



Pittsburg Unified School District's Board of Education Calls on Legislature to Fund Public Schools at the Average of the Top 10 States

School districts across California to adopt CSBA resolution to fund public schools at the national average by 2020 and the average of the top 10 states by 2025

As part of its ongoing work to ensure that all Pittsburg students benefit from the resources needed for a high-quality education, the Pittsburg Unified School Board is [calling on the Legislature](#) to raise school funding to the national average by 2020 and to the average of the top 10 states by 2025.

"Our system of education depends on full funding to be fully operational to service all of the needs that exist within the education field," said De'Shawn Woolridge, School Board President, Pittsburg Unified School District. "Any amount of funding that consists of less than full funding is a disservice to our students that depend on the educational environment to learn the skills and abilities they need to be successful. The Board of Education has passed a 'Full Funding' resolution to call on our legislators, both at the federal and state level, to do what is right by our students and families and fund education at its fully funded level."

During the Board's February 21, 2018 meeting, De'Shawn Woolridge, Board President and his colleagues passed a [Full and Fair Funding resolution](#) sponsored by the California School Boards Association (CSBA). The resolution asks the Legislature to raise funding to a level that allows schools to prepare all students – regardless of background – for success in college, career and civic life.

Currently, California ranks 41st in per-pupil funding, 45th in the percentage of revenue devoted to public schools, and last or nearly last in almost every measure of school staffing, such as student-teacher ratio or the number of counselors, students, librarians or nurses per student.

Substantial research points to a positive relationship between education funding and improved student outcomes, particularly for economically disadvantaged students. As the Full and Fair Funding resolution states, "in order to prepare our students for participation in a democratic society and an increasingly competitive, technology-driven global economy, California must fund schools at a level sufficient to support student success."

California has the world's sixth largest economy and the highest gross domestic product (GDP) of any state, yet spends significantly less per-pupil than most other states. This wasn't always the case, and the Full and Fair Funding resolution urges the Legislature to reprioritize

education. In 1970, California funded schools at \$400 per student above the national average — roughly \$2,600 in today's money. Today, California funds schools at nearly \$2,000 per student below the national average and nearly \$7,000 per student below the average of the top 10 states.

Recent efforts to address the funding issue, like the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), simply restored funding to the pre-recession levels of 2007, doing little to close the funding gap between California and other states.

In order to better serve Pittsburg students, rectify years of underinvestment in California public schools and build a brighter future for this state, the Pittsburg Unified School District is proud to join school districts across the state in calling for [Full and Fair Funding](#) of California public schools. Additional Board Resolutions may be found in English and Spanish on [Pittsburg Unified School District's website](#).