

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 134

Approved April 21, 2010

WHEREAS, Rhode Island is the only state in the country that does not have a school funding formula for allocating state funds to kindergarten, elementary and secondary schools; and

WHEREAS, Our state's application seeking \$126.6 million for "Race To The Top Funds" from the U.S. Department of Education was rejected, in part, because we have no fair foundation formula, and because of the consequences thereof on our educational system; and

WHEREAS, Reports prepared by the Rhode Island General Assembly appear to indicate that the introduction of foundation formula would provide greater resources to the students of the Providence Public Schools and other students throughout Rhode Island, and offer those students a better quality education and greater chance to succeed; and

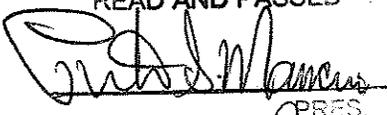
WHEREAS, There is a question as to whether the State's current program of providing financial aid and other support to public schools complies with the requirements of the Rhode Island Constitution; and

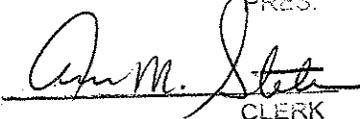
WHEREAS, The school committees in two other communities filed a lawsuit to challenge the legal validity of the State's current program of providing aid to public schools as part of a coalition with other cities and towns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council urges the Mayor and the City Solicitor to engage legal counsel and other consultants to:

1. Investigate further the legal and factual basis for a lawsuit seeking to establish the right of every child in Rhode Island to an adequate and equitable public education;
2. Work with other communities and stakeholders to determine the feasibility of a coalition to support the cause of adequate and equitable public education for all children in Rhode Island; and
3. Assist in forming a coalition and join the pending lawsuit to establish such a right if, in consultation with the City Council leadership, such an effort appears to be feasible and appropriate.

IN CITY COUNCIL
APR 15 2010
READ AND PASSED


PRES.


CLERK

APPROVED


MAYOR

4/21/10