunity for Colorado citizens to affirm the importance of public education in our state;

WHEREAS, the Board declares that Amendment 73 is a matter of official concern;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Colorado Mountain BOCES Board of Directors officially declares its support for Amendment 73 for the purpose of increasing funding of public education in the State of Colorado; and

The Board authorizes the expenditure of BOCES funds to distribute a factual summary regarding Amendment 73, in accordance with the Fair Campaign Practices Act, C.R.S. 1-45-117.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 11th day of October, 2018.