

RESOLUTION NO. 20210422-037

WHEREAS, Texas will receive almost \$18 billion in federal funds earmarked for K-12 education through the CARES Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II and III) and the American Rescue Plan; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas will only continue to maintain an economic edge with a high-quality workforce and educated citizenry through a continued statewide commitment to quality public education for all; and

WHEREAS, the funding the State of Texas has received is intended to supplement the needs of Texas school districts as they support the unfinished learning and social-emotional needs of the students they serve; and

WHEREAS, local education agencies in other states have already received their allocations and planning amounts and Texas has not allocated these funds to local education agencies to allow for planning and budgeting to address unfinished learning for the children of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the needs of Texas' schools and its children are of paramount concern to both the people of Texas and the long-term economic and cultural aspects of both the future of our State and our Nation; and

WHEREAS, each State shall make allocations to local educational agencies in an expedited and timely manner and, to the extent practicable, not later than 60 days after the receipt of such funds; and

WHEREAS, there has been a delay of the allocation of these funds and the initial discussions indicate these funds will supplant funds already designated for districts rather than supplementing the funds local education agencies should already receive and are entitled to for the purpose of addressing unfinished learning; and

WHEREAS, there is discussion about how the Texas Education Agency may add additional requirements above and beyond the Federal guidelines related to allowable partners and technical assistance providers with which local education agencies can utilize these funds; and

WHEREAS, local school districts indicate that supplemental funding will be spent on improving safety and ventilation, after-school programs, mental health supports, school nurses, technology, and addressing learning loss and supports for students; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

City Council respectfully asks, and recommends, that Governor Greg Abbott, the Texas Legislature, and the Texas Education Agency ensure:

- All supplemental funds allocated from the federal government flow to local education agencies;
- The Texas Education Agency utilize these funds to supplement funding to school districts;
- The Texas Education Agency does not use these Federal allocations to supplant state funds already due to districts through the Foundation School Program and Available School Fund; and
- The Texas Education Agency does not attach additional restrictions and extend their control in place of local control on how these funds can best be utilized in districts across the state.

ADOPTED: April 22, 2021

ATTEST:



Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk