DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1 RESOLUTION

(Regarding Proposed Changes to Colorado Public School Funding)

WHEREAS, Colorado's Speaker of the House and advocacy organizations are presently developing a proposal to change the way Colorado's public schools are funded starting in the 2025-2026 school year; and

WHEREAS, predictable and sustainable funding is crucial for effective long-term planning and investment in our schools; and

WHEREAS, the impact of proposed revisions to Colorado's public school funding will have financial consequences to the Douglas County School District RE-1 (the "District") and consequently, the quality of educational services which can and will be provided to the District's students in the future; and

WHEREAS, adequate base funding for our District, as well as all Colorado school districts, is important to assure that students in our District and in Colorado receive a high-quality education responsive to the needs of each learner; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 24-188, introduced last week, addresses the financing of public school districts in Colorado for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year and continues to fund schools and school districts under the current funding formula while also providing ongoing funding support for Colorado's rural school districts; and

WHEREAS, the District's Board of Education (the "Board") is elected to advocate for the best interests of the students, staff, parents, and taxpayers of Douglas County; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to specifically address Colorado legislative efforts to amend public school finance formulas.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Board fully supports the present terms of Senate Bill 24-188 addressing the financing of public schools and school districts in Colorado for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year under the current funding formula.
- 2. That the Board recognizes the need for additional funding to support historically underfunded rural school districts and supports the inclusion of this funding in Senate Bill 24-188.
- 3. That any legislative proposals to amend the formulas for financing Colorado's public school districts are consistent with the following goals:
 - a. Funding Colorado's public school districts adequately so that each and every learner in our District and the State of Colorado has the potential to receive a high-quality education that is responsive to individualized student needs.
 - b. Prioritizing adequate and sustainable base funding for Colorado's school districts that is increased by at least inflation each year per the provisions in Amendment 23.
 - c. Funding the needs of individual learners once an adequate base is established and sustainably funded, including students with special educational needs, students experiencing poverty, and students acquiring English language skills.
 - d. Providing for a sustainable State-wide ongoing funding source that provides a strong return on investment for Douglas County taxpayers so that our District and all Colorado school districts can confidently rely upon adequate state support for educational programs into the future.

- e. Any changes to the school funding formula takes into account the results of the adequacy study on Colorado school funding scheduled to be completed prior to the 2025 legislative session.
- 4. That the Board and Superintendent actively engage with our local representatives and state officials to ensure a common understanding of the critical need for an equitable, affordable, and sustainable funding formula to support Douglas County students and all Colorado students in our public schools.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 26th day of March, 2024 by a vote of 7-0.

AYES: Geiger, Meek, Moore, Myers, Thompson, Williams, Winegar

NAYS: N/A

DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1

By: Christy Williams

Name: Christy Williams

Title: President, Board of Education

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Becky Myers, Secretary, Board of Education





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