

Whereas, the Florida Constitution provides that the education of children is a fundamental value of the people of Florida and a paramount duty of the state;

Whereas, the Constitution creates a clear mandate for a uniform and high quality education system and for the State to make adequate provision for this purpose;

Whereas, school districts throughout Florida, have experienced significant budget reductions of nearly \$1.2 billion over the past two year;

Whereas, Florida employers consistently rank improving education and workforce development as top concerns to the success of their business, and a highly qualified, trained workforce as critical to strengthening the state's business climate and viability;

Whereas, the public education system needs to respond to the workforce needs of Florida's employers, including programs that expand career academies in high schools, align career education with industry standards and workforce demands, and expand options for students to continue their education and enter the workforce;

Whereas, the Pre-K-20 education system is the foundation for Florida's future, providing the talent base for economic diversification and an engine for the high-tech, knowledge-based economy;

Whereas, Florida should continue to move its education system at all levels (Pre-K-20) into the top quartile in education quality, student rankings and graduation rates based on national standards;

Whereas, the School Board of Sarasota County believes that funding a high-quality education system is an investment in our state's and our community's ability to compete in the national and global marketplaces; and

Whereas, the School Board of Sarasota County believes that adequate funding is needed to achieve a high-quality education system measured by gains in student achievement;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved That:

The School Board of Sarasota County supports public education and respectfully requests that the Florida Legislature fulfill its commitment to hold school district operational and capital funding harmless from the impact of property tax reform and budget shortfalls by funding the student enrollment at minimally 2008-2009 levels of \$6,997.37.