



RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO SOUND BASIC EDUCATION

WHEREAS, “[t]he people have a right to the privilege of education, and it is the duty of the State to guard and maintain that right.” N.C. CONST. ART. I, § 15.

WHEREAS, our Supreme Court has unanimously held that the State is constitutionally mandated to ensure that every child in North Carolina, regardless of age, race, gender, socio-economic status, or the district in which he or she lives, is provided the opportunity to receive a sound basic education.

WHEREAS, our courts, including the Supreme Court, have now repeatedly held that the State has failed—and is continuing to fail—to live up to its mandate to provide every child with this inalienable and fundamental constitutional right.

WHEREAS, the children of North Carolina are among the State’s most important and precious resources, and the provision of a constitutionally-conforming education to them is critical not only to the State’s economic future but to improving health outcomes and lives, reducing racial and gender inequalities, and improving civic engagement in our society.

WHEREAS, the costs of the State’s inability to meet its constitutional duty are especially significant for at-risk children.

WHEREAS, it is long past time for the State to remedy its constitutional shortcomings and act now to ensure that all children are provided access to a sound basic education.

WHEREAS, the State has presented its Comprehensive Remedial Plan (the “Plan”) to achieve constitutional compliance.

WHEREAS, the Plan sets out a detailed summary of the specific actions and steps that the State has determined it must take to satisfy its constitutional mandate, a timeline required if the Plan is to be successful, and the resources and funding that the State has concluded are required for the Plan’s implementation.

WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed the Plan (along with its appendices and data) in detail.

WHEREAS, the members of this Commission have received input about the Plan from stakeholders in the State's business, education, and health sectors.

WHEREAS, the Commission agrees that the actions, programs, policies, timelines, and resources identified in the Plan are not only appropriate but required for the State to provide the opportunity for a sound basic education to all children in North Carolina.

WHEREAS, the State now has an unreserved cash balance exceeding \$7 billion and anticipated recurring revenues of \$5 billion above the current base budget, and, thus, possesses ample existing fiscal resources to meet the first two years of the Plan for Fiscal Year 2021-22 and Fiscal Year 2022-23.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission on Access to Sound Basic Education has resolved to urge all state bodies, entities, and agencies to take all necessary actions to implement and fund the State's Plan, and in accordance with the timelines and resources set forth therein. The children of North Carolina deserve nothing less.

Adopted on the 28th day of September, 2021.

J. Bradley Wilson

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Chair