WILLOWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT RESOLUTION REGARDING SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR DISTRICT STUDENTS

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-13-19

WHEREAS, the Governor described the State's 2013-14 Budget as a "live within our means budget", and

WHEREAS, the District recognizes the admirable goal to live within its means should not be its only objective, and

WHEREAS, this Budget proposes the most dramatic change in school financing since the implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 90 and the implementation of revenue limits in 1972, and

WHEREAS, with the passage of Proposition 30 in November 2012, the greatest risk to the 2012-13 State Budget has been averted, and

WHEREAS, the Governor clearly intends to increase per-student funding for the first time in more than five years, and

WHEREAS, dollars used to buy back deferrals count toward Proposition 98 expenditures, but do not provide more spending authority to schools, and

WHEREAS, California's students receive resources far below the average of all other states, and

WHEREAS, the District believes just as strongly that the system that has underfunded its most vulnerable children has also underfunded its most promising children, and

WHEREAS, if California remains at the bottom of state rankings in funding, any distribution mechanism will fail, and

WHEREAS, it is a mistake to simply redistribute funding unless there is a commitment to higher funding as well.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Willows Unified School District respectfully requests that the legislature and governor immediately recognize that rebuilding must begin immediately and it must start with public education. Now is the time for a shift in state policy toward preparation of the children of the State for what is sure to be a challenging future. All districts must be able to offer programs, not just at the currently depressed level, but at a level that advances the achievement of all students. We appreciate the opportunity afforded us through the proposed Local Control Funding Formula, and the fact that the Governor's Budget Proposal eliminates most programmatic and compliance requirements to which local educational agencies (LEAs) are currently subject. This alone is not enough. There must be a plan to support public education that works with or without new state funding in the near term. This plan must be based on the principles of subsidiarity, increased funding to at least the national average, and a source that is consistent and reliable.

PASSED AN	D ADOPTED this 4th day of April, 2013, by the following vote:
AYES:	
NOES:	
ABSENT:	
ABSTAIN:	
	Clerk of the Governing Board