

FLORIDA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC

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FSBA RESOLUTION ON SEQUESTRATION

WHEREAS, a world class public education is essential for the future success of our nation and today's schoolchildren; and

WHEREAS, the Budget Control Act of 2011 includes a provision, known as sequestration, that would impose a \$1.2 trillion across-the-board cut to almost all federal programs, including a cut of more than \$4 billion to federal education appropriations; and

WHEREAS, these across-the-board cuts would become effective January 2, 2013 and would begin to impact school districts during the 2013-14 school year; and

WHEREAS, based on 2012 funding levels, sequestration would result in more than \$173 million being cut from Florida's education programs in the first year and the reductions would remain in effect over the 10-year sequestration period; and

WHEREAS, sequestration funding cuts to Florida education programs include, but are not limited to, more than \$65.8 million cut from Title I, more than \$52.2 million cut from Special Education, more than \$11.62 million cut from Career and Technical Education, more than \$10.1 million cut from Improving Teacher Quality, more than \$3.3 million cut from English Language Acquisition, and more than \$2 million cut from School Improvement; and

WHEREAS, sequestration would also impact school construction by cutting federal payments by 7.6% for certain Qualified School Construction Bonds, Build America Bonds, and Qualified Zone Academy Bonds issued during the economic stimulus; and

WHEREAS, in addition to cuts to education programs, sequestration would cut federal discretionary funding in other areas that would directly impact the health and education of Florida's children, including, but not limited to, a cut of more than \$24.5 million from Florida Head Start programs and more than \$2.8 million in Florida Public Health Emergency Preparedness grants; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for K-12 programs was already reduced by more than \$835 million in Fiscal Year 2011, and total state FEFP funding has been reduced by more than \$1 billion since state Fiscal Year 2010-2011; and

WHEREAS, Florida, still struggling with the economic impacts of the Great Recession, has very limited capacity to absorb further budget cuts from sequestration;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Florida School Boards Association urges Congress and the Administration to amend the Budget Control Act to mitigate the drastic cuts to education that would affect our students and communities, and to protect education as an investment critical to economic stability and American competitiveness.