MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Brie Franco, Intergovernmental Relations Officer

DATE: July 07, 2021

SUBJECT: **Staff Response to Resolution No. 20210422-037 - Federal Funds for Education Agencies**

The purpose of this memo is to provide responsive information to Resolution 20210422-037, which concerned the nearly $18 billion in federal funds earmarked for K-12 education in the State of Texas through the CARES Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER 11 and III) and the American Rescue Plan.

In the resolution, the City Council requested that Governor Greg Abbott, the Texas Legislature and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) ensure that all supplemental funds from the federal government flow to local education agencies. Additionally, the resolution urged the Texas Education Agency to utilize these funds to supplement funding to school districts and to not use these Federal allocations to supplant state funds already due to districts through the Foundation School Program and Available School Fund. Finally, the resolution asked that the TEA 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.

The Intergovernmental Relations Office (IGRO) sent the signed resolution to Governor Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Patrick, Speaker Dade Phelan, the state House and Senate delegations for Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties and Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath on July 7, 2021. In its communications to lawmakers, IGRO noted the TEA's plan to use part of ESSER II fund to reimburse itself for the cost of the "hold harmless" provision enacted to maintain state funding for districts that experienced pandemic-related enrollment declines and reiterated the City's request that all supplemental funds from the federal government flow to local education agencies.

Please contact my office if you have further questions.

Thank you.

CC: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
         Anne Morgan, Deputy City Manager